

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910465758103321
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Titolo	Barbarous antiquity : reorienting the past in the poetry of early modern England // Miriam Jacobson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania : , : University of Pennsylvania Press, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	0-8122-9007-0
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (297 p.)
Disciplina	821/.309357
Soggetti	English poetry - Early modern, 1500-1700 - History and criticism English language - Early modern, 1500-1700 - Diction English literature - Classical influences English literature - Foreign influences Commerce Commercial products in literature Electronic books. Great Britain Commerce Middle East Middle East Commerce Great Britain
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Introduction. Trafficking with Antiquity: Trade, Poetry, and Remediation -- Chapter 1. Strange Language: Imported Words in Jonson's Ars Poetica -- Chapter 2. Shaping Subtlety: Sugar in The Arte of English Poesie -- Chapter 3. Publishing Pain: Zero in The Rape of Lucrece -- Chapter 4. Breeding Fame: Horses and Bulbs in Venus and Adonis -- Chapter 5. On Chapman Crossing Marlowe's Hellespont: Pearls, Dyes, and Ink in Hero and Leander -- Epilogue. The Peregrinations of Barbarous Antiquity -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index -- Acknowledgments
Sommario/riassunto	In the late sixteenth century, English merchants and diplomats ventured into the eastern Mediterranean to trade directly with the Turks, the keepers of an important emerging empire in the Western Hemisphere, and these initial exchanges had a profound effect on

English literature. While the theater investigated representations of religious and ethnic identity in its portrayals of Turks and Muslims, poetry, Miriam Jacobson argues, explored East-West exchanges primarily through language and the material text. Just as English markets were flooded with exotic goods, so was the English language awash in freshly imported words describing items such as sugar, jewels, plants, spices, paints, and dyes, as well as technological advancements such as the use of Arabic numerals in arithmetic and the concept of zero. Even as these Eastern words and imports found their way into English poetry, poets wrestled with paying homage to classical authors and styles. In *Barbarous Antiquity*, Jacobson reveals how poems adapted from Latin or Greek sources and set in the ancient classical world were now reoriented to reflect a contemporary, mercantile Ottoman landscape. As Renaissance English writers including Shakespeare, Jonson, Marlowe, and Chapman weighed their reliance on classical poetic models against contemporary cultural exchanges, a new form of poetry developed, positioned at the crossroads of East and West, ancient and modern. Building each chapter around the intersection of an Eastern import and a classical model, Jacobson shows how Renaissance English poetry not only reconstructed the classical past but offered a critique of that very enterprise with a new set of words and metaphors imported from the East.
