The Tudor period witnessed the coexistence of traditional forms of manuscript communication and the effects of the technological revolution of the advent of printing with movable type. This collection of essays investigates ways in which the dissemination and reception of books is intertwined with the material conditions of their production. Offering a comprehensive account of Tudor book culture, experts in early book history consider the formative years of English printing; book format, marketing and the reception of books; print, politics and patronage; and connections between reading and religion. They challenge conventional periodization that posits a sharp break between older and newer modes of book production, sale and reading under the ‘early Tudor’ monarchs (1485–1558) versus Elizabeth I (1558–1603). Essays in this collection instead consider the gradual development of late medieval book culture into the genuinely early modern book culture that emerged by the death of Queen Elizabeth.

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In honour of

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Acknowledgements

Tudor Books and Readers: Materiality and the Construction of Meaning represents an outgrowth of a conference on ‘The consumption of books during the Tudor era: printers, publishers, and readers’, which I organized at The Henry E. Huntington Library, in San Marino, California, held on 21–22 April 2006. Participants in this conference are in debt to Robert C. Ritchie, W. M. Keck Foundation Director of Research at the Huntington, who inspired this event and extended generous support on behalf of the Research Division at the Huntington. Members of the Huntington staff, notably Susi Krasnoo, were unstintingly helpful in organizing this event. We are all grateful in particular for the contribution to this volume by the late Douglas Brooks, who passed away while the book was in production. The following respondents contributed to the success of this conference: Lori Anne Ferrell, Rebecca Lemon, Bruce Smith and Stephen Tabor. I regret that circumstances have prevented some speakers – Mark Bland, William Sherman, Jennifer Summit and Zachary Lesser – from contributing to this collection. Nevertheless, this inability has allowed for contributions by individuals who did not participate in this event: Joseph A. Dane, Andrew Cambers, Elizabeth Evenden and Jason Scott-Warren. William Sherman offered particularly helpful assistance in the conceptualization of the present collection. Others who offered generous assistance and wise counsel include James Bracken, Richard Dutton, Valerie Lee, Mark Rankin, Geoffrey Smith and Peter Stallybrass. Linda Bree, Literature Editor at Cambridge University Press, has been especially helpful in guiding this book through to publication. I also acknowledge the very helpful assistance of Erin Kelly and Aaron Pratt in the compilation of the present volume. Its publication offers a fitting occasion for me to commemorate the rich contribution extended by the past Director and Senior Research Fellows who welcomed me into their company during the 1980s: Robert L. Middlekauff, the late Martin...
Acknowledgements

Ridge, the late William A. Ringler, Jr, the late Hallett Smith, John Steadman and the late James Thorpe. Above all, it is appropriate to honour the founder, Henry E. Huntington, whose vision and extraordinarily generous benefaction have left an enduring legacy in the vibrant intellectual life at the Henry E. Huntington Library.
Throughout the text of this volume, we employ the popular title *Book of Martyrs* in place of *Actes and Monuments*.

**Abbreviations**

A&M  
John Foxe, *Acts and Monuments of the English Church*

BL  
The British Library

ESTC  
*English Short Title Catalogue*. http://estc.bl.uk

ISTC  
*Incunabula Short Title Catalogue*. www.bl.uk/catalogues/istc/

NPG  
The National Portrait Gallery, UK

ODNB  

OED  
The Oxford English Dictionary. www.oed.com

STC  

TNA  
The National Archives, UK

Wing  

YML  
York Minster Library