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978-0-521-10030-4 - Writing and Political Engagement in Seventeenth-Century England

Edited by Derek Hirst and Richard Strier

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WRITING AND POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT IN SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY ENGLAND

This volume focuses on the relationship between writing and public concerns in seventeenth-century England before, during, and after the civil wars and revolution of the mid-century. The distinguished list of contributors represents a variety of disciplines – political scientists, social and political historians, and literary critics. They share an intense concern with the relationship between the act of writing and the political and public issues of this extraordinary period. The essays suggest that in the seventeenth century the private and public intersected so thoroughly that ostensibly “private” writing was engaged with public issues and public rhetoric, while on the other hand, political writing was deeply involved with questions of style and inward conscience. This volume illuminates the complex issues of “public” and “private,” “art” and “conscience” in the period.

Derek Hirst is William Eliot Smith Professor of History and Chair of Department at Washington University, St. Louis. He is the author of *Representative of the People? Elections and the Electorate in Early Stuart England* (Cambridge, 1975), *Authority and Conflict: England 1603–1658* (London and Cambridge, MA, 1986), and *England in Conflict: Kingdom, Community, Commonwealth* (London, 1999).

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This volume is dedicated
to the memory and the example of
John M. Wallace
1928–1993