

The Emergence of the English Author: Scripting the Life of the Poet in Early Modern England (Cambridge Studies in Renaissance Literature and Culture)

By Kevin Pask

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The historical construction of authorship is of enormous interest to scholars and critics. Yet an important aspect of the historical emergence of the author--the literary biography or "life of the poet"--has received scant attention. In *The Emergence of the English Author*, Kevin Pask offers the first full-scale history of the cultural construction of literary authority in early modern England, and studies the early life-narratives of major English poets Chaucer, Sidney, Spenser, Donne and Milton.

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Review

"Pask presents a well-written, original, and insightful study....this book is a valuable contribution to the Cambridge series." J.S. Carducci, Choice

"The Emergence of the English Author begins with a postmodern recognition of the author as a construct, examines the implications of this concept through a detailed cultural-historical study of several canonized English Authors, and through this process, raises provocative questions. It will be of interest to scholars of English literary history, early modern cultural studies, and critical theory." Pauline Head, Biography

"Pask's book is logically engaging and perceptive in its analysis of the sociocultural pressures that shape the changing life-narratives of these poets." Studies in English Literature 1500-1900

"In this book, Kevin Pask...sheds light on early modern ideas about the nature and status of poetic authorship, ideas which helped to shape the canon of vernacular literature(1). He thus adds substantially to current thinking about the historical processes which ultimately gave rise to the academic discipline of English. Stephen Partridge, Envoi

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