

TASTE AND KNOWLEDGE IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND

Elizabeth L. Swann investigates the relationship between the physical sense of taste and taste as a figurative term associated with knowledge and judgment in early modern literature and culture. She argues that – unlike aesthetic taste in the eighteenth century – discriminative taste was entwined with embodied experience in this period. Although taste was tarnished by its associations with Adam and Eve’s fall from Eden, it also functioned positively, as a source of useful and potentially redemptive literary, spiritual, experimental, and intersubjective knowledge. *Taste and Knowledge in Early Modern England* juxtaposes canonical literary works by authors such as Shakespeare with a broad range of medical, polemical, theological, philosophical, didactic, and dietetic sources. In doing so, the book reveals the central importance of taste to the experience and articulation of key developments in the literate, religious, and social cultures of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

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For
Gregory James Swann and Louise Mary Swann
and in memory of
Indira Daisy Louise Swann

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Note on the Text

Where available, I have given both the (estimated) year of first performance and the year of first publication for plays. In my citations of early sources, I modernise *i/j*, *u/v*, *y/i*, long *s*, and double *v*, and silently expand contractions, but retain original punctuation, spellings, and italicization, with the exception that early modern book titles are capitalised. I have also capitalised or uncapitalised silently the initial letter in a quotation, and added terminal punctuation, when this is required by the sentence structure. In the notes and bibliography, I have shortened many longer titles. In citing other scholars' transcriptions, I defer to their methodologies.