English Literature The Renaissance Period 1550 166

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in this study l e semler begins with a comprehensive historical definition of mannerism in visual arts from which he derives four key terms that constitute the nucleus of the aesthetic technical precision elegance grazia and the difficulta facilita formula these principles interwoven with one another and with maniera are derived from visual arts but are specifically designed to be transferable to any medium the rest of the book situates the english poets in relation to the visual

arts including painting limning gold and silversmithery architecture and garden design and discusses their verse in relation to the key mannerist principles

this ambitious undertaking is designed to acquaint students teachers and researchers with reference sources in any branch of english studies which marcuse defines as all those subjects and lines of critical and scholarly inquiry presently pursued by members of university departments of english language and literature within each of 24 major sections marcuse lists and annotates bibliographies guides reviews of research encyclopedias dictionaries journals and reference histories the annotations and various indexes are models of clarity and usefulness and cross references are liberally supplied where appropriate although cost conscious librarians will probably consider the several other excellent literary bibliographies in print such as james l harner s literary research guide modern language assn of america 1989 larger academic libraries will want marcuse s volume jack bales mary washington coll lib fredericksburg va library journal

treatment of and reference to the song of songs by a variety of authors including spenser and milton

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this concise introduction to the literature of an exciting and influential period opens with an overview of the historical and cultural context in which english renaissance literature was produced and a discussion of its contemporary and subsequent critical reception the following chapters survey the major renaissance genres of drama poetry and prose each chapter provides illustrative case studies of canonical and non canonical key texts by authors such as william shakespeare christopher marlowe ben jonson edmund spenser john milton sir philip sidney john donne aemilia lanyer sir francis bacon thomas nashe and lady mary wroth a guide to further reading accompanies each chapter complemented by a section of student resources at the end of the book the final chapter summarises significant developments in english renaissance literary culture and discusses the future direction of renaissance literary scholarship

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