



# Post-Closet Masculinities in Early Modern England

*A. W. Barnes*

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## **Post-Closet Masculinities in Early Modern England** A. W. Barnes

"Post-Closet Masculinities in Early Modern England" argues for a theory of male subjectivity that subordinates questions of desire beneath the historical imperatives that inform those desires. Employing a post-closet identity theory, this book argues that writers like John Donne, William Shakespeare, and George Herbert created an ideology of masculinity in conjunction with and in response to the great epistemological upheavals in early modern England. Donne, Shakespeare, and Herbert helped to create a masculinity that embodies an ironic subject position that is constantly shifting between men's desires for women and men's simultaneous rejection of women's bodies, and the inevitable encounter with the figure of the sodomite that their rejection invites.

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