To facilitate finding poems across a range of editions, epigrams have generally been identified by number, or book and poem number (rather than page or leaf number), in the following format: Ep. 3 or Ep. 2:55.

All quotations from Ben Jonson are from The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson, eds David Bevington, Martin Butler and Ian Donaldson, 7 vols (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012). Poems cited ‘Ep. 15’, etc. are from his Epigrammes in the 1616 Workes; his uncollected epigrams are cited as ‘Underwood no. 4’, etc.

The epigrams of Sir John Harington raise difficult numbering problems. The first print publications (1615, 1618) were divided into books and numbered. N. E. McClure’s The Letters and Epigrams of Sir John Harington (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1930) served as the standard edition through the twentieth century; it presented the epigrams numbered, but undivided into books. For this study I have chosen to quote the recent edition by Gerard Kilroy, The Epigrams of Sir John Harington (Farnham: Ashgate, 2009), which takes its text (and numbering) from the gift manuscripts prepared by Harington himself. In Harington’s case, the manuscript sources are more authoritative than the posthumous printed ones. A cross-index to the seventeenth-century printed texts and McClure is found in Kilroy at pp. 311–21.

Unless otherwise identified, classical texts and translation are quoted from the Loeb Classical Library.

Original spelling and punctuation have been maintained with all quotations from manuscript and printed sources from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; however, i/j and u/v have been regularized except in titles. Contracted spellings and abbreviations have been expanded in italics.

Unless otherwise indicated, all translations from Neo-Latin texts are the author’s.