Authorial Personality and the Making of Renaissance Texts

The Force of Character

DOUGLAS S. PFEIFFER

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Contents

List of Figures xiii
Note to the Reader xvii
Abbreviations Used in Notes and Bibliography xix

Introduction: Style and the Man 1

1. How to Judge a Book by its Author 41
   1.1. Authorial Intent 46
   1.2. Personhood Between Fact and Fiction: Four Keywords 66
   1.3. Character Evidence 90

2. The Peopling of Valla's *De falso* (1440): Character Fiction at the Origin of Modern Philology 123
   2.1. The Force of Valla's Voice 124
   2.2. Oratorical Uses of Character 129
   2.3. Grammatical Uses of Character 159

3. Erasmus's *Vita Hieronymi* (1516): Taking Editorial Work Personally 169
   3.1. Life as Paratext 178
   3.2. Scholar, Critic, Poet: The Editor Before Disciplinarity 199
   3.3. *Omnia Omnibus*: The *Vita* as Hermeneutic Biography 214
   3.4. The Lives of Others: The Scope of Author Biography in Erasmus's Career as Editor 243

4. Gascoigne's Wandering "I" in *A Hundreth Sundrie Flowres* (1573) & *The Posies* (1575) 249
   4.1. "Turquened and Turn'd": From *A Hundreth Sundrie Flowres* to *The Posies* 250
   4.2. "A Preposterous Ordre in My Traditions": Accommodating the Reader 257
   4.3. "The Scope of Mine Intent": Accommodating the Author 267
   4.4. Whole and Part: Competing Models of Formal Coherence in the Two Collections 273

5. Fulke Greville Speaks to the Dead in *A Dedication to Sir Philip Sidney* (1614) 299
   5.1. Greville's Circumstances 304
   5.2. The Rhetorical Bearing of *A Dedication* 309
   5.3. Ingenuous Confessions: Greville's Language of Intention 325

5.4. "His End Was Not Writing, Even While He Wrote": Intention and Literary Tradition 331
5.5. "For the Use of Life": The Author in the Art of Poetry 337

Epilogue: Biographism as Close Reading in Shakespeare's Sonnet 76 (1609) and Machiavelli's "Letter to Vettori" (1513) 351

Bibliography 363
Index 433