

# Literary patronage in the English Renaissance - the Pembroke family

Routledge - Mary Sidney Herbert, Countess of Pembroke



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## Mary Sidney Herbert, Countess of Pembroke

The playhouses were generally built with timber and plaster. She is so indebted to the phrasing of the Book of Common Prayer, the Geneva Bible of 1560, the Psalms of Clément Marot and Theodore Beza, and the psalm translations and commentaries of John Calvin and of Beza both in Latin and in English translation that she must frequently have worked with them open before her.

## English Renaissance theatre

Everyone was expected to act as patron to worthy individuals below them on the socio-economic scale and equally, no one was high enough on that scale, except theoretically the monarch, never to require patronage themselves.

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## Types of renaissance patronage

In 1557, the printer and bookseller Richard Tottell printed some of their poems in his innovative verse anthology Songs and Sonnets. Humanism fostered a familiarity with the classics that was a powerful incentive for the creation of an English literature of answerable dignity. Kinney; Lady Mary Wroth: The Countess of Montgomery's *Urania*, Helen Hackett.

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