

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10795-2 - *God's Courtier: Configuring a Different Grace in George Herbert's Temple*
Marion White Singleton

Frontmatter

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George Herbert is regarded as a metaphysical, and at times solely as a religious poet. In this book Marion Singleton focuses on the relation between Herbert's poetry and the cultural background of his life. Singleton examines the style, structure, and thematic basis of *The Temple* in the context of the Renaissance ideal of aristocratic courtliness. She provides the first detailed study of Herbert's association with the literary tradition of the courtier and his strategic use of it in *The Temple*.

The book includes discussions of several important topics: the definition of the courtly ideal and its place in English and French humanism; the increasing distance between the ideal and the actual versions of courtliness in the early seventeenth century; and linguistic strategies and structural innovations devised by courtier poets from Wyatt and Sidney to Herbert's contemporaries. The conclusion examines Herbert's transformation of the secular ideal of service at the king's court into a sacred ideal of service in God's temple.

God's Courtier touches upon issues of relevance not only to its nominal subject, but also to the courtier poet tradition in general. Thus, it will interest literary historians as well as scholars of sixteenth and seventeenth century literature.

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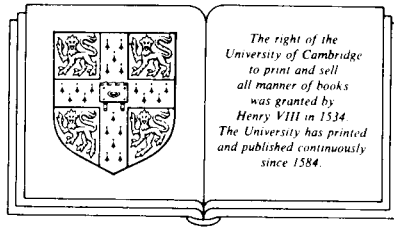
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For my children:
Pamela, Peter, Nancy,
Gordon, Lisa, Martin

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