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978-0-521-44206-0 - Pastoral and the Poetics of Self-Contradiction: Theocritus to Marvell

Judith Haber

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Traditionally, critics of the English Renaissance have viewed pastoral as a static, idealizing genre aimed at the recreation of an idyllic past. More recently, these idealizing humanist approaches have been forcefully challenged by studies written from historicist perspectives. In *Pastoral and the poetics of self-contradiction* Judith Haber complicates the conventional opposition between humanist and historicist criticism by examining the ways in which pastoral poets themselves interrogate the contradictory relations inherent in their genre. Haber explores problems of representation, self-representation, and imitation in classical and Renaissance pastoral, focusing on texts by Theocritus, Virgil, Sidney, and Marvell. Her original approach revises current understanding of pastoral as a genre, and raises wider questions about the place of literature in society and the difficulties involved in constituting literary traditions.

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JUDITH HABER

Tufts University



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*To the memory of my parents,
Stanley Bernard Haber
and
Bernice Kraditor Haber*

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Texts and abbreviations

The following abbreviations refer to Philip Sidney's major texts:

- Apology* *An Apology for Poetry; or, The Defence of Poesy*, ed. Geoffrey Shepherd (London: Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1965).
- AS* *Astrophil and Stella*, cited in *The Poems of Sir Philip Sidney*, ed. William A. Ringler, Jr. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1962); all references to Ringler's commentary in this edition will be credited to Ringler, *Poems*.
- NA* *New Arcadia*, cited in *The Prose Works of Sir Philip Sidney*, ed. Albert Feuillerat, 4 vols. (1912; Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1962), I-II.
- OA* *Old Arcadia*, cited in *The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia (The Old Arcadia)*, ed. Jean Robertson (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1979).

When references follow logically, I have simply given page and line numbers.

I also use the following texts throughout:

For Theocritus' *Idylls*, I cite the text of A. S. F. Gow, ed., *Theocritus*, 2nd edn., 2 vols. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1952), and the translations of R. C. Trevelyan, *The Idylls of Theocritus* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1947). For Virgil's *Eclogues*, I follow Paul Alpers' modernization of R. A. B. Mynors' text (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1969), in *The Singer of the Eclogues: A Study Of Virgilian Pastoral*

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List of texts and abbreviations

(Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979); translations are Alpers' unless otherwise noted (I have occasionally supplied more literal, prose translations). For Marvell's poetry, I cite the text of *The Poems and Letters of Andrew Marvell*, ed. H. M. Margoliouth, rev. P. Legouis and E. E. Duncan-Jones, 3rd edn., 2 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1952), 1. Unless otherwise noted, my text for Shakespeare's plays is *The Riverside Shakespeare*, ed. G. Blakemore Evans (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1974).