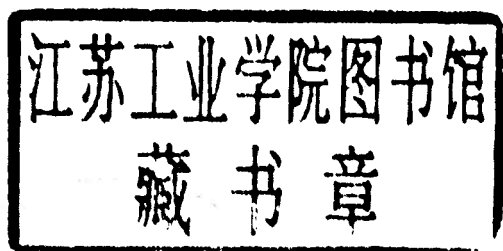




# Renaissance Literature

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# Series Preface

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The study of English literature in the early twenty-first century is host to an exhilarating range of critical approaches, theories and historical perspectives. 'English' ranges from traditional modes of study such as Shakespeare and Romanticism to popular interest in national and area literatures such as the United States, Ireland and the Caribbean. The subject also spans a diverse array of genres from tragedy to cyberpunk, incorporates such hybrid fields of study as Asian American literature, Black British literature, creative writing and literary adaptations, and remains eclectic in its methodology.

Such diversity is cause for both celebration and consternation. English is varied enough to promise enrichment and enjoyment for all kinds of readers and to challenge preconceptions about what the study of literature might involve. But how are readers to navigate their way through such literary and cultural diversity? And how are students to make sense of the various literary categories and periodisations, such as modernism and the Renaissance, or the proliferating theories of literature, from feminism and marxism to queer theory and eco-criticism? The Edinburgh Critical Guides to Literature series reflects the challenges and pluralities of English today, but at the same time it offers readers clear and accessible routes through the texts, contexts, genres, historical periods and debates within the subject.

Martin Halliwell and Andy Mousley

# Acknowledgements

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My passion for Renaissance literature and my thinking about it have been shaped by those who have taught me and by my colleagues and students. I am indebted to them all but would especially like to thank the following: Catherine Bates, Charles Butler, Bernard Capp, Deborah Cartmell, Kate Chedgzoy, Peter Davidson, Rebecca D'Monté, A. S. G. Edwards, Scott Fraser, Takako Kato, Peter Mack, Clare McManus, Andy Mousley, J. R. Mulryne, Melanie Ord, Amanda Penlington, Claire Preston, John Reid, Carol Chillington Rutter, Jane Stevenson, Christiania Whitehead, and the late Julia Briggs.

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# Abbreviations

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<i>ELH</i>	<i>English Literary History</i>
<i>ELR</i>	<i>English Literary Renaissance</i>
<i>MLQ</i>	<i>Modern Language Quarterly</i>
<i>MLR</i>	<i>Modern Language Review</i>
<i>MRDE</i>	<i>Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England</i>
<i>PMLA</i>	<i>Publications of the Modern Language Association of America</i>
<i>REED</i>	<i>Records of Early English Drama</i>
<i>RES</i>	<i>Review of English Studies</i>
<i>RQ</i>	<i>Renaissance Quarterly</i>
<i>ShS</i>	<i>Shakespeare Survey</i>
<i>ShSt</i>	<i>Shakespeare Studies</i>
<i>SQ</i>	<i>Shakespeare Quarterly</i>
<i>SEL</i>	<i>Studies in English Literature</i>
<i>TLS</i>	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>

# About this Book

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This volume provides a concise introduction to the literature of Elizabethan and Stuart England (1558–1649). It is aimed chiefly at undergraduate students taking courses on sixteenth and seventeenth-century English literature, but will hopefully be useful, too, for taught postgraduates looking to refresh or consolidate their knowledge of the period's literature, and lecturers preparing or teaching Renaissance courses.

The beginnings of what we now describe as 'Renaissance' or 'Early Modern' English literature precede the accession of Elizabeth I (1558), but Renaissance literary culture only became firmly established in England in the second half of the sixteenth century. Similarly, while the literature produced between 1649 and the Restoration of the Monarchy (1660) could be said to belong to the Renaissance, the unusual historical context in which it was produced marks the Interregnum as a distinctive literary era. This is why this book concentrates on the literature of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. For pragmatic reasons the focus is, likewise, on printed literature and literature in English. Although many Elizabethan and Stuart authors wrote in manuscript and some wrote in Latin, such texts are not generally readily accessible in student editions and anthologies.

