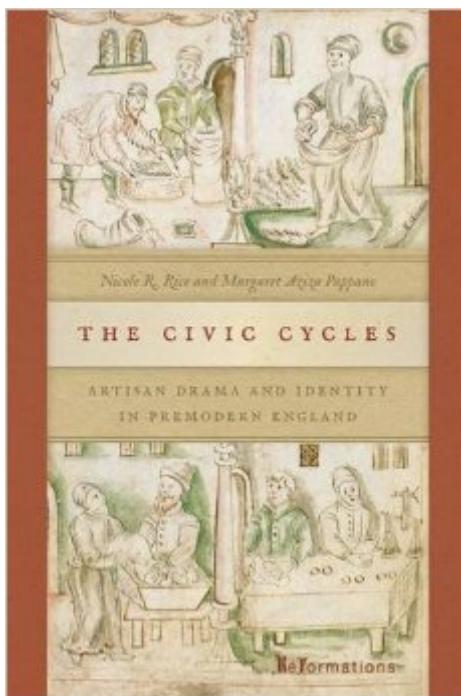


The book was found

# The Civic Cycles: Artisan Drama And Identity In Premodern England (ND ReFormations: Medieval & Early Modern)



## Synopsis

The civic religious drama of late medieval England "financed, produced, and performed by craftspeople" offers one of the earliest forms of written literature by a non-elite group in Europe. In this innovative study, Nicole R. Rice and Margaret Aziza Pappano trace an artisanal perspective on medieval and early modern civic relations, analyzing selected plays from the cities of York and Chester individually and from a comparative perspective, in dialogue with civic records. Positing a complex view of relations among merchants, established artisans, wage laborers, and women, the two authors show how artisans used the cycle plays to not only represent but also perform their interests, suggesting that the plays were the major means by which the artisans participated in civic polity. In addition to examining selected plays in the context of artisanal social and economic practices, Rice and Pappano also address relations between performance and historical transformation, considering how these plays, staged for nearly two centuries, responded to changes in historical conditions. In particular, they pay attention to how the pressures of Reformist governments influenced the meaning and performance of the civic religious drama in both towns. Ultimately, the authors provide a new perspective on how artisans can be viewed as social actors and agents in England in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. "The Civic Cycles is an outstanding take on the urban dramas of medieval York and Chester, complementing previous historicist scholarship on these plays while expanding the political frame of reference. This volume is poised to become a major book in early English drama studies, a text that coordinates and assimilates all of the revisionary historicist work on the cycles from the previous two decades even as it takes that historicism to the next level of complexity." Robert Barrett, Jr., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign "Nicole R. Rice and Margaret Aziza Pappano present the most powerful argument to date about the ways that cycle plays allowed artisans to perform their changing socioeconomic identities in English towns over several centuries. Their impressive and detailed knowledge of the craft cultures of both towns supports a fascinating new comparison between York's and Chester's versions of biblical history." Kathleen Ashley, University of Southern Maine "Suitable for undergraduates and advanced scholars alike, this lucidly written and solidly documented analysis of the Chester and York cycles offers a welcome return to questions of urban commerce and social identity in civic religious drama. It convincingly shows the central place of artisanal aspirations and concerns and the complex and, at times, combative relationship of the artisan companies with their mercantile superiors, on the one hand, and the underclass of unskilled laborers and urban poor, on the other. Rice and Pappano offer a fresh reappraisal of the decline and cessation of the cycles, taking an original approach to economic factors (e.g., new poor laws)

intersecting with political and religious opposition. The book is an important contribution to early English drama studies." â "Paul Whitfield White, Purdue University Â

## Book Information

Series: ND ReFormations: Medieval & Early Modern

Paperback: 376 pages

Publisher: University of Notre Dame Press; 1 edition (October 15, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0268039003

ISBN-13: 978-0268039004

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #680,740 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Medieval #436 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > History & Criticism #1179 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > British & Irish > Dramas & Plays

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Civic Cycles: Artisan Drama and Identity in Premodern England (ND ReFormations: Medieval & Early Modern) Desire and Discipline: Sex and Sexuality in the Premodern West (The British Library Studies in Medieval Culture) Fertility, cycles & nutrition: How your diet affects your menstrual cycles & fertility The Culture of Translation in Early Modern England and France, 1500-1660 (Early Modern Literature in History) Manuscript Miscellanies in Early Modern England (Material Readings in Early Modern Culture) Writing the Ottomans: Turkish History in Early Modern England (Early Modern Literature in History) The Making of Medieval Forgeries: False Documents in Fifteenth-Century England (British Library Studies in Medieval Culture) Civic Charity in a Golden Age: ORPHAN CARE IN EARLY MODERN AMSTERDAM Early American Wall Stencils in Color: Full-Size Patterns Traced in New England Homes and Stencils from Early Coverlets, Together with Complete Directions Showing How Anyone Can Use Them with Ease Sources of East Asian Tradition, Vol. 1: Premodern Asia (Introduction to Asian Civilizations) (Volume 1) Early Modern England 1485-1714: A Narrative History Mediating Fictions: Literature, Women Healers, and the Go-Between in Medieval and Early Modern Bonds of Wool: The Pallium and Papal Power in the Middle Ages (Studies in Medieval and Early Modern Canon Law) New England Waterfalls: A Guide to More Than 400

Cascades and Waterfalls (Second Edition) (New England Waterfalls: A Guide to More Than 200 Cascades & Waterfalls) New England Wild Flower Society's Flora Novae Angliae: A Manual for the Identification of Native and Naturalized Higher Vascular Plants of New England London Travel Guide: London, England: Travel Guide Book-A Comprehensive 5-Day Travel Guide to London, England & Unforgettable English Travel (Best Travel Guides to Europe Series Book 9) Medieval Costume in England and France: The 13th, 14th and 15th Centuries (Dover Fashion and Costumes) Money and Power in Anglo-Saxon England (Cambridge Studies in Medieval Life and Thought: Fourth Series) Chicano Drama: Performance, Society and Myth (Cambridge Studies in American Theatre and Drama) Renegade Women: Gender, Identity, and Boundaries in the Early Modern Mediterranean

[Dmca](#)