

A HISTORY OF ENGLISH GEORGIC WRITING

The interconnected themes of land and labour were a common recourse for English literary writers between the sixteenth and twentieth centuries, and in the twenty-first they have become pressing again in the work of nature writers, environmentalists, poets, novelists and dramatists. Written by a team of sixteen subject specialists, this volume surveys the literature of rural working lives and landscapes written in English between 1500 and the present day, offering a range of scholarly perspectives on the georgic tradition, with insights from literary criticism, historical scholarship, classics, post-colonial studies, rural studies and ecocriticism. Providing an overview of the current scholarship in georgic literature and criticism, this collection argues that the work of people and animals in farming communities, and the land as it is understood through that work, has provided writers in English with one of their most complex and enduring themes.

PADDY BULLARD is Associate Professor of English Literature and Book History at the University of Reading. He is the author of *Edmund Burke and the Art of Rhetoric* (Cambridge University Press, 2011), and editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Eighteenth-Century Satire* (2019). With James McLaverty, he co-edited *Jonathan Swift and the Eighteenth-Century Book* (Cambridge University Press, 2013), and with Alexis Tadié, *Ancients and Moderns in Europe* (2016). With Timothy Michael, he is co-editor of volume 15 (*Later Prose*) of *The Oxford Edition of the Works of Alexander Pope*.

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for Oxford University Press with generous support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 2013 she published the first in-depth study of Chesnutt's use of classical literature in English Literary History, drawing on her doctoral work on transatlantic pastoral fiction, for which she received the Helen Choate Bell Dissertation Prize. She has received support for her research from the 2016 Graves Award in the Humanities, administered by Pomona College under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies, to recognize excellence in teaching, and from the Bridging Cultures initiative at the NEH in 2014.

A Note on National Designations

The historical timeframe of *A History of English Georgic Writing* is broad: it focuses on the last five centuries, but has an ancient hinterland. As a consequence, the different national designations used in its chapters vary, and should be understood in the context of particular periods. There are important points of discontinuity and realignment. These include: the formation of the Kingdom of Great Britain in 1707; the declaration of independence of American Continental Congress in 1776; the formation of the Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in 1801; and the creation of the Irish Free State in 1922. In this volume, ‘English georgic’ refers to literary writing about work on the land written in modern vernacular English. The chapters focus on texts by English, Scottish, Irish, Welsh and American writers who operated within a generic frame that recalled ancient Greece and Rome. For an account of how land law was used across this period by British and Anglo-American powers in the spatial politics and geographical formation of developing countries, see Patrick McAuslan, ‘Property and Empire: From Colonialism to Globalization and Back’, *Social and Legal Studies*, 24 (2015), 339–57.

Abbreviations

Works cited with a pre-1900 publication date are published in London, unless otherwise stated.

<i>AHEW</i>	<i>The Agrarian History of England and Wales</i> , gen. ed. J. Thirsk, 8 vols. in 11 (Cambridge University Press, 1967–2000)
<i>Georgics</i>	Latin text of the <i>Georgics</i> as given in the Loeb Classical Library edition, as referenced under the abbreviation ‘ <i>Georgics</i> (Fairclough)’ in the following text, unless another edition is specified
<i>Georgics</i> (Dryden)	<i>The Works of John Dryden. Vol. 5: Poems: The Works of Virgil in English, 1697</i> , ed. W. Frost and V.A. Dearing (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987)
<i>Georgics</i> (Fairclough)	Virgil, <i>Eclogues, Georgics, Aeneid I–VI</i> , tr. H.R. Fairclough, rev. G.P. Gould (1935; Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999)
<i>Georgics</i> (Fallon)	Virgil, <i>Georgics</i> , tr. P. Fallon (Oxford University Press, 2009)
<i>Georgics</i> (Ferry)	<i>The Georgics of Virgil</i> , tr. D. Ferry (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005)
<i>Georgics</i> (Johnson)	<i>The Georgics: A Poem of the Land</i> , tr. K. Johnson (London: Penguin, 2010)
<i>ODNB</i>	<i>The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i>
<i>OED</i>	<i>The Oxford English Dictionary</i>