The book opens with an overview of the original context in which English Renaissance literature was produced, and a discussion of its contemporary and modern critical reception. Following

chapters focus on the major literary genres: drama, poetry and prose. Each chapter offers a survey of the genre, and illustrative case studies of key sub-genres and texts, including traditionally canonical and non-canonical works. At the end of each chapter readers will find a summary of its main points. Further support for those studying Renaissance literature can be found in the Student Resources section at the end of the book. This section includes essay writing advice, sample essay questions and plans, a glossary of terms and a guide to further reading and electronic resources. The conclusion summarises some of the most significant developments in Renaissance literary culture, and considers the future direction of Renaissance scholarship. This includes a discussion of research opportunities that may be especially useful to students devising undergraduate or postgraduate dissertation topics.

Throughout the book quotations from Shakespeare are taken from *The Norton Shakespeare*, edited by Stephen Greenblatt, Walter Cohen, Jean E. Howard, and Katharine Eisaman Maus (London: Norton, 1997). Quotations from other Renaissance authors are generally taken from student editions or *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, edited by Stephen Greenblatt, 8th edn (London: Norton, 2006), volume 1. Biblical quotations are taken from *The Bible (Authorized King James Version with Apocrypha)*, edited by Robert Carroll and Stephen Prickett (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998). Direct references to, or quotations from, textual editions printed prior to 1700 have been cited from the facsimiles of those editions accessible via the subscription service *Early English Books Online* (<http://eebo.chadwyck.com>). Unless otherwise specified, the dates given for the literary works cited in the text are their dates of publication (rather than composition or performance).



# Chronology

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## Note

Authors' names are given in full the first time that they are cited; thereafter they are listed by surname only.

Date	Historical and Cultural Events	Literary Publications and Events
1558	Accession of Queen Elizabeth I	John Knox, <i>The First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women</i>
1559	Acts of Uniformity and Supremacy passed, re-establishing Protestantism after the Catholic reign of Mary I (1553–58)	
1560		Anne Locke's <i>A Meditation of a Penitent Sinner</i>
1561		Performance of Thomas Norton's and Thomas Sackville's <i>Gorboduc</i>

Date	Historical and Cultural Events	Literary Publications and Events
1562	First slave-trading expedition to Africa by John Hawkins	
1564	Births of William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe	
1565	The Turkish Siege of Malta	Arthur Golding's translation of Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i>
1566	James Stuart (later James VI of Scotland, James I of England) is born, son of Mary, Queen of Scots and Henry, Lord Darnley	William Painter, <i>The Palace of Pleasure</i> ; Isabella Whitney, <i>The Copy of a Letter</i> (1566–7)
1567	Lord Darnley is murdered (allegedly by James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell); Mary, Queen of Scots marries the Earl of Bothwell; abdication of Mary, Queen of Scots; Revolt in the Netherlands against Spanish rule; Defeat of Irish rebellion	Geoffrey Fenton, <i>Certain Tragicall Discourses of Bandello</i> ; Opening of the Red Lion playhouse
1568	Mary, Queen of Scots flees to England	
1569	Unsuccessful rebellion of the Northern Earls (1569–70); Munster rebellion in Ireland (1569–73)	

