

A LITERARY HISTORY OF LATIN & ENGLISH POETRY

Victoria Moul's groundbreaking study uncovers one of the most important features of early modern English poetry: its bilingualism. The first guide to a forgotten literary landscape, this book considers the vast quantities of poetry that were written and read in both Latin and English from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century. Introducing readers to a host of new authors and drawing on hundreds of manuscript as well as print sources, it also reinterprets a series of landmarks in English poetry within a bilingual literary context. Ranging from Tottel's miscellany to the hymns of Isaac Watts, via Shakespeare, Jonson, Herbert, Marvell, Milton and Cowley, this revelatory survey shows how the forms and fashions of contemporary Latin verse informed key developments in English poetry. As the complex, highly creative interactions between the two languages are revealed, the work reshapes our understanding of what 'English' literary history means.

VICTORIA MOUL is Associate Professor in Early Modern Latin and English at University College London and is a leading expert on the relationship between Latin and English poetry. She is the author of *Jonson, Horace and the Classical Tradition* (Cambridge University Press, 2010) and the editor of *A Guide to Neo-Latin Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2017). She has published widely on classical, early modern and modernist poetry alike.

A LITERARY HISTORY OF LATIN & ENGLISH POETRY

Bilingual Verse Culture in Early Modern England

VICTORIA MOUL

University College London



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
 978-1-316-64263-4 — A Literary History of Latin & English Poetry
 Victoria Moul
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, 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

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
 a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
 education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781316642634

DOI: 10.1017/9781108131667

© Victoria Moul 2022

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions
 of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take
 place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2022

First paperback edition 2025

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

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data

NAMES: Moul, Victoria, 1980– author.

TITLE: A literary history of Latin & English poetry : bilingual verse culture in early modern England /
 Victoria Moul, King's College London.

Other titles: A literary history of Latin and English poetry

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2022. | Includes bibliographical
 references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2022008897 (print) | LCCN 2022008898 (ebook) | ISBN 9781107192713
 (hardback) | ISBN 9781316642634 (paperback) | ISBN 9781108131667 (epub)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: English poetry—Early modern, 1500–1700—History and criticism. | English
 poetry—18th century—History and criticism. | Latin poetry, Medieval and modern—
 England—History and criticism. | Latin poetry, Medieval and modern—Appreciation—England. |
 Latin poetry, Medieval and modern—Translations into English—History and criticism. | BISAC:

LITERARY CRITICISM / European / English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh | LCGFT:

Literary criticism.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC PR531 .M68 2022 (print) | LCC PR531 (ebook) | DDC 821.009—dc23/eng/
 202200414

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022008897>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022008898>

ISBN 978-1-107-19271-3 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-316-64263-4 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
 or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
 publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
 remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-316-64263-4 — A Literary History of Latin & English Poetry
Victoria Moul
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

In memory of my father, Dennis Moul, who first said poems to me.

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	x
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xii
Introduction	I
PART I SHORTER VERSE	
1 Anglo-Latin ‘Moralizing Lyric’ in Early Modern England	25
2 Metrical Variety and the Development of Latin Lyric Poetry in the Latter Sixteenth Century	68
3 Buchanan, Beza and the Genre of the Sidney Psalter	96
4 Formal Panegyric Lyric in England, 1550–1650	136
5 Abraham Cowley and Formal Innovation: Verse Sequences, Inset Lyrics, Pindarics and Free Verse	183
6 Religious and Devotional Epigram and Lyric	223
7 Epigram Culture and Literary Bilingualism in Early Modern England	271
8 Satire, Invective and Humorous Verse	320
PART II LONGER VERSE	
9 Panegyric Epic in Early Modern England	355
10 Latin Style and Late Elizabethan Poetry: Rethinking Epyllia	406

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
11	Palingenian Epic: Allegory, Ambition and Didacticism	447
	Afterword	497
	<i>Metrical Appendix: Latin Metres</i>	499
	<i>Bibliography A: Manuscripts</i>	504
	<i>Bibliography B: Early Printed Books</i>	516
	<i>Bibliography C: Secondary Literature</i>	533
	<i>Index</i>	565

Figures

1	Theodorus Beza [Theodore de Bèze], <i>Psalmorum Davidis et aliorum prophetarum, libri quinque</i> (London: Thomae Vautroullerij & impensis Herculis Francisci, 1580), pp. 4–5 (Psalm 2). By permission of the Master and Fellows of St John’s College, Cambridge.	page 102
2	St John’s College, Cambridge, MS O.65, pp. 1–2. By permission of the Master and Fellows of St John’s College, Cambridge.	253
3	Payne Fisher, <i>Irenodia Gratulatoria</i> (London: T. Newcomb, 1652), frontispiece engraving. By permission of The Warden and Fellows of All Souls College, Oxford.	390

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to many friends, colleagues and students who have read or discussed parts of this book, from the initial proposal onwards. These include James Corke-Webster, Bianca Facchini, Sophie Lunn-Rockcliffe, Richard Maber, Fiachra Mac Góráin, Gesine Manuwald, Anthony Ossa-Richardson, Nigel Smith, Chris Stamatakis, Edward Taylor and Blair Worden as well as the anonymous readers for Cambridge University Press, both of the initial proposal, and, especially, of the submitted manuscript. I am particularly grateful to Elizabeth Scott-Baumann and Edward Holberton, who have been unstintingly generous with their interest, enthusiasm and encouragement over the entire course of the project.

Portions of the book were originally presented in various talks and seminars, and I am grateful to audiences in Oxford, Cambridge, Berkeley, St Andrews, Birmingham, Trondheim, Gothenburg, Warwick and London. The archival work on which the book partly depends would have been impossible without the assistance of archivists and librarians across the country: I am particularly grateful to Suzanne Paul of Cambridge University Library, Jess Nelson at the National Archives and Isabel Sullivan at Surrey History Centre for their interest and support.

