

Contents

Acknowledgements — V

Introduction — IX

1 The Proem — 1

1.1 Unepic epic: a generic contradiction? — 1

1.2 Toward an Ovidian solution — 10

2 The Vehicle — 23

2.1 Jason's predicament — 23

2.2 The construction of the Argo — 26

2.3 The ekphrasis of the hull — 32

2.4 The Argo as epic — 41

3 The Path — 47

3.1 Phrixus and Helle — 48

3.2 Helle at the Hellespont — 56

3.3 Ovid the Argonaut — 61

3.4 From Greece to Colchis — 65

3.5 Coda: Medea as Ovidian exile — 75

4 Io — 81

4.1 Ovid's and Valerius' Io — 82

4.2 Io and the Argonauts — 92

4.3 Io and Medea — 95

5 The Temple of the Sun — 110

5.1 Frames and center — 111

5.2 Colchis' past — 118

5.3 Phaethon's demise — 124

5.4 Argonautic stories and Corinth — 130

6 The Final Cut — 146

6.1 Absyrtus' death as the end — 147

6.2 The end as we have it — 156

6.3 Medean poetics — 164

VIII — Contents

7 Epilogue: The *Metamorphoses* and the End — 174

7.1 The view from exile — **174**

7.2 Pilot and poet — **179**

Bibliography — 189

Index Locorum — 203

Index Nominum — 227