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## Abstract

This thesis presents a study of the representation of the religious and secular clergy in English early modern jest books through three distinct periods: 1510-1534, 1555-1585 and 1590-1609, analysing, amongst others, the influence of humanism during the English Reformation.

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This first broad-ranging study in English of the secular clergy examines how ordination provided a framework for clerical life cycles and outlines the influence exerted on secular clergy by monastic ideals before tracing typical career paths for clerics. Concentrating on northern France, England and Germany in the period c.800-1200, Julia Barrow explores how entry into the clergy usually occurred in childhood, with parents making decisions for their sons, although other relatives, chiefly clerical uncles, were also influential. Other readers will always be interested in your opinion of the books you've read. Unlike monks and nuns, clergy have hitherto been sidelined in accounts of the Middle Ages, but they played an important role in medieval society. *Religious and Cultural Change in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*. Authors: Collinson, Patrick, Murphy, Enda. Free Preview. Buy this book. eBook \$109.00. David Loades, *History Today* Historians have always known that the English Reformation was more than a simple change of religious belief and practice. It altered the political constitution and, according to Max Weber, the attitudes and motives which governed the getting and investment of wealth, facilitating the rise of capitalism and industrialisation. This book investigates further implications of the transformative religious changes of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries for the nation, the town, the family, and for their culture. Show all. Table of contents (5 chapters). Table of content English poetry and prose burst into sudden glory in the late 1570s. A decisive shift of taste toward a fluent artistry self-consciously displaying its own grace and sophistication was announced in the works of Spenser and Sidney. It was accompanied by an upsurge in literary production that came to fruition in the 1590s and 1600s, two decades of astonishing productivity by writers of every persuasion and calibre. A further stimulus was the religious upheaval that took place in the middle of the century. In the "Mutability Cantos," melancholy fragments of a projected seventh book (published posthumously in 1609), Spenser turned away from the public world altogether, toward the ambiguous consolations of eternity.