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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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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. In the field of religious inspiration, the exceptional quality of Clément Marot and Théodore de Bèze's Psalms, as well as Agrippa d'Aubigné's wonderful visionary Tragiques should not overshadow other major works. The Reformed faith also inspired a great number of writings and the biblical inspiration in Du Bartas' Semaine was a great success throughout Europe. It was likewise expressed in a more private and discreet manner in meditations such as Jacques Grévin's sonnets or in Pastor Chandieu's Octonnaires. Protestantism was not limited to a severe and strict religious framework ; it's influence was present in secular literary genres as well. The late Renaissance renewal revived passionate, tormented love poetry, as in Agrippa d'Aubigné's Printemps (Spring) or de Sponde's Amours (Loves). The book is built on a schema of recurring Baroque characteristics-narrativity, hyperbole, melancholia, kitsch, and plateauing, pointing less to surface manifestations and more to underlying ideological tensions. Contents: Prefatory Note Introduction Chapter 1: The Labyrinthine Baroque Chapter 2: The Female Baroque Chapter 3: Catholic Baroque Chapter 4: Protestant Baroque Chapter 5: The Female Baroque in Court and Country Chapter 6: Mary Wroth's Urania and Pamphilia to Amphilanthus Chapter 7: From Baroque to Enlightenment: Margaret Cavendish and Aphra Behn Postscript. In this drama, John Webster mainly glorified the renaissance spirit in women during the 16th and 17th century. 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 conten