

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-81489-8 - Women, Death and Literature in Post-Reformation England

Patricia Phillippy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

WOMEN, DEATH AND LITERATURE IN POST-REFORMATION ENGLAND

In *Women, Death and Literature in Post-Reformation England* Patricia Phillippy studies the crucial literal and figurative roles played by women in death and mourning during the early modern period. By examining early modern funerary, liturgical, and lamentational practices, as well as diaries, poems, and plays, she illustrates the consistent gendering of rival styles of grief in post-Reformation England. Phillippy emphasizes the period's textual and cultural constructions of male and female subjects as predicated upon gendered approaches to death. She argues that while feminine grief is condemned as immoderately emotional by male reformers, the same characteristics that open women's mourning to censure enable its use as a means of empowering women's speech. Phillippy calls on a wide range of published and archival material that dates from the Reformation to well into the seventeenth century, providing a study that will appeal to cultural as well as literary historians.

PATRICIA PHILLIPPY is Associate Professor of English at Texas A&M University. She is the author of *Love's Remedies: Recantation and Renaissance Lyric Poetry* (1995) and numerous articles on early modern women writers, literature, and culture.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-81489-8 - Women, Death and Literature in Post-Reformation England

Patricia Phillippy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-81489-8 - Women, Death and Literature in Post-Reformation England

Patricia Phillippy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

WOMEN, DEATH AND
LITERATURE IN
POST-REFORMATION
ENGLAND

PATRICIA PHILLIPPY



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-81489-8 - Women, Death and Literature in Post-Reformation England
Patricia Phillippy
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521814898

© Patricia Phillippy 2002

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2002

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

ISBN 978-0-521-81489-8 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-12618-2 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-81489-8 - Women, Death and Literature in Post-Reformation England

Patricia Phillippy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

*To my mother, Betty,
my sisters, Susie and Barbie,
and
my daughter, Iman*

et à la mémoire de Khédidja, ma belle-mère

“it was a pretious child, a bundle of myrrhe, a bundle of sweetnes,
shee was a child of ten thousand . . .”

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-81489-8 - Women, Death and Literature in Post-Reformation England

Patricia Phillippy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-81489-8 - Women, Death and Literature in Post-Reformation England

Patricia Phillippy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Contents*

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page viii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	x
Introduction	i
1 A map of death	15
PART I DISPOSING OF THE BODY	49
2 The body of history: embalming and historiography in Shakespeare's <i>Henry VIII</i>	54
3 Humility and stoutness: the lives and deaths of Christian women	81
4 London's mourning garment: maternity, mourning, and succession in Shakespeare's <i>Richard III</i>	109
PART II SISTERS OF MAGDALENE	139
5 "I might againe have been the Sepulchre": maternal mourning and the encrypted corpse	143
6 "Quod licuit feci": Elizabeth Russell and the power of public mourning	179
7 The mat(t)er of death: the defense of Eve and the female <i>ars moriendi</i>	211
Codicil: "a web of blacke"	242
<i>Notes</i>	247
<i>Bibliography</i>	284
<i>Index</i>	305

Illustrations

1	Elisabetta Sirani, <i>Penitent Magdalene</i> . Besançon (France) (<i>Musée des Beaux-Arts et de l'Archaeologie. Cliché Charles Choffet (Besançon)</i>)	page 17
2	Gian Girolamo Savoldo, <i>Saint Mary Magdalene Approaching the Sepulcher</i> (© National Gallery, London)	32
3	David des Granges, <i>The Saltonstall Family</i> (© Tate, London, 2001)	60
4	Portrait of Katherine Brettergh, frontispiece of <i>Deaths Advantage, Little Regarded</i> (1602), shelf mark 4902 aaa 18 (By permission of the British Library)	98
5	Maximilian Colt, Tomb of Mary Stuart. Westminster Abbey (Author's photograph)	114
6	Lavinia Fontana, <i>Portrait of a Newborn in a Cradle</i> (<i>Pinacoteca Nazionale, Bologna</i>)	144
7	Cornelius Cure and William Cure II, Tomb of John Russell, Westminster Abbey (detail) (© Dean and Chapter of Westminster)	145
8	Maximilian Colt, Tombs of Sophia and Mary Stuart, Westminster Abbey (© Dean and Chapter of Westminster)	146
9	Maximilian Colt, Tomb of Sophia Stuart, Westminster Abbey (© Dean and Chapter of Westminster)	147
10	William Cure II, Tomb of Elizabeth Russell, Parish Church of All Saints, Bisham (Author's photograph)	182