A full picture of early modern Latin poetry in either print or manuscript is still many years off; for the chance to make a start on such a survey, however, and incorporate some of the early findings in this book I am enduringly grateful to the Leverhulme Trust for funding ‘Neo-Latin Poetry in English Manuscript Verse Miscellanies’ (2017–21), and to the excellent team of doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers who have worked with me on the project: Bianca Facchini, Sharon van Dijk, Raffaella Colombo and Edward Taylor. Supervising their research and reading their publications has been a constant pleasure and stimulation, and without their work examining, transcribing, describing and translating manuscript material the project would have been vastly smaller in scope. Although I have made every effort to acknowledge them individually

Acknowledgements

xi

where a particular poem only came to my attention because of their work, there are many other cases where the argument of this book rests upon a range of material encompassable only by a team project. For institutional support, I am grateful to both King's College London and University College London, and especially to my head of department in Greek & Latin at UCL, Gesine Manuwald.

During the latter stages of writing this book, I was working also on an edited volume on C. H. Sisson, alongside my colleague John Talbot. The editorial conversations I have had with John, focused on Sisson but ranging far beyond him, have proved some of the most stimulating exchanges I have had about poetry, how it works and what it means. Though there is none of Sisson in this book, the two projects have been complementary.

This is a book about poetry, born of a love of poetry of all kinds. Most of what I have learnt about poetry I have learnt from those who spoke it to me and read it with me. Of these, I would like to mention in particular Lea Chambers, James Engell, Denis Feeney, Eivind Kahrs, Jonathan Katz, Charles Low, Chris Minkowski, Andrew Mylne and John Smith as well as the Reverend Peter Bustin and my father, Dennis Moul.

Finally but not least, for their love and distraction, my husband, David, and our young sons, Joseph and Felix. I first conceived of this project shortly after Felix was born and the book has absorbed, I hope, a little of the boys' mischief and exuberance.

Abbreviations

BL	British Library
Bod.	Bodleian Library
CELM	Peter Beal (ed.), <i>Catalogue of English Literary Manuscripts 1450–1700</i> (https://celm-ms.org.uk)
CUL	Cambridge University Library
EEBO	Early English Books Online
ESTC	English Short Title Catalogue (http://estc.bl.uk)
NLPEM	Neo-Latin Poetry in English Manuscript Verse Miscellanies
ODNB	Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Journals

AN&Q	American Notes and Queries
Anglia	Anglia – Zeitschrift für Englische Philologie
Arion	Arion: A Journal of Humanities and the Classics
BHR	Bibliothèque d’humanisme et Renaissance
C&L	Christianity and Literature
CA	Classical Antiquity
CFCEL	Cuadernos de filología clásica. Estudios Latinos
CL	Comparative Literature
CQ	Cambridge Quarterly
CRCL	Canadian Review of Comparative Literature
EJ	English Journal
ELH	English Literary History
ELR	English Literary Renaissance
EMS	English Manuscript Studies
ES	English Studies
ESMEA	Essays and Studies by Members of the English Association
G&R	Greece and Rome
GHJ	The George Herbert Journal

Abbreviations

xiii

<i>HJ</i>	Historical Journal
<i>HL</i>	Humanistica Lovaniensia
<i>HLB</i>	Harvard Library Bulletin
<i>HLQ</i>	Huntington Library Quarterly
<i>HTR</i>	Harvard Theological Review
<i>HU</i>	History of Universities
<i>IJCT</i>	International Journal of the Classical Tradition
<i>IR</i>	Innes Review
<i>JDJ</i>	John Donne Journal
<i>JEGP</i>	Journal of English and Germanic Philology
<i>LC</i>	Literature Compass
<i>Logos</i>	Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture
<i>MLN</i>	Modern Language Notes
<i>MLR</i>	The Modern Language Review
<i>MP</i>	Modern Philology
<i>MSN</i>	Marvell Society Newsletter
<i>N&Q</i>	Notes and Queries
<i>P&P</i>	Past and Present
<i>PBSA</i>	Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America
<i>PLL</i>	Papers in Language and Literature
<i>PQ</i>	Philological Quarterly
<i>QCTC</i>	Quaderni di cultura e di tradizione classica
<i>R&R</i>	Renaissance and Reformation / Renaissance et réforme
<i>RES</i>	Review of English Studies
<i>RPL</i>	Res publica litterarum
<i>RQ</i>	Renaissance Quarterly
<i>RS</i>	Renaissance Studies
<i>SEL</i>	Studies in English Literature, 1500–1900
<i>SJ</i>	Sidney Journal
<i>SLI</i>	Studies in the Literary Imagination
<i>SP</i>	Studies in Philology
<i>SQ</i>	Shakespeare Quarterly
<i>SR</i>	Studies in the Renaissance
<i>SUP</i>	Studi umanistici piceni
<i>T&L</i>	Translation and Literature
<i>TAPA</i>	Transactions of the American Philological Association
<i>TCBS</i>	Transactions of the Cambridge Bibliographical Society
<i>TCO</i>	The Classical Outlook
<i>TCS</i>	Transactions of the Cymmrodorion Society
<i>TLS</i>	The Times Literary Supplement

<i>TSLL</i>	Texas Studies in Literature and Language
<i>UBHJ</i>	University of Birmingham Historical Journal
<i>WRM</i>	Wolfenbütteler Renaissance-Mitteilungen
<i>YES</i>	Yearbook of English Studies

In quotations of original material, standard abbreviations such as tildes and ‘q;’ for ‘-que’ have been silently expanded.