

This collection of essays by historians and literary scholars treats English history and culture from the Henrician Reformation to the Glorious Revolution as a single coherent period in which religion is a dominant element in political and cultural life. It seeks to explore the centrality of the religion–politics nexus for this whole period through examining a wide variety of literary and non-literary texts, from plays and poems to devotional treatises, political treatises and histories. It breaks down normal distinctions between Tudor and Stuart, pre- and post-Restoration periods to reveal a coherent (though not all serene and untroubled) post-Reformation culture struggling with major issues of belief, practice, and authority.



# RELIGION, LITERATURE, AND POLITICS IN POST-REFORMATION ENGLAND, 1540-1688



## RELIGION, LITERATURE, AND POLITICS IN POST-REFORMATION ENGLAND, 1540–1688

EDITED BY

DONNA B. HAMILTON

University of Maryland, College Park

RICHARD STRIER

University of Chicago





Published by the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA 10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

© Cambridge University Press 1996

First published 1996

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress cataloguing in publication data

Religion, literature, and politics in post-Reformation England, 1540–1688 / edited by Donna B. Hamilton, Richard Strier p. cm.

p. cm.

18BN 0 521 47456 6 (hardback)

1. England-Church history-16th century. 2. England-Church history-17th century. 3. English literature-Early modern,

1500-1700. 4. Great Britain-History-Tudors, 1485-1603. 5. Great Britain-History-Stuarts, 1603-1714. I. Hamilton, Donna B.

II. Strier, Richard.

BR756.R45 1996

942.05-dc20 95-7950 CIP

18BN 0 521 47456 6 hardback

Transferred to digital printing 2003



### **Contents**

	List of contributors	page ix
	Introduction  Donna B. Hamilton and Richard Strier	I
I.	Sir John Oldcastle as symbol of Reformation historiography  Annabel Patterson	6
2.	The "sacred hunger of ambitious minds": Spenser's sava religion  Andrew Hadfield	g <del>e</del> 27
3.	Subversive fathers and suffering subjects: Shakespeare and Christianity  Debora K. Shuger	46
4.	Kneeling and the body politic  Lori Anne Ferrell	70
5∙	Donne and the politics of devotion Richard Strier	93
6.	Catholic, Anglican or puritan? Edward Sackville, fourth Earl of Dorset, and the ambiguities of religion in early Stuart England David L. Smith	115
7.	Crucifixion or apocalypse? Refiguring the Eikon Basilike Laura Blair McKnight	138
8.	Marvell, sacrilege, and Protestant historiography: contextualizing "Upon Appleton House"	161

vii



viii	CONTENTS	
9.	Entering <i>The Temple</i> : women, reading, and devotion in seventeenth-century England <i>Helen Wilcox</i>	187
10.	Contextualizing Dryden's Absalom: William Lawrence, the laws of marriage, and the case for King Monmouth <i>Mark Goldie</i>	208
II.	Reformation in the Restoration Crisis, 1679–1682 Gary S. De Krey	231
12.	Shadwell's dramatic trimming Steven Pincus	253
	Index	<sup>2</sup> 75



#### **Contributors**

**Gary S. De Krey** is professor of History at St. Olaf College. He is the author of *A Fractured Society: the Politics of London in the First Age of Party, 1688–1715* (1985) and of several articles about Restoration politics and religion.

**Lori Anne Ferrell** is Associate Professor of History of Christianity at the School of Theology at Claremont and at the Claremont Graduate School. She is co-editor of *Society and Religion in Early Modern England* and is completing a book on religio-political rhetoric at the Jacobean court.

**Mark Goldie** is Lecturer in History at Cambridge University and a Fellow of Churchill College. He is author of many essays on politics, religion and ideas in later Stuart England and is co-editor of *The Cambridge History of Political Thought*, 1450–1750.

Andrew Hadfield is Lecturer in History at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. He is the author of Literature, Politics and National Identity: Reformation to Renaissance (1994) and co-editor of Representing Ireland, 1534–1660 (1993) and Strangers to that Land: British Representations of Ireland from the Reformation to the Famine (1994). He is writing a book on Spenser and Ireland.

**Donna B. Hamilton** is Professor of English at the University of Maryland at College Park. She is the author of *Virgil and "The Tempest: the Politics of Imitation* (1990), *Shakespeare and the Politics of Protestant England* (1992) and editing *The Puritan* for the Oxford edition of The Complete Works of Middleton. She is working on the English theatre, 1584–1594.

**Gary D. Hamilton** is Associate Professor of English at the University of Maryland at College Park. He is the author of several essays on



x

Cambridge University Press
0521474566 - Religion, Literature, and Politics in Post-Reformation England, 1540-1688
Edited by Donna B. Hamilton and Richard Strier
Frontmatter
More information

CONTRIBUTORS

political and theological dimensions of Milton's works. He is working on the rhetorics of religious conformity in relation to Milton after the Restoration.

**Laura Blair McKnight** is a Mellon Fellow in the Humanities and a Ph.D. candidate in English at the University of Chicago. She is completing a dissertation entitled "Unsteady Thrones: The Rhetoric of Revolution in 1649, 1688 and 1776."

**Annabel Patterson** is Karl Young Professor of English at Yale University. Her books include *Censorship and Interpretation* (1984), Shakespeare and the Popular Voice (1989), Reading Between the Lines (1992) and Reading Holinshed's Chronicles (1994).

**Steven Pincus** is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Chicago. He is the author of *Protestantism and Patriotism: The Anglo-Dutch Wars and the Making of English National Identity* (1995). He is at work on a book entitled "The Glorious Revolution and the Origins of Liberalism"

**Debora K. Shuger** is Professor of English at UCLA. She is the author of Sacred Rhetoric: The Christian Grand Style in the Renaissance (1988), Habits of Thought in the English Renaissance: Religion, Politics, and the Dominant Culture (1990) and The Renaissance Bible: Scholarship Subjectivity, and Sacrifice (1994).

**David L. Smith** is Fellow, Director of Studies in History, and Admissions Tutor of Selwyn College, Cambridge. He is the author of Oliver Cromwell: Politics and Religion in the English Revolution, 1640–1658 (1991), Louis XIV (1992), Constitutional Royalism and the Search for Settlement. c. 1640–49 (1994) and co-editor of The Theatrical City: Culture, Theatre and Politics in London, 1576–1649 (1995).

**Richard Strier** is Professor of English and Humanities at the University of Chicago. He is the author of Love Known: Theology and Experience in George Herbert's Poetry (1983), Resistant Structures: Particularity, Radicalism, and Renaissance Texts (1995), and the co-editor of The Historical Renaissance: New Essays in Tudor and Stuart Literature and Culture (1988) and The Theatrical City: Culture, Theatre and Politics in London, 1576–1649 (1995).



#### Contributors

хi

**Helen Wilcox** is Professor and Head of the Department of English at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. She is editor and annotator of *The Poetry of George Herbert* (forthcoming), co-editor of *Her Own Life: Autobiographical Writings by 17th-Century Englishwomen* (1989), and editor of *Women and Literature in Britain*, 1500–1700 (1996). She is working on the seventeenth-century devotional lyric and editing *All's Well that Ends Well* for Arden 3.