

LATIN EROTIC ELEGY AND THE
SHAPING OF SIXTEENTH-CENTURY
ENGLISH LOVE POETRY

How did Latin erotic elegy influence and shape sixteenth-century English love poetry? Using an interdisciplinary approach, this book offers detailed readings of poetry with close attention to the erotic, sometimes problematically 'pornographic', 'wanton' and 'lascivious' verse that exists in both periods. Moving beyond arguments that relate Renaissance eroticism more or less solely back to Ovid and Petrarch, Linda Grant breaks new ground by demonstrating the extent to which a broader sense of classical, specifically Latin, erotics underpins conceptions of sexual love, gender and desire in Renaissance literature. Methodologically sophisticated and moving away from static source study to the dynamism of intertextuality and reception, Grant shows the value of dialogic readings, exploring how elegy speaks to Renaissance poetry and how reading poems from both periods together illuminates both sets of verse.

LINDA GRANT has been a Teaching Fellow and Visiting Lecturer in Renaissance Literature at Royal Holloway, University of London. She has also previously taught at Birkbeck in both the English and Classics departments, and at Queen Mary, University of London. Her research focuses on Renaissance discourses of love and the erotic.

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Lascivious Poets

LINDA GRANT



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-72564-4 — Latin Erotic Elegy and the Shaping of Sixteenth-Century English Love Poetry

Linda Grant

Frontmatter

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108725644

DOI: 10.1017/9781108663847

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First published 2019

First paperback edition 2021

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-108-49386-4 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-72564-4 Paperback

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Textual Note

As a general principle, quotations from classical Latin texts are from the Oxford Classical Text (OCT), with translations from the Loeb edition lightly adapted by the author unless otherwise stated. The few Greek quotations are given in translation only from either the Loeb or, in the case of Homer, from the Richmond Lattimore translations.

Early modern quotations are taken from standard editions as noted in the notes and bibliography, modernised here in terms of spelling and punctuation.

Abbreviations that appear in the notes are *OED* for the *Oxford English Dictionary* and *OLD* for the *Oxford Latin Dictionary*. Standard abbreviations for Latin texts are given in footnotes, but the texts are given their full name in the body of chapters to avoid confusion.