Inherited Masculinities?: Noble Fathers and Sons and Aspects of Masculinity in Early Modern England, 1530-1630

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Abstract
This study examines the political lives of the most powerful men in Elizabethan England. It explores how the careers of these politicians were influenced by the models of masculinity they followed. This study argues that there were "inherited" masculinities in early modern England that functioned as both paternal and cultural forms of inheritance. By looking at the two father-son pairs that most dominated Elizabethan politics, this study examines the generational differences in Elizabethan politics and the changes in court culture during Elizabeth's long reign. Examining the two father-son pairs that strongly guided and helped define Elizabethan politics—William Cecil and his son Robert Cecil, and Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester and his (step) son, Robert Devereux, second Earl of Essex—this analysis shows how models of masculinity shaped the self-representations and political careers of the Virgin Queen's most powerful courtiers. After explicating ideal versions of the husband, knight, and courtier in conduct and sermonic literature, the study explores the distinct court cultures of the first and second Elizabethan generations. It situates each courtier's career within the evolving context of Elizabethan politics and court culture. This dissertation reveals the ways in which aristocratic masculinity in Elizabethan England was shaped by the unique challenges of courtiers who served an unmarried queen who ruled in her own right.

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subordination of wives made their position identical to that of slaves, and Mendelson and Crawford argue that a husband's power over his wife was such that he could make her life unendurable. The conclusion reached is that gender, class and age were interacting at every stage of a woman's life. Chapter Four, 'Female Culture', is probably the most contentious in the book. This is because few Early Modern scholars have acknowledged that a distinctly female culture existed. The authors consider culture to be 'a system of shared meanings within which people lived their lives' (p. 202). Early Modern English, Early New English (sometimes abbreviated to EModE, EMnE or EME) is the stage of the English language from the beginning of the Tudor period to the English Interregnum and Restoration, or from the transition from Middle English, in the late 15th century, to the transition to Modern English, in the mid-to-late 17th century. Before and after the accession of James I to the English throne in 1603, the emerging English standard began to influence the spoken and written Middle Scots of