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978-0-521-13701-0 - Divine Poetry and Drama in Sixteenth-Century England

Lily B. Campbell

Frontmatter

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POETRY AND DRAMA IN  
SIXTEENTH-CENTURY  
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BY

LILY B. CAMPBELL

CAMBRIDGE  
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

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[More information](#)

## CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>Introduction</i>	i

## PART I

DIVINE POETRY IN SIXTEENTH-  
CENTURY ENGLAND

I	The Forerunner: Savonarola	9
II	The Theorist: Erasmus	14
III	The Bible as English Literature: Tyndale and the Catholic Opposition	20
IV	The First English Song Book: Luther and Coverdale	27
V	The Psalms as English Poetry under Edward VI	34
VI	The Psalms as English Poetry under Elizabeth I	46
VII	The Works of Solomon as English Poetry	55
VIII	Other Books of the Bible as English Poetry	67
IX	Du Bartas and King James and the Christian Muse	74
X	Du Bartas and English Poets	84
XI	Poems about Biblical Heroes	93
XII	Divine Mirrors and Related Poems	108
XIII	Divine Erotic Epyllia	122
XIV	Divine Sonnets	130

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS

## PART II

DIVINE DRAMA IN SIXTEENTH-  
CENTURY ENGLAND

I	The Divine Drama and the Miracle Play	<i>page</i> 141
II	Continental origins of the Divine Drama in Latin	145
III	Continental School Drama in the Vernacular	158
IV	Latin Divine Dramas in English Schools	163
V	Divine Dramas in English Universities	174
VI	Biblical Plays for Special Audiences: Prodigal-Son Plays	192
VII	Biblical Plays for Special Audiences	207
VIII	Biblical Plays for the Commons	223
IX	Biblical Plays in the Public Theatres	238
	<i>Index</i>	261

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[More information](#)

## PREFACE

THE story of the freeing of the Bible from the confines set by the authorities of the church which dominated the religious life of western Europe and England has often been told, but it has generally been told in terms of the political and theological conflicts which attended its liberation. The secondary story of the use of the Bible to combat the influence of the new paganism and the new secularism which accompanied the rediscovery of ancient works of literature and art has, however, received scant attention. It is to a very small part of that story that this book is dedicated. I have, indeed, limited my study to those attempts made in England in the sixteenth century to make the Bible a part of English literature, to make its poetry English poetry, to tell its stories in English poetry and English drama. I have omitted consideration of continental backgrounds except as they were directly influential.

Miss Marianne Moore has said that acknowledgements are in danger of incriminating rather than honouring those to whom they are addressed, but, though I recognize the truth of her words, I cannot refrain from saying my *thank you's*. A Guggenheim fellowship started my writing the book for which I had long been accumulating evidence. Dr Henry Allen Moe and Dr Louis Wright gave me encouragement to take up again the work which a bad accident and a long period of enforced inactivity interrupted. The members of the Department of English of my university carried library books to me, Professor Franklin Rolfe and Professor James Phillips read drafts of early chapters, and Professor Alfred Longueil read the whole of the section on poetry. The librarians at the Huntington Library and at the University Library have been helpful, as always. The Research Committee of the University has provided typing assistance. For all of this help I am most grateful. Professor F. P. Wilson took time from busy days at Oxford to consider the section on drama, the librarians in the North Room of the

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British Museum were generous with their help during a long summer, and the librarians made a hasty visit to the Bodleian profitable. For this British courtesy to a visiting American I am also most grateful. I can only hope so much kindness will not have been bestowed in vain.

Perhaps one word is necessary in regard to the transcribing of quotations from sixteenth-century texts. I have not altered spelling or punctuation except that I have observed modern usage in transcribing u and v, i and j. I have persisted, in spite of some friendly criticism, in using the form of the name of a Bible character which occurs in the poem or play being discussed. I have done so because the spelling has occasionally seemed significant to certain critics in determining the particular Bible used by the author.

LILY B. CAMPBELL

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LOS ANGELES

*May 1957*