

Preface

“No woman is an island, entire of it self”, as someone famously said, and I thank all those who did not allow me to turn into an island. First of all, I would like to thank my supervisor Nils Büttner for many years of inspiration, with many discussions, adventures and exciting projects, but most of all for his encouragement and advice in a safe learning environment. I am also grateful to CREMS at the University of York, my friends there, and specifically Cordula Van Wyhe, for many helpful and inspiring talks and the opportunity to return to a great university. My thanks include a great team without whom this journey would have been less fun and less stimulating for sure: Katharina Frank, Ayaka Itoi, Anne-Katrin Koch, Sabrina Lind, Frederike Schmäsche, Patricia Schmiedlechner, Dorothea Schrapp, Antonia Selzer, Paula Simion, and Angela Zieger. Our regular meetings not only helped me reflect my work, but kept me going. And in the final phase the input of Carina Bertram, Anja Königseder, Lucy Pyroth, Anne Wienand, and mostly Katharina and Patricia, has been invaluable, while Jenny Pyroth’s corrections were very welcome—all remaining mistakes are entirely mine. I would also like to thank Julian B. Lethbridge and Thomas Herron for being a great inspiration as teachers and scholars, and for the Spenser seminar ten years ago that set me on the path leading to this dissertation. However, life is about more than writing a dissertation, and I have to thank the Tübinger Ruderverein and all my rowers there for keeping me balanced. I also thank the Austrian radio station FM4 for keeping me informed and its musical input. Above all, I thank my family and friends, especially Carina, for always being there for me and allowing me to occasionally disappear from their lives to immerse myself in my projects. Without your emotional, intellectual and financial help none of this would have been possible—I am forever in your debt.

What’s in a Name?

Many languages adapt names, not least English, and in order to keep readability high and confusion low, I have usually used the English form throughout. However, while for some humanists the Latin form of their names is still used, others are known by their vernacular name. For crucial persons, I show the varieties of their name when mentioned for the first time and subsequently use the name which I believe to be more useful to the modern reader.