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This is the first comprehensive account of English Renaissance literature in the context of the culture which shaped it: the courts of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary, and Elizabeth I, the tumult of Catholic and Protestant alliances during and following the Reformation, the development of humanism, the age of printing and of New World discovery.

In this century courtly literature under Henry VIII moves toward a new, more personal poetry of sentiment: lyrical poetry, narrative romance, and the sonnet reached new heights, with writers such as Sidney, Spenser, Shakespeare, and the early Donne. The development of English prose is seen in the writing of More, Foxe, and Hooker, in the evolution of satire, popular culture, and in more intimate accounts of private life. Drama moved from the churches to the commercial playhouses with the plays of Kyd, Marlowe, and the early careers of Shakespeare and Jonson.

The *Companion* tackles all these subjects in fourteen newly commissioned essays, written by experts for student readers. A detailed chronology lists the major literary achievements against the political and religious background of the age and concludes with a list of authors and their dates.

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of Amity, New Sonnets and Pretty Pamphlets*; North, *Dial of Princes*;
Skelton, *Pithy Works*
- 1569 Unsuccessful rebellion of Norfolk and the Northern Earls
Garter, *The Most Virtuous and Godly Susanna*; Hawkins, *True Declaration
of the Troublesome voyage*
- 1570 Pope excommunicates Elizabeth I
Ascham, *The Schoolmaster*; Anon., *Clyomon and Clamydes*; Foxye,
Eccelesiastical History; Tusser, *Hundred Good Points Married Unto a
Hundred Good Points of Huswifery*

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- 1571 Battle of Lepanto; diplomatic relations with Spain broken off
Anon., *New Custom*; Latimer, *Fruitful Sermons*
- 1572 Massacre of St. Bartholomew; unpatronized troops of actors declared rogues and vagabonds
Woodes, *Conflict of Conscience*
- 1573 Relations with Spain resumed
Gascoigne, *A Hundred Sundrie Flowres*, incorporating *Adventures of Master F.J.*; Tusser, *Five Hundred Points*
- 1574 Anglo-Spanish Treaty of Bristol; persecution of Papists in England
Scott, *Platform of a Hop-Garden*
- 1575 New Poor Law; Anabaptists burned in England
Breton, *Small Handful of Fragrant Flowers*; Gascoigne, *Glass of Government, Posies*; Painter, *Palace of Pleasure* (2 vols.); Turberville, *Noble Art of Venery, Book of Falconry*
- 1576 Sack of Antwerp; Grindal named Archbishop of Canterbury; Frobisher's voyage begins; priests from Douai arrive in England; the Theatre opens in Shoreditch
- 1577 Drake's voyage around the world begins; Curtain Theatre opens, Blackfriars Theatre opens
Northbrook, *Treatise Wherein Dicing, etc. Are Reproved*; Holinshed, *Chronicles*, Lupton, *All for Money*
- 1578 Anon., *Gorgeous Gallery of Gallant Inventions*; Lyly, *Euphues*; Rolland, *The Seven Sages*; Rich, *Alarm to England*, Whetstone, *Promos and Cassandra*
- 1579 Gosson, *School of Abuse*; Merbury, *A Marriage Between Wit and Wisdom*; Munday, *Mirror of Mutability*; *Plutarch's Lives*, translated by North; Spenser, *Shepherd's Calendar*
- 1580 Gifford, *Poesy of Gillyflowers*; Lyly, *Euphues and His England*; Munday, *Zelauto*; Saker, *Narbonus*; Stow, *Chronicle*
- 1581 Execution of Edmund Campion
Mulcaster, *Positions*; *Seneca his Ten Tragedies*, translated by Newton; Peele, *The Arraignment of Paris*; Rich, *Farewell to the Military Profession, Strange and Wonderful Adventures of Don Simonides*; Wilson, *The Three Ladies of London*
- 1582 University of Edinburgh founded; plague in London
Breton, *Toys of an Idle Heart*; Gosson, *Plays Confuted*; Hakluyt, *Voyages*; Munday (?), *Rare Triumphs of Love and Fortune*
- 1583 Irish rebellion defeated; Whitgift named Archbishop of Canterbury; Queen's Players company formed
Greene, *Mamillia*; Stubbes, *Anatomy of Abuses*
- 1584 Assassination of William of Orange; failure of Raleigh in Virginia
Greene, *Mirror of Modesty, Card of Fancy*; Lodge, *Alarm Against Usurers*; Lyly, *Campaspe, Sappho and Phao*; Munday, *Watchword in England*; Rich,

