

JON A. QUITSLUND

# SPENSER'S SUPREME FICTION

PLATONIC  
NATURAL PHILOSOPHY AND  
*THE FAERIE QUEENE*



# Spensers Supreme Fiction

**Patrick Cheney, Philip Hardie**



## **Spensers Supreme Fiction:**

**Spenser's Supreme Fiction** Jon A. Quitslund, 2001-01-01 In *Spenser's Supreme Fiction* Jon A. Quitslund offers a rich analysis of *The Faerie Queene* and of several texts contributing to the revival of Platonism stimulated by Marsilio Ficino's labours as a translator and interpreter of Plato and the ancient Neoplatonists. To the old issue of the scope and character of Spenser's Platonism Quitslund brings fresh insights from contemporary views on gender and identity, intertextuality and the centrality of fiction within all aspects of Renaissance culture. He argues that Spenser sought authority for his poem by grounding its narrative in a divinely ordained natural order intelligible in terms derived from the ancient sources of poetry and philosophy. Passages central to the poet's world-making project are shown to be intertextually linked to Book VI of the *Aeneid* and to Plato's *Symposium*, regarded in the commentaries of Landino and Ficino as explanations of the *gentile prisca theologia*, a cosmology parallel to the tenets of Christianity. The first half of the book examines Spenser's representation of the macrocosm and its replication in human nature's lesser world in the light of divergent tendencies within humanism. The legacy of Plato is shown to be especially important in the esoteric tradition which made the province of natural philosophy part of the soul's itinerary back to its otherworldly origins. In the second half *The Faerie Queene* is interpreted as an unfolding pattern: the dynamic order of nature is flawed but not fallen and seen against that background human culture contains in its myths and images both corruptions of natural impulses and aspirations to transcend the limits imposed by mortality.

**Losing Touch with Nature** Mary Thomas Crane, 2014-11-24 Aristotelian naturalism and its discontents *Losing touch with nature* Spenser and the new science Shakespeare *New forms of nothing* Matter and power Epilogue What about Bacon

**In the Anteroom of Divinity** Feisal Gharib Mohamed, 2008-01-01 *In the Anteroom of Divinity* focuses on the persistence of Pseudo-Dionysian angelology in England's early modern period. Beginning with a discussion of John Colet's commentary on Dionysius' twin hierarchies, Feisal G. Mohamed explores the significance of the Dionysian tradition to the conformism debate of the 1590s through works by Richard Hooker and Edmund Spenser. He then turns to John Donne and John Milton to shed light on their constructions of godly poetics, politics and devotion and provides the most extensive study of Milton's angelology in more than fifty years. With new philosophical, theological and literary insights, this work offers a contribution to intellectual history and the history of religion in critical moments of the English Reformation.

**The Oxford History of Classical Reception in English Literature** Patrick Cheney, Philip Hardie, 2015-10-29 *The Oxford History of Classical Reception* OHCREL is designed to offer a comprehensive investigation of the numerous and diverse ways in which literary texts of the classical world have stimulated responses and refashioning by English writers. Covering the full range of English literature from the early Middle Ages to the present day, OHCREL both synthesizes existing scholarship and presents cutting-edge new research employing an international team of expert contributors for each of the five volumes. OHCREL endeavours to interrogate rather than inertly reiterate conventional assumptions about literary periods, the processes of canon formation

and the relations between literary and non literary discourse It conceives of reception as a complex process of dialogic exchange and rather than offering large cultural generalizations it engages in close critical analysis of literary texts It explores in detail the ways in which English writers engagement with classical literature casts as much light on the classical originals as it does on the English writers own cultural context This second volume covers the years 1558 1660 and explores the reception of the ancient genres and authors in English Renaissance literature engaging with the major and many of the minor writers of the period including Shakespeare Marlowe Spenser and Jonson Separate chapters examine the Renaissance institutions and contexts which shape the reception of antiquity and an annotated bibliography provides substantial material for further reading

*Conversations* Syrithe Pugh, 2020-12-15 For educated poets and readers in the Renaissance classical literature was as familiar and accessible as the work of their compatriots and contemporaries often more so This volume seeks to recapture that sense of intimacy and immediacy as scholars from both sides of the modern disciplinary divide come together to eavesdrop on the conversations conducted through allusion and intertextual play in works from Petrarch to Milton and beyond The essays include discussions of Ariosto Spenser Du Bellay Marlowe the anonymous drama *Caesars Revenge* Shakespeare and Marvell and look forward to the grand retrospect of Shelley's *Adonais* Together they help us to understand how poets across the ages have thought about their relation to their predecessors and about their own contributions to what Shelley would call that great poem which all poets have built up since the beginning of the world

