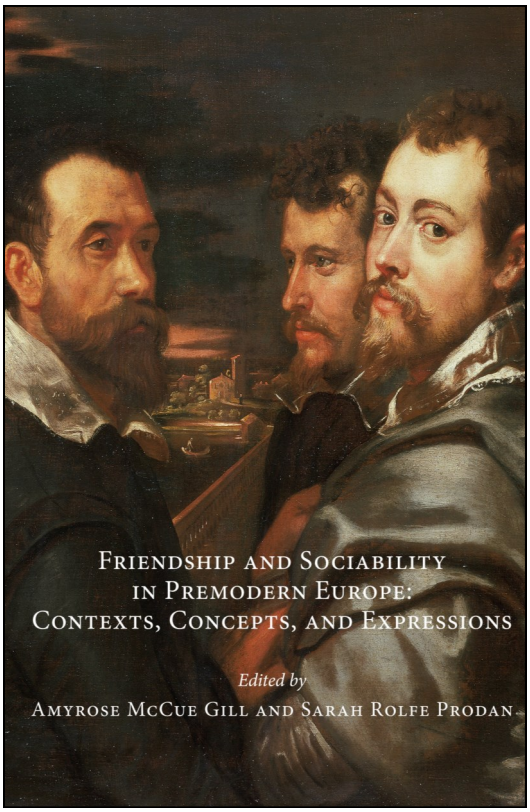
From the Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies

Friendship and Sociability in Premodern Europe: Contexts, Concepts, and Expressions

Edited by Amyrose McCue Gill and Sarah Rolfe Prodan

Friendship and Sociability in Premodern Europe explores ideas and instances of friendship in premodern Europe through a series of investigations into amity in discrete social and cultural contexts related to some of the most salient moments and expressions of European history and civilization: the courtly love tradition, Renaissance humanism; the spread of syphilis; the Reformation, the Counter-Reformation (and the attendant confessionalization and wars of religion); Jesuit missions; the colonization of America; and, lastly, expanding trade patterns in the Age of Discovery. The essays progress thematically as well as logically with the goal of providing a panoramic view of friendship and sociability in premodern Europe rather than a comprehensive history or unified theory of premodern friendship. Each paper presents an element of novelty – a revised or adapted concept, tradition, or strategy of social and interpersonal relating in the premodern world.



Featuring essays by Sally Hickson, Brian Sandberg, Hyun-Ah Kim, Adriana Benzaquén, Malina Stefanovska, Francesco Ciabattoni, Steven Barker, Jean Bernier, Paolo Broggio, and David Harris Sacks.

"There is much to recommend this volume. It offers a wide range of specific, intriguing examples of friendship as, in the editors' words, a 'guiding ideal, metaphor, or prescriptive force.' Taken together, the articles vividly demonstrate that friendship is in fact both complex and historically significant."

– Constance Furey (University of Indiana)

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