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-81489-8 - Women, Death and Literature in Post-Reformation England

Patricia Phillippy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

<i>List of illustrations</i>		ix
11	William Cure I, Tomb of Philip and Thomas Hoby, Parish Church of All Saints, Bisham <i>(Author's photograph)</i>	184
12	Cornelius Cure and William Cure II, Tomb of John Russell, Westminster Abbey <i>(© Dean and Chapter of Westminster)</i>	197
13	Cornelius Cure, Tomb of Elizabeth (Bess) Russell, Westminster Abbey <i>(© Dean and Chapter of Westminster)</i>	203
14	William Cure II, Tomb of Elizabeth Russell, Parish Church of All Saints, Bisham (detail) <i>(Author's photograph)</i>	207
15	"The Temptation of Faith." From <i>Ars Moriendi</i> , shelf mark IA 42019 <i>(By permission of the British Library)</i>	213
16	"The Temptation to Impatience." From <i>Ars Moriendi</i> , shelf mark IA 42019 <i>(By permission of the British Library)</i>	218
17	"The Trinity." From <i>Ars Moriendi</i> , shelf mark 3835 bb 2 <i>(By permission of the British Library)</i>	224
18	"The Creation of Eve and the Fall of Man." From <i>Ars Moriendi</i> , shelf mark 3835 bb 2 <i>(By permission of the British Library)</i>	225

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-81489-8 - Women, Death and Literature in Post-Reformation England

Patricia Phillippy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgments

In many ways this is a communal work, and I am indebted to a number of individuals and institutions who have contributed to the research and writing of this book over the course of the past four years. I appreciate and have profited from the comments of readers of both early and later versions of these chapters, including Harriette Andreadis, Randall A. Dodgen, Marian Eide, Margaret J. M. Ezell, Katharine Goodland, Katherine E. Kelly, Howard Marchitello, and Naomi J. Miller. Much of the material of this book was presented at conferences, where the input of colleagues including Elaine V. Beilin, Elizabeth Hageman, Margaret Hannay, Cristina Malcolmson, Kathryn McPherson, Susan Gushee O'Malley, Elizabeth Harris Sagaser, Mihoko Suzuki, and Linda Vecchi greatly improved the chapters as they were being conceived and written. In England, I received helpful guidance from Robert Yorke, Archivist of the College of Arms; Sue Irwin, Vicar of the Parish Church of All Saints, Bisham; David Pascall; Patricia Burstall; Marian Hodgkinson; Peter Davison; and J. B. Stevenson. The astute insights and friendly contributions of Katharine Goodland throughout the completion of this project have shaped the book and my thoughts on its subject significantly.

Two grants from the Program to Enhance Scholarly and Creative Achievement at Texas A&M University enabled me to conduct crucial research in Summer, 1997 and again in Summer, 1999. Faculty fellowships from the Center for Humanities Research at Texas A&M University in 1997–98 and 1999–2000 supported this research in its nascent and final stages, and the valuable insights of the faculty fellows and members of the Center have aided me throughout. Women's Studies Faculty Fellowship support and a research bursary from Dean Woodrow Jones, Jr., of the College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University, allowed me to complete my research in England in Summer, 1999. I am also indebted to Hyonjin Kim, whose work as a graduate assistant greatly contributed to compiling the research on which the first chapter is based.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-81489-8 - Women, Death and Literature in Post-Reformation England

Patricia Phillippy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Acknowledgments*

xi

Special thanks go to Lael Parish: our lively, month-long conversation on the subject of this book in Summer, 1997, thoroughly informs my treatment of it here. And as always, my greatest thanks go to my husband, Fouad Berrahou, and my daughter, Iman, who offer daily instruction in the art of living.

Portions of chapter 1 have appeared in *English Literary Renaissance* 31 (2001): 78–106. Reprinted by permission of the editors.

Portions of chapter 4 have appeared in Naomi J. Miller and Naomi Yavneh (eds.) *Maternal Measures: Figuring Caregiving in the Early Modern Period*, 319–32. Ashgate, 2000. © Naomi J. Miller and Naomi Yavneh.

A version of chapter 7 appears as ‘The Mat(t)er of Death: The Defense of Eve and the Female *Ars Moriendi*’ in *Debating Gender in Early Modern England, 1500–1700* edited by Cristina Malcolmson and Mihoko Suzuki, published by Palgrave Macmillan, a Division of St. Martin’s Press.