**Renaissance psychologies** Robert Lanier Reid, 2017-01-06 A thorough and scholarly study of Spenser and Shakespeare and their contrary artistry covering themes of theology psychology the depictions of passion and intellect moral counsel family hierarchy self love temptation folly allegory female heroism the supernatural and much more Renaissance psychologies examines the distinct and polarised emphasis of these two towering intellects and writers of the early modern period It demonstrates how pervasive was the influence of Spenser on Shakespeare as in the playful metamorphosis of Gloriana into Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and its return from Spenser's moralizing allegory to the Ovidian spirit of Shakespeare's comedy It will appeal to students and lecturers in Spenser studies Renaissance poetry and the wider fields of British literature social and cultural history ethics and theology

Early Modern Literature and the Bodies of a Reformed Eucharist Julianne Sandberg, 2024-12-26 Examining what the eucharist taught early modern writers about their bodies and how it shaped the bodies they wrote about this book shows how the exegetical roots of the Eucharistic controversy in 16th century England had very material and embodied consequences To apprehend the nature of Christ's body its nature presence closeness and efficacy for these writers was also to understand one's own And conversely to know one's own body was to know something particular about Christ's Sandberg provides new insights into how Edmund Spenser William Shakespeare John Donne and Aemilia Lanyer use the reformed eucharistic paradigm to imagine the embodied significance of the sacrament for their own bodies the bodies of their narrative subjects and the body of their literary work She shows the

significance of this paradigm was for poets and playwrights at this time to represent the embodied self and negotiate how the body was read interpreted and understood      **The Forms of Renaissance Thought** L. Barkan,B. Cormack,S.

Keilen,2008-11-27 This book addresses works of the European Renaissance as they relate both to the world of their origins and to a modern culture that turns to the early moderns for methodological provocation and renewal It charts the most important developments in the field since the turn towards cultural and ideological features of the Renaissance imagination

**The Spenser Encyclopedia** A.C. Hamilton,2020-07-01 This masterly work ought to be The Elizabethan Encyclopedia and no less Cahiers Elizabethains Edmund Spenser remains one of Britain s most famous poets With nearly 700 entries this Encyclopedia provides a comprehensive one stop reference tool for appreciating Spenser s poetry in the context of his age and our own understanding the language themes and characters of the poems easy to find entries arranged by subject

**Renaissance Papers 2023** James M. Pearce,Lisandra Estevez,2024-11-12 Renaissance Papers collects the best scholarly essays submitted each year to the Southeastern Renaissance Conference This volume examines the sacred and the profane in the early modern period The 2023 volume features essays from the conference held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as well as essays submitted directly to the journal The opening essay juxtaposes Socratic irony and Hermeticism in its exploration of the Neoplatonic influences in Spenser s Faerie Queene It is followed by three analyses of religious poems the first demonstrates the ways in which William Baldwin resurrects Edward the sixth in his Funerall of King Edward to promote his own evangelical agenda the second takes a close look at Herrick s Rex Tragicus arguing that it is a powerful expression of English religious identity The final essay in this group seeks to complicate the history of the early modern female sonneteer Returning to the secular the next essay compares a work by Polish writer Andrzej Modrzewski to Sir Thomas More s Utopia Art history is the focus of the following triad of essays which illuminate the visual cultures of the Netherlands and Spain they address the collaborative organization of the Spanish sculptor Alonso Berruguete s workshop the related phenomenon of fiction faith and spectacle in Maarten van Heemskerck s religious imagery and the political dimensions of the aesthetics of Habsburg portraiture The volume concludes with an exuberant analysis of the role of fiction in the art of biographical writing using the example of Katherine Rundell s Super Infinite The Transformations of John Donne Contributors Sunmin Cha Ilenia Col n Mendoza Scott Lucas Gerardo Rappazzo Amura Mary Ruth Robinson Jesse Russell Paul J Stapleton John Wall Vaclav Zheng

## The Enigmatic Realm of **Spensers Supreme Fiction**: Unleashing the Language is Inner Magic

In a fast-paced digital era where connections and knowledge intertwine, the enigmatic realm of language reveals its inherent magic. Its capacity to stir emotions, ignite contemplation, and catalyze profound transformations is nothing in short supply of extraordinary. Within the captivating pages of **Spensers Supreme Fiction** a literary masterpiece penned with a renowned author, readers attempt a transformative journey, unlocking the secrets and untapped potential embedded within each word. In this evaluation, we shall explore the book's core themes, assess its distinct writing style, and delve into its lasting affect the hearts and minds of those that partake in its reading experience.

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