At the time when Bembo published his *Asolani* and Colonna his novel, they were soon overshadowed by the popular success of the pastoral novel *Arcadia*, the work of the Neapolitan poet Jacopo Sannazaro (1458–1530). It had been written at the Aragon court in Naples where Sannazaro was a member of Giovanni Pontano’s Academy. Its unique career began with a pirated edition, which circulated in Venice in 1502 without Sannazaro’s knowledge. Sannazaro was hailed as a reincarnated Virgil from Naples where he owned a house near Virgil’s tomb. In the short epilogue to the *sampogna*, his bagpipe, he claims to have come to Arcadia “not as a rustic shepherd (*rustico pastore*), but as a most cultured youth (*coltissimo giovane*), who for that very reason would always remain a stranger in the pastoral places of olden times. With these words, the author places his own work, as it represented another time, at a distance. In the prologue, he states that: