

The Face of Immortality

SUNY series, Intersections: Philosophy and Critical Theory
Rodolphe Gasché, editor

The Face of Immortality

Physiognomy and Criticism

Davide Stimilli

State University of New York Press

Published by
State University of New York Press, Albany

© 2005 State University of New York

All rights reserved

Printed in the United States of America

No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission. No part of this book may be stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means including electronic, electrostatic, magnetic tape, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without the prior permission in writing of the publisher.

Cover photo: Andrea Pisano, *Speranza*, from [Giovanni Paolo Lasinio], *Le tre porte del Battistero di San Giovanni di Firenze*, Firenze 1821. University of Chicago Library.

The Northwestern University Research Grants Committee has provided partial support for the publication of this book. We gratefully acknowledge this assistance.

For information, address the State University of New York Press,
90 State Street, Suite 700, Albany, NY 12207

Production by Diane Ganeles
Marketing by Susan Petrie

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Stimilli, Davide, 1960—

The face of immortality : physiognomy and criticism / Davide Stimilli.
p. cm. — (SUNY series, Intersections)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-7914-6263-3 (alk. paper)

1. Face (Philosophy) I. Title. II. Intersections (Albany, N.Y.)

B105.F29S75 2004

128'.6—dc22

2003070443

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

To my parents

εὐτυχῶς μέν, ἀλλ' ὅμως
τὰ τῶν τεκόντων ὅμιοθ' ἡδιστον βλέπειν

A spirit pass'd before me: I beheld
The face of immortality unveil'd—
Deep sleep came down on every eye save mine—
And there it stood,—all formless—but divine.

Byron, *Hebrew Melodies*