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978-0-521-12923-7 - Ceremonies of Innocence: Pastoralism in the Poetry of
Edmund Spenser

John D. Bernard

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Ceremonies of innocence

Ceremonies of innocence is the most comprehensive study of pastoralism in Edmund Spenser's poetry so far undertaken. It traces the evolution of Spenser's view of his own role as a poet in Elizabethan courtly society through an examination of his use and definition of pastoral. Rather than concentrating exclusively on his works in pastoral genres, it includes pastoral themes, motifs, and patterns in all of the poems. Studying the works against the background of ideas about the contemplative life, medieval allegorical readings of Vergil, and the pastoral as an established courtly mode, its specific thesis is that Spenser gradually evolves a "pastoral of contemplation" as against the sychophantic "pastoral of power" identified by some recent Spenser and Renaissance scholars.

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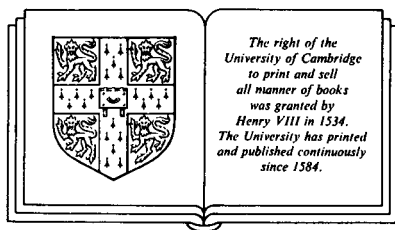
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Pastoralism in the poetry
of Edmund Spenser

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For Artis
and for Jenny, Becca, Sylvia, Ben

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