

Jelle Stoop

Heaney “colloguing” Vergil

DEFINITE TITLE: Heaney “colloguing” Vergil.

LANGUAGE: English.

EMAIL: jelle.stoop@yale.edu

ADDRESS: Department of Classics  
Yale University  
344 College Street  
P.O. BOX 208266  
New Haven, CT 06520-8266

FINAL ABSTRACT: In the opening piece of his 1991 collection *Seeing Things*, Seamus Heaney translates Vergil’s *Golden Bough* episode; one decade and one Nobel Prize later, Heaney composes a series of pastoral poems, amongst which the translation piece *Vergil: Eclogue IX*. The first of these, I observe, is a translation of an episode in Vergilian epic loaded with Vergilian intratextual references. What is more, the intratextual relationship Vergil holds to himself in his epic is, at times, conspicuously pastorally flavoured: thus, the *genus Cyclopum* of *pastor* Polyphemus introduced in book 3 return in book 8, instructed by Vulcan to design the epic shield. This instance of “generic enrichment” (Harrison 2007) in Vergil, I argue, is found reversed in Heaney, wound up with translation, inter- and intratext. It is illustrated by Heaney’s phrase “Subsisting beyond eclogue and translation” (*Into Arcadia*) and his term “colloguing” (*Electric Light*, p. 17).