

Sir Philip Sydney and the English Renaissance.

- - Sir Philip Sidney and the English Renaissance (1965 edition)



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Philip Sidney

Wallace, The Life of Sir Philip Sidney Cambridge, 1915 ; see also John Buxton, Sir Philip Sidney and the English Renaissance London, 1954 , and Roger Howell, Sir Philip Sidney London, 1968. In 1584 he began a radical revision of his Arcadia, transforming its linear dramatic plot into a many-stranded, interlaced narrative.

Sir Philip Sidney And The English Renaissance

In this poem, Astrophel spends thirteen lines declaring Neoplatonic truths about love—Neoplatonism, to offer a very sketchy definition, was a Renaissance philosophy that emphasized the metaphysical value of spiritual rather than physical love. All song of praise is due only to God, and in fact this line sounds rather like something Astrophel would have heard in a hymn. It is not what he did but what he was that made him so widely admired the embodiment of the Elizabethan ideal of gentlemanly virtue.

Renaissance Era: Philip Sidney

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Sir Philip Sidney and the English Renaissance (1954 edition)

When these structural variations and others are combined with the large variety of rhyme schemes that poets have used in their sonnets, the number of permutations that are possible becomes astronomical, and poets, opportunistic creatures that they are, have used the versatile sonnet as a means of performing poetic acrobatics. Although Astrophel writes wonderful poems, those poems are often on the traditional subjects of love poetry rather than reflections of what is in his heart, and frequently they contain hints that undercut the supposed purity of his love.

The Occult Philosophy in the English Renaissance

First of all, my major interest is not in the life of Philip Sidney, fascinating though he may be. He may mean that what he hopes to attain is unmerited, but what does he hope to attain? Thus sonnet 72 begins Desire, though thou my old companion art And oft so cling to my pure love,

that I One from the other scarcely can descry, While each doth blow the fire of my heart... I must no more in thy sweet passions lie... Astrophel can no longer distinguish between pure love and desire, but there is no doubt that he feels sympathetic to the desire that he personifies in this poem.

Philip Sidney

The ideas will not take the proper form no matter how much he struggles with them.

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