

CONTENTS

Preface

xi

A Note on the Texts

xv

Introduction. *In principio erat Verbum:* The Fashioning of a Humanist Poetics

3

I. THE POETICS OF WORDPLAY

1. Introduction

41

2. *Encomium Sapientiae*: Thomas More and *Utopia*

57

3. *Aliquid Salis*: Narrative Wordplay and Gascoigne's *Adventures of Master F. J.*

89

II. THE POETICS OF ELOQUENCE

4. Introduction

121

5. "Singular eloquence and braue composition": John Lyly, *Euphues*, and Its Sequel

133

6. *Omne Tulit Punctum Qui Miscuit Vtile Dulci*: Robert Greene's Fiction of Wonder

181

7. *Primus inter pares*: Sir Philip Sidney, the *Arcadia*, and the Poetic Uses of Philosophy

230

III. THE POETICS OF DOUBT AND DESPAIR

8. Introduction

295

9. "Gallant young *Iuuenall*": Thomas Nashe and the Revival of the Second Sophistic

304

10. *O vital misero longa, foelici brevis*: Thomas Lodge's Struggle for Felicity

363

Conclusion. *L'infinito uniuerso et Mondi*: The Development of a Posthumanist Poetics

425

Notes

455

Index

509