

## Table of Contents

List of Illustrations

List of Contributors

Preface

### I. Composition, Delivery, Reception

1. *Ars Praedicandi: Theories and Practice* , *Greg Kneidel*
2. *The Preacher's Bibles* , *Lori Anne Ferrell*
3. *The Preacher and Patristics* , *Katrin Ettenhuber*
4. *Preachers and Medieval and Renaissance Commentary* , *Carl Trueman*
5. *The Preacher and Profane Learning* , *Noam Reisner*
6. *Preaching Venues: Architecture and Auditories* , *Emma Rhatigan*
7. *Sermons in Performance* , *Kate Armstrong*
8. *Preaching in the Parishes* , *Ian Green*
9. *Women and Sermons* , *Jeanne Shami*
10. *Sermon Reception* , *John Craig*
11. *Sermons into Print* , *James Rigney*
12. *Preaching & Context: John Donne's Sermon at the Funerals of Sir William Cokayne* , *Peter McCullough*

### II. Sermons in Scotland, Ireland and Wales

13. *Preaching the Scottish Reformation, 1560-1707* , *Crawford Gribben*
14. *Preaching the Reformation in Early Modern Ireland* , *Raymond Gillespie*
15. *The Sermon in Early Modern Wales: Context and Content* , *Stephen Roberts*

### III. English Sermons, 1500-1660

16. *From Tudor Humanism to Reformation Preaching* , *Lucy Wooding Kostyanovsky*
17. *Official Tudor Homilies* , *Ashley Null*
18. *Preaching the Elizabethan Settlement* , *Arnold Hunt*
19. *Veiled Speech: Preaching, Politics, and Scriptural Typology* , *Kevin Killeen*
20. *Preaching and Parliament, 1640-1659* , *Tom Webster*

### IV. English Sermons, 1660-1720

21. *Restoration, Religion, and Law: Assize Sermons 1660-1685* , *Hugh Adlington*
22. *Preaching at the Court of Charles II: Court Sermons and the Restoration Chapel Royal* , *Matt Jenkinson*
23. *Sermons in Print, 1660-1700* , *Rosemary Dixon*
24. *The Sermon Culture of the Glorious Revolution: Williamite Preaching and Jacobite Anti-Preaching, 1685-1702* , *Tony Claydon*
25. *The Political Sermon in an Age of Party Strife, 1700-20: Contributions to the Conflict* , *Pasi Ihalainen*

### V. Appendixes

I. Preachers on Preaching

II. Sermons Observed

III. Sermons Regulated

**Select Bibliography**

**Index**

## PREFACE

---

Scholarly interest in early modern sermons has flourished in recent years, driven by recognition of the crucial importance of preaching to religious, cultural, and political life in post-Reformation Britain. Since the 1990s, the landscape of sermon studies has been transformed by an increasing number of seminal monographs, scholarly essays, and editions. However, no comprehensive survey of these significant developments has yet been undertaken. Mid-twentieth-century general accounts of early modern preaching focused largely on the formal literary accomplishments of major authors such as John Donne, Lancelot Andrewes, and Jeremy Taylor, with less consideration given to the content and context of their sermon prose. This volume considers the sermon as 'literary art inextricably engaged in the public sphere' (Ferrell and McCullough 2000: 2), and seeks to reflect the rich diversity of recent literary and historical studies. Emergent areas of interest represented here include research on sermons in performance, pulpit censorship, preaching and ecclesiology, women and sermons, the social, economic, and literary history of sermons in manuscript and print, non-elite preaching, and sermons preached in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. Generous use of illustrations we hope will encourage critical thinking about early modern sermons not just as texts, but also as vividly performative acts that involve auditory as well as preacher, and as crucial influences on ecclesiastical architecture. The volume also responds to the recently recognized need to extend thinking about the 'early modern' across the watershed of the Civil Wars and Interregnum, on both sides of which sermons and preaching remained a potent instrument of religious politics and a literary form of central importance to British culture. We hope that the volume will serve as a research tool—for experts in the field and for students new to it—that provides both a comprehensive guide to the key rhetorical, ecclesiastical, and historical precepts essential to study of early modern sermons, and a wide-ranging essay collection illustrating the principal trends in recent research.

