

Cambridge University Press

0521824346 - Reading, Society and Politics in Early Modern England

Edited by Kevin Sharpe and Steven N. Zwicker

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## READING, SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND

*Reading, Society and Politics in Early Modern England* ranges over private and public reading, and over a variety of religious, social and scientific communities to locate acts of reading in specific historical moments from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. It also charts the changes in reading habits that reflect broader social and political shifts during the period. A team of expert contributors cover topics including the processes of book production and distribution, audiences and markets, the material text, the relation of print to performance, and the politics of acts of reception. In addition, the volume emphasizes the independence of early modern readers and their role in making meaning in an age in which increased literacy equalled social enfranchisement and interpretation was power. Meaning was not simply an authorial act but the work of many hands and processes, from editing, printing and proofing, to reproducing, distributing and finally reading.

KEVIN SHARPE is Professor of Renaissance Studies at the University of Warwick and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and the English Association. He has authored or edited eleven books, including *Remapping Early Modern England: The Culture of Seventeenth-Century Politics* (2000), *Reading Revolutions: The Politics of Reading in Early Modern England* (2000) and *Criticism and Compliment* (1987).

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KEVIN SHARPE  
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