Date	Historical and Cultural Events	Literary Publications and Events
1570	Elizabeth I is excommunicated by Pope	William Baldwin, <i>Beware the Cat</i>
1571	Ridolfi plot to place Mary, Queen of Scots on the English throne; Defeat of the Turks at the Battle of Lepanto	
1572	St Bartholomew's Day Massacre of protestants in Paris	
1573		George Gascoigne, <i>The Adventures of Master F. J.</i> ; Isabella Whitney, <i>A Sweet Nosegay</i>
1575		Gascoigne, <i>The Poesies of Gascoigne</i> ; Creation of St Paul's theatre
1576	The Spanish sack Antwerp; the Dutch provinces unite against Spain; Martin Frobisher makes his first voyage to find the North-West passage (1576-8)	Opening of the Theatre
1577	Sir Francis Drake begins his circumnavigation of the globe	Opening of the first Blackfriars theatre and the Curtain theatre
1578	Elizabeth I considers the marriage proposal of Francis, Duke of Alençon	John Lyly, <i>Euphues. The Anatomy of Wit</i> ; Margaret Tyler (trans.), <i>A Mirror of Princely Deeds and Knighthood</i>

Date	Historical and Cultural Events	Literary Publications and Events
1579	Desmond rebellion in Ireland (1579–83)	Edmund Spenser, <i>The Shepheardes Calender</i>
1580		Lyly, <i>Euphues and his England</i>
1582		Thomas Watson, <i>Hekatompathia</i>
1583	Discovery of the Throckmorton plot for the Spanish invasion of England	Robert Greene, <i>Mamillia</i> ; Queen's Players are formed
1584	Assassination of William of Orange	Lyly, <i>Campaspe</i>
1585	Anglo-Dutch treaty; sending of English force to the Netherlands; Establishment of the first English colony in America at Roanoke, Virginia	
1586	Babington Plot to free Mary, Queen of Scots; trial of Mary for her part in the plot; Battle of Zutphen against Spanish forces in the Netherlands; death of Sir Philip Sidney after being wounded in the battle	

Date	Historical and Cultural Events	Literary Publications and Events
1587	Execution of Mary, Queen of Scots	Philip Henslowe builds the Rose theatre; Performance of Marlowe's <i>Tamburlaine the Great</i> and Thomas Kyd's <i>The Spanish Tragedy</i> (?)
1588	Defeat of the Spanish Armada	Greene, <i>Pandosto</i> ; Performance of Marlowe's <i>Dr Faustus</i> (1588–9?)
1589	Henri III of France assassinated	Greene, <i>Menaphon</i> ; Thomas Lodge, <i>Scilla's Metamorphosis</i> ; Performance of Marlowe's <i>The Jew of Malta</i>
1590		Lodge, <i>Rosalynde</i> ; Marlowe, <i>Tamburlaine the Great, Parts I and II</i> ; Sidney, <i>Arcadia</i> (New Arcadia); Spenser, <i>The Faerie Queene</i> (Books I–III); Shakespeare writes <i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> (1590–1)
1591	Earl of Essex leads expedition to aid Henri of Navarre	Lyly, <i>Endymion</i> ; Sidney, <i>Astrophil and Stella</i> ; Shakespeare writes <i>Henry VI, Parts II and III</i> (1591–2)

Date	Historical and Cultural Events	Literary Publications and Events
1592	Plague in London closes the theatres	<i>Arden of Faversham</i> ; Samuel Daniel, <i>Delia</i> ; Lyly, <i>Gallathea</i> , <i>Midas</i> ; Thomas Nashe, <i>Pierce Penniless</i> ; Lady Mary Sidney, translation of Robert Garnier's <i>Marc Antoine</i> ; Composition and/or performance of Marlowe's <i>Edward II</i> ; Shakespeare's <i>Henry VI, Part I</i> , <i>Titus Andronicus</i> , <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> , <i>Richard III</i> (1592–3)
1593	Plague in London continues; theatres remain closed; Henri of Navarre becomes Catholic	Barnabe Barnes, <i>Parthenophil and Pathenophe</i> ; Giles Fletcher, <i>Licia</i> ; Lodge, <i>Phillis</i> ; Shakespeare, <i>Venus and Adonis</i> ; Sidney, <i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i> (conflating the Old and New <i>Arcadias</i> ); Murder of Marlowe

