

General editor's preface

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General Editor's Preface

SPELL (Swiss Papers in English Language and Literature) is a publication of SAUTE, the Swiss Association of University Teachers of English. Established in 1984, it first appeared every second year, was published annually from 1994 to 2008, and now appears three times every two years. Every second year, SPELL publishes a selection of papers given at the biennial symposia organized by SAUTE. Non-symposium volumes are usually collections of papers given at other conferences organized by members of SAUTE, in particular conferences of SANAS, the Swiss Association for North American Studies and, more recently, of SAMEMES, the Swiss Association of Medieval and Early Modern English Studies. However, other proposals are also welcome. Decisions concerning topics and editors are made by the Annual General Meeting of SAUTE two years before the year of publication.

Volumes of SPELL contain carefully selected and edited papers devoted to a topic of literary, linguistic and – broadly – cultural interest. All contributions are original and are subjected to external evaluation by means of a full peer review process. Contributions are usually by participants at the conferences mentioned, but volume editors are free to solicit further contributions. Papers published in SPELL are documented in the *MLA International Bibliography*. SPELL is published with the financial support of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Information on all aspects of SPELL, including volumes planned for the future, is available from the General Editor, Prof. Lukas Erne, Département de langue et littérature anglaises, Faculté des Lettres, Université de Genève, CH-1211 Genève 4, Switzerland, e-mail: lukas.erne@unige.ch. Information about past volumes of SPELL and about SAUTE, in particular about how to become a member of the association, can be obtained from the SAUTE website at <http://www.saute.ch>.

Lukas Erne

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This volume includes a selection of essays which originated as contributions to the 2010 conference of the Swiss Association of Medieval and Early Modern English Studies (SAMEMES) at the University of Geneva. We wish to thank all those who were involved in the organization of the conference and are grateful to the Board of SAMEMES, in particular Antoinina Bevan-Zlatar, Margaret Bridges, Indira Ghose, and Denis Renevey, for their support and guidance. The conference, at which more than sixty papers were presented on the topic of medieval and early modern authorship, was made possible by the financial support of the Swiss National Research Foundation, the Société Académique de Genève, and the Faculté des Lettres and the English Department of the University of Geneva. We thank the anonymous peer reviewers who assisted us in the selection process and helped improve the essays, and we are grateful to Margaret Bridges, Neil Forsyth, Anthony Mortimer, Paul Schubert, R. Allen Shoaf, and Richard Waswo, who have generously given of their time and expertise. Finally, cordial thanks to Keith Hewlett for assistance in the preparation of this volume for print, Martin Heusser for designing the cover, and Ioana Balgradean for help with the index.

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