The organization of the volume reflects the logic of its aims and rationale in five main sections: 'Composition, Delivery, Reception', 'Sermons in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales', two diachronic sections on English sermons ('1500–1660', '1660–1720'), and finally a series of documentary appendices, a select bibliography, and an index. Part I comprises articles ordered according to theme. Although designed to be approachable as surveys, they are all fresh, and in many cases entirely unprecedented pieces of original scholarship. Chapters in this part are for the most part synchronic assessments of late-medieval to early eighteenth-century trends. They map essential areas of the critical terrain, including: competing traditions of preaching theory and practice inherited from the later Middle Ages and adapted under pressures of the Reformation and later social and

religious change; the bibles and principal exegetical and illustrative sources (classical, patristic, and contemporary) used by early modern preachers; the performance and reception of sermons in their many varied original settings; the 'afterlife' of sermons in both manuscript and print; and, finally, an extended case study that illustrates the application of such textual and contextual methodologies to a single sermon by John Donne.

Part II presents together for the first time original articles on the vibrant and unique conditions and achievements of preaching in the 'archipelagic' principality and kingdoms of Wales, Ireland, and Scotland respectively. Parts III and IV offer case studies of crucial aspects and moments in English pulpit history before and after the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660. In recognition of the limitations of regnal or other forms of periodization, editors and contributors are at pains to stress the continuities, as well as the distinctions, between preaching styles and content at both ends of the volume's chronological spectrum. Discussion of sixteenth-century pulpit oratory, therefore, reaches back to pre-Reformation preaching theories and practices. Similarly, consideration of the pivotal role of preaching at moments of political change is not confined to the Civil Wars and Interregnum, but also focuses on the political and constitutional upheavals of 1688, and debates over 'high' and 'low' views of the Church of England under Queen Anne.

The volume concludes with three appendixes of primary sources to aid understanding of the theories, reception, and regulation of preaching. The third of these ('Preaching Regulated') assembles in one place for the first time all the official acts and proclamations that governed preaching in England, Scotland, and Ireland from the Reformation to the late seventeenth century. The editors have endeavoured to cross reference as generously as possible between all chapters, illustrations, and appendixes. In our judgement, a comprehensive bibliography that simply merged the lists of works cited at the end of each chapter would have been unwieldy, not least given the number of early modern sermon titles that are so unhelpfully similar ('*A Sermon*', etc.). Instead, we provide a 'Select Bibliography' that attempts to capture those works (mainly modern) that we deem most important to the field. For more detailed bibliography, readers should use the lists of works cited at the end of each chapter, and the index. These lists are organized in ways that best reflect the type and combination of sources used in each chapter. The detailed index should enable readers to find not only persons, places, and events, but also discussions of important thematic topics where they appear across the full range of the period-specific chapters.

Even with a large collection like this one, dreams of comprehensiveness lead to some rude awakenings. It is a consolation, though, that the few gaps—most particularly the lack of literary or theological (versus political or bibliographical) discussion of mid-seventeenth-century nonconformist sermons, and of those by great Restoration divines such as South and Anderson—simply represent an area of opportunity yet to be taken up by scholars. It was a great sadness to the editors that ill health prevented Dr William Wizeman SJ from contributing an essay on Roman Catholic preaching in the reign of Mary Tudor; we warmly commend his 2006 monograph, along with seminal work by Eamon Duffy (2006, 2009) as worthy substitutes.

As ever, editorial debts are too great and too many to number with any accuracy. We must, however, first thank our contributors for their professionalism and patience. Similarly, we must record our gratitude for the commissioning enthusiasm of Andrew McNeillie (then of OUP), and his successor, Jacqueline Baker. Several repositories and institutions have been invaluable in our attempt to restore a visual dimension to our subject, and we are thankful for assistance and permissions to reproduce illustrations from English Heritage, the Bodleian Library, The Huntington Library, Cardiff City Library, The Society of Antiquaries, and Special Collections, University of Birmingham. The costs associated with illustrations were generously funded by a grant from the Zilkha Trust, Lincoln College, Oxford.

Peter McCullough, *Lincoln College, Oxford*

Hugh Adlington, *University of Birmingham*

Emma Rhatigan, *University of Sheffield*

**Note:** In all quotations of early modern texts, whether print or manuscript, original spelling has been retained, though *i/j*, *u/v*, and long 's' have been modernized and conventional contractions silently expanded. In a work such as this, the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* is crucial for authors, editors, and readers alike; all citations of it were checked against the *ODNB Online*, at the time of writing. For all bibliographical entries, place of publication is London unless otherwise cited. Two seminal studies of early modern preaching appeared too late to be used in this volume: Katrin Ettenhuber's study of John Donne and Augustine (see Notes on Contributors), and Mary Morrissey's *Politics and the Paul's Cross Sermons* (Oxford, 2011).