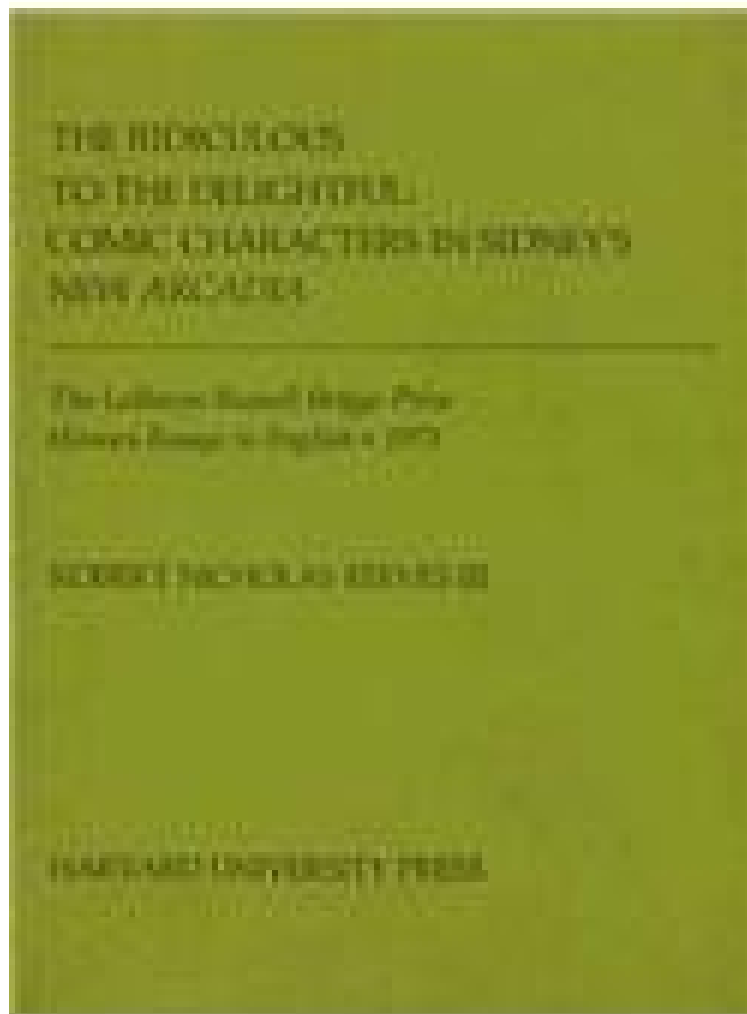


(Free) The Ridiculous to the Delightful: Comic Characters in Sidney's New Arcadia (LeBaron Russell Briggs Prize Honors Essays in English)

The Ridiculous to the Delightful: Comic Characters in Sidney's New Arcadia (LeBaron Russell Briggs Prize Honors Essays in English)

Robert Nicholas Reeves III

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Ridiculous to the Delightful: Comic Characters in Sidney's New Arcadia* (LeBaron Russell Briggs Prize Honors Essays in English):

Sir Philip Sidney's comic technique, in particular the comic characters in the second version of his pastoral romance, is the subject of this ably written essay. Robert Nicholas Reeves begins with a re-examination of comic theory in Sidney's *Defense of Poesy*, and proceeds to a reading of the humorous in the *Arcadia* as a happy kind of moral teaching. He discusses devices employed—irony, ridicule, deflation—and the relation of the low comic figures to the delightful elements of the main plot.

From the Back Cover The style of the *Arcadia* is simultaneously a prime source of humor and a major hindrance to its enjoyment. The immense length of this book requires that the reader take constant care to distinguish the variations in Sidney's style; as Milton advised, it is not 'to be read at any time without good caution.' The Arcadian prose is brimming with decorative and rhetorical devices—metaphor, parenthesis, antithesis. - from the book.