

Preface

The present monograph originates from my doctoral thesis, supervised at the University of Manchester by Alison Sharrock, whose guidance and support have been invaluable. The primary goal of this book is to bring pastoral, substantially enriched by important critical work thereupon in recent decades, more energetically into the scholarly discussion of the *Metamorphoses*, whose multifaceted generic interplay is often limited to the study of its interaction with elegy. Secondly, I hope to show how the *Metamorphoses* plays a pivotal role in the re-reading of Virgil's *Eclogues*. Although the Ovidian epic tests and crosses the boundaries of genre dangerously, pastoral is ultimately integrated into the *Metamorphoses*' generic self-definition as epic and partakes in Ovid's dynamic recreation of the genre.

The present book benefits immensely not only from the recent developments in the method of intertextuality but also from the growing interest in repetition in Ovid and generic interactions in Graeco-Roman literature. Some of the material included in this book has already been published as separate papers on individual episodes. However, it has been revised in the light of new research and bibliographic data and has been enriched and incorporated into a book examining the generic interaction between epic and pastoral. The chapters at hand cover a range of topics and perspectives through which the dialogue between epic and pastoral poetry is explored. The translations of Latin and Greek passages are my own, unless otherwise stated. I hope that the reader finds these perspectives thought-provoking and that they inspire more relevant work in the future.