Date	Historical and Cultural Events	Literary Publications and Events
1594	<p>Start of the Nine Years War in Ireland, following the rebellion of Hugh O'Neill</p> <p>Henri of Navarre crowned Henri IV of France</p>	<p>Richard Barnfield, <i>The Affectionate Shepherd</i>; Michael Drayton, <i>Idea's Mirror</i>; Thomas Heywood, <i>Oenone and Paris</i>; Nashe, <i>The Unfortunate Traveller</i>; Shakespeare, <i>The Rape of Lucrece</i>, <i>Titus Andronicus</i>, <i>The First Part of the Contention of the Two Famous Houses of York and Lancaster (Henry VI, Part II)</i>; Performance of Shakespeare's <i>The Comedy of Errors</i> (written 1592–4); Shakespeare writes <i>Love's Labour's Lost</i> (1594–5)</p>
1595	<p>Deaths of Sir Francis Drake and John Hawkins</p>	<p>George Chapman, <i>Ovid's Banquet of the Sense</i>; Drayton, <i>Endymion and Phoebe: Idea's Latmus</i>; Thomas Edwards, <i>Cephalus and Procris</i>; Sidney, <i>Defence of Poesy</i>; Shakespeare, <i>The True Tragedy of Richard Duke of York (Henry VI, Part III)</i>; Shakespeare writes <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> (1594–6), <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>, <i>Richard II</i>; Building of the Swan theatre</p>

Date	Historical and Cultural Events	Literary Publications and Events
1596	Earl of Essex attacks Cadiz  Food shortages and riots Peace with France	Sidney, <i>Works</i> ; new edition of Spenser, <i>The Faerie Queene</i> (including Books IV–VI); Shakespeare writes <i>King John</i> , <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> (1596–7), <i>Henry IV, Part I</i> (1596–7)
1597	Failure of second Armada	Francis Bacon, <i>Essays</i> ; Thomas Deloney, <i>Jack of Newbury</i> ; Joseph Hall, <i>Virgidemiarum</i> ; Shakespeare, <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , <i>Richard II</i> , <i>Richard III</i> ; Shakespeare writes <i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i> (1597–8)
1598		Chapman/Marlowe, <i>Hero and Leander</i> ; Everard Guilpin, <i>Skiaethia</i> ; John Marston, <i>Pygmalion's Image and Certain Satyres</i> ; Shakespeare, <i>Love's Labour's Lost</i> , <i>Henry IV, Part I</i> ; Composition and/or performance of William Haughton's <i>A Woman will have her Will</i> ; Ben Jonson's <i>Every Man in His Humour</i> ; Shakespeare's <i>Henry IV, Part II</i> , <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> ; Opening of Boar's Head theatre



Date	Historical and Cultural Events	Literary Publications and Events
1599	Bishops' Ban on satires	Chapman, <i>A Humorous Day's Mirth</i> ; Performance of Thomas Dekker's <i>The Shoemaker's Holiday</i> ; Jonson's <i>Every Man out of His Humour</i> ; Shakespeare's <i>Henry V</i> , <i>Julius Caesar</i> , <i>As You Like It</i> ; Opening of the Globe theatre
1600	Birth of Charles Stuart (later Charles I)	Shakespeare, <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , <i>Henry IV, Part II</i> , <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> , <i>Henry V</i> ; John Weever, <i>Faunus and Melliflora</i> ; Shakespeare writes <i>Hamlet</i> (1600–1); Fortune theatre opened
1601	The Earl of Essex leads failed rebellion against the Queen, and is subsequently executed	Shakespeare, <i>The Phoenix and the Turtle</i> ; Shakespeare writes <i>Twelfth Night</i> , <i>Troilus and Cressida</i> (1601–2)
1602		Francis Beaumont, <i>Salmacis and Hermaphroditis</i> ; Marston, <i>Antonio and Mellida</i> , <i>Antonio's Revenge</i> ; Shakespeare, <i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i>