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978-0-521-82076-9 - Heresy, Literature, and Politics in Early Modern English Culture

Edited by David Loewenstein and John Marshall

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HERESY, LITERATURE, AND POLITICS IN EARLY MODERN ENGLISH CULTURE

This interdisciplinary volume of essays brings together a team of leading early modern historians and literary scholars in order to examine the changing conceptions, character, and condemnation of “heresy” in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century England. Definitions of “heresy” and “heretics” were the subject of heated controversies in England from the English Reformation to the end of the seventeenth century. These essays illuminate the significant literary issues involved in both defending and demonizing heretical beliefs, including the contested hermeneutic strategies applied to the interpretation of the Bible, and they examine how debates over heresy stimulated the increasing articulation of arguments for religious toleration in England. Offering new perspectives on John Milton, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and others, this volume should be of interest to all literary, religious, and political historians working on early modern English culture.

DAVID LOEWENSTEIN is Marjorie and Lorin Tiefenthaler Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His publications include *Milton and the Drama of History: Historical Vision, Iconoclasm, and the Literary Imagination* (Cambridge, 1990), *Milton: Paradise Lost*, in the Landmarks of World Literature Series (Cambridge, 1993; 2nd edn, 2004), and *Representing Revolution in Milton and His Contemporaries: Religion, Politics, and Polemics in Radical Puritanism* (Cambridge, 2001). He is also co-editor, with Janel Mueller, of *The Cambridge History of Early Modern English Literature* (Cambridge, 2002; paperback edn., 2006).

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