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Autore	Munro Lucy
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Nota di contenuto	Preface -- Abbreviations -- Introduction : conceptualising archaism -- Within our own memory : old English and the early modern poet -- Chaucer, Gower, and the anxiety of obsolescence -- Archaic style in religious writing: immutability, controversy, prophecy -- Staging generations: archaism and the theatrical past -- Shepherds' speech : archaism and early Stuart pastoral drama -- Archaism and the 'English' epic -- Coda : looking backward, looking forward.
Sommario/riassunto	Ranging from the works of Shakespeare, Spenser, Jonson and Milton to those of Robert Southwell and Anna Trapnel, this groundbreaking study explores the conscious use of archaic style by the poets and dramatists between 1590 and 1674. It focuses on the wide-ranging, complex and self-conscious uses of archaic linguistic and poetic style, analysing the uses to which writers put literary style in order to re-embody and

reshape the past. Munro brings together scholarly conversations on temporality, memory and historiography, on the relationships between medieval and early modern literary cultures, on the workings of dramatic and poetic style, and on national history and identity. Neither pure anachronism nor pure nostalgia, the attempts of writers to reconstruct outmoded styles within their own works reveal a largely untold story about the workings of literary influence and tradition, the interactions between past and present, and the uncertain contours of English nationhood.