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- Second Tome of Don Simonides*; Scot, *Discovery of Witchcraft*; Warner, *Pan His Syrinx*
- 1585 Greene, *Planetomachia*; Lyly, *Gallathea*; Peele, *Pageant for Dixi*; Whetstone, *Enemy to Unthriftiness*
- 1586 Battle of Zutphen; death of Sidney from battle wounds; Babington plot; trial of Mary Queen of Scots
Knox, *History of the Reformation in Scotland*; Warner, *Albion's England*, Books I–IV; Webbe, *Discourse of English Poetrie*; Whetstone, *English Mirror*
- 1587 Execution of Mary Queen of Scots; Pope proclaims crusade against England
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- 1588 Defeat of the Spanish Armada
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- 1589 Byrd, *Songs of Sundry Natures*; Greene, *Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay*; Hakluyt, *Principal Navigations*; Lodge, *Scylla's Metamorphosis*; Lyly, *Pap with a Hatchet*, *Midas*, *Mother Bombie*; Marlowe, *Jew of Malta*; Nashe, *Anatomy of Absurdity*; Peele, *Battle of Alcazar*; Puttenham, *Arte of English Poesie*
- 1590 Death of Waslingham
Anon.; *Life and Pranks of Long Meg, Edward III, Fair Em, King Leir, Mucedorus, Soliman and Perseda*; Greene, *Never Too Late*, *Francesco's Fortunes*, *George a Greene*, *James IV*; Holland, *Treatise Against Witchcraft*; Lodge, *A Looking Glass for London and England*, *Rosalynd*; Lyly, *Love's Metamorphosis*; Nashe, *Almond for a Parrot*; Peele, *The Old Wives Tale*, *Polyhymnia*; Sidney, *Arcadia*; Spenser, *Faerie Queene*, Books I–III; Wilson, *The Cobbler's Prophecy*
- 1591 Increased severity against recusants
Anon., *Arden of Feversham*, *Jack Straw*, *Lochrine*, *True Tragedy of Richard III*; Breton, *Breton's Bower of Delights*; Drayton, *Harmony of the Church*; Fraunce, *The Countess of Pembroke's Emanuel*; Greene, *Orlando Furioso*, *A Notable Discovery of Cosenage*; James VI, *Poetical Exercises*; Lodge, *Robert, Duke of Normandy*; Peele, *Edward I*; Shakespeare, Parts 2 and 3 of *Henry VI*; Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella*; Southwell, *Mary Magdalene's Tears*; Spenser, *Complaints*, *Daphnida*
- 1592 Rose Theatre opened; plague in London
Breton, *Pilgrimage to Paradise*; Churchyard, *Handful of Gladsome Verses*; Constable, *Diana*; Daniel, *Complaint of Rosamond*, *Delia*; Delony, *Garland of Good Will*; Greene, *Selimus*, *John of Bordeaux*; Marlowe, *Edward II*,

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- Doctor Faustus*; Nashe, *Summer's Last Will and Testament*; Shakespeare, *The Comedy of Errors*, Part I of *Henry VI*; Anon., *A Knack to Know A Knave*, *Thomas of Woodstock*
- 1593 Theatres in London closed for plague
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- 1594 Swan Theatre built
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- 1595 Execution of Southwell; deaths of Drake and Hawkins on their voyage to the West Indies
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- 1596 Essex storms Cadiz
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- 1597 Bacon, *Essays*; Breton, *Arbor of Amorous Devices*; Chapman, *A Humorous Day's Mirth*; Deloney, *The Gentle Craft*; Dowland, *First Book of Songs*; Drayton, *England's Heroical Epistles*; Hall, *Virgidemiarum* Books I–III;

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- Hooker, *Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity* Book v; James VI (of Scotland), *Demonology*; Jonson, *The Case is Altered*
- 1598 Edict of Nantes
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- 1599 Essex imprisoned, Globe Theatre opened
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- 1600 Bruno burned at Rome; East India Company founded; Fortune Theatre built
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