

Ethics And Politics In Seventeenth Century France

edited by Keith Cameron and Elizabeth Woodrough

DESCRIPTION:

This collection of twenty essays, of which five are in French, written by leading English and French literary and historical scholars, deconstructs the ethical and political framework supporting and circumscribing the actions of a powerful elite in France between the early 1600s and the final years of Louis XIV's reign. Reflecting a diversity of individual concerns, the essays, which offer a radical double questioning of the absolute values in which were founded the authority of Church, King and nobility, have been divided into two interrelated parts in acknowledgement of the complex tensions between codes of behaviour and political practice in the different theatrical spaces of government in the real and imaginary world.

The dual political and moral theme of this study is not new, but it is one which has always been highly regarded by historians and literary specialists alike. It is in fact one of the 'classics' of seventeenth-century studies, the one to which critics must always return, and to which students must always address themselves, if they are to comprehend the intellectual core of seventeenth-century French studies.

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ISBN:

9780859894661 (hb)

PRICE:

\$112.00 (hb)

PUBLICATION DATE:

01 July 1996 (hb)

BINDING:

Hardback

SIZE:

5 x9

PAGES:

274

PUBLISHER:

University of Exeter Press

IMPRINT:

University of Exeter Press

READER INTERESTS:

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CONTRIBUTORS BIOGRAPHIES:

Elizabeth Woodrough is Lecturer in French, specialising in French literature of the seventeenth century, University of Exeter.

Keith Cameron is Professor in French and Renaissance Studies, University of Exeter.