

Picturing the Invisible: Religious Printed Images in Elizabethan England

Submitted by David Jonathan Davis to the University of Exeter as a thesis for the degree of DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY in HISTORY

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Abstract

This thesis analyses the culture of printed images during the Elizabethan period, particularly those images of a religious nature. Focusing on images which depict invisible beings (i.e. angels, God, demons etc.), the thesis addresses the assumption that Protestant England all but completely eradicated religious visual imagery from society. Examining images that were first created and printed in Elizabethan England as well as older images which had been recycled from earlier texts and others imported from Europe, the research offers an analysis of Protestant printed imagery between 1558 and 1603. Questions of how images were read, altered, augmented, copied and transmitted across time and space have been posed. What was depicted and how? How were religious images used? What was their understood role in early modern print culture? How did Protestants distinguish between church images to be destroyed and printed images to be read? In this, the images have been historically contextualised within both the theological and cultural milieu of Calvinist theology, the growing international marketplace of print and early modern English society. Attention has been paid to how images were received by readers and how they may have been seen. Emphasis is placed upon the role of the printed image as both a representation and an agent of culture, as well as an integral aspect of the printing industry. Ultimately, this thesis seeks to explain how printed images were employed and utilised by both printer and reader in the context of an iconoclastic English Reformation.

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Abbreviations

BBTI—*The British Book Trade Index*: <http://www.bbti.bham.ac.uk/>

CHBB, vol. III—The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain, vol. III, 1400-1557, edited by Lotte Hellinga and J.B. Trapp (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999)

CHBB, vol. IV—The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain, vol. IV, 1557-1695, edited by John Barnard and D.F. McKenzie (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002)

CSPD—*Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series, of the Reigns of Edward VI., Mary, Elizabeth, and James I, 1547-[1625], vol. 10: Elizabeth* (London: Public Record Office, 1867)

Devices—Ronald B. McKerrow, Printers' & Publishers' Devices in England & Scotland, 1485-1640 (London: Bibliographical Society, 1913)

EHR—*The English Historical Review*

English Woodcuts—Edward Hodnett, English Woodcuts, 1480-1535 (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1935)

GEIB, vol. I—Ruth Luborsky and Elizabeth Ingram, A Guide to English Illustrated Books, 1536-1603, vol. I (Tempe, AZ: Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies, 1998)

GEIB, vol. II—Ruth Luborsky and Elizabeth Ingram, A Guide to English Illustrated Books, 1536-1603, vol. II (Tempe, AZ: Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies, 1998)

McKerrow and Ferguson—Ronald B. McKerrow and F.S. Ferguson, *Title-Page Borders Used in England & Scotland 1485-1640* (London: Bibliographical Society, 1932 [for 1931])

ODNB—*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography Online*: <http://www.oxforddnb.com>

P&P—*Past & Present: A Journal of Historical Studies*

Perkins Works, vol. I—William Perkins, The workes of that famous and worthy minister of Christ in the Universitie of Cambridge, Mr. William Perkins. The first volume (London: John Legatt, 1626). STC 19652

Perkins Works, vol. II—William Perkins, The works of that famous and worthy minister of Christ in the Universitie of Cambridge M. William Perkins. The second volume (London: John Legatt, 1631). STC 19653

Perkins Works, vol. III—William Perkins, The workes of that famous and worthy minister of Christ in the Universitie of Cambridge, M. W. Perkins. The third and last volume (London: John Haviland, for James Boler, 1631). STC 19653b.5

SCJ—*The Sixteenth Century Journal: The Journal of Early Modern Studies*

STC—*A Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, & Ireland, and of English Books Printed Abroad, 1475-1640, 3 vols.*, first compiled by A.W. Pollard & G.R. Redgrave; revised and enlarged / begun by W.A. Jackson and F.S. Ferguson, completed by Katharine F. Pantzer (London: Bibliographical Society, 1976-91)

TL—*The Library: The Transactions of the Bibliographical Society*

TRCS-- *A Transcript of the Registers of the Company of Stationers of London, 1554-1640, 5 vols.*, edited by Edward Arber (London: Privately Printed, 1875-1894)

TRP— *Tudor Royal Proclamations, vol. 3: The Later Tudors (1588-1603)*, edited by Paul L. Hughes and James F. Larkin (London: Yale University Press, 1969)

VAI—*Visitation Articles and Injunctions: Of the Period of the Reformation, 3 vols.*, edited by Walter Howard Freer (London: Longmans, 1910)

Wing—*Short-title catalogue of books printed in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and British America and of English books printed in other countries, 1641-1700*, compiled by Donald Wing (New York : Modern Language Association of America, 1972-88)

Notes on the Text

When referencing early modern editions, spelling and punctuation has been kept as it appears in the original texts, with the exception of i/j and u/v, which have been distinguished in accordance with modern usage. All Biblical references have been taken from the New International Version, unless otherwise stated. Because of their importance to this study, the names of the printers have been inserted into the footnotes for works published pre-1700 (though footnotes for secondary works still conform to the MHRA style guide).

Acknowledgements

This thesis would not have been completed in the same manner without the generous funding of the Overseas Research Students Award Scheme and a School Scholarship from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Exeter. Also, I am deeply appreciative of the staff and librarians at the Folger Shakespeare Library, Cambridge University Library, British Library, Bodleian Library, Ashmolean Museum, British Museum and the University of Exeter Library (Special Collections). I have special gratitude for Richard Kuhta (at the Folger Shakespeare), Alan Coates (Bodleian), Karine Sauvignon (Ashmolean) and the Admissions Office at the Bodleian. Their patience with my tedious requests was unending. I have also been dependent upon the extensive electronic resources of Early English Books Online and the British Book Trade Index, and for Prof. Michael Hunter's gracious permission to access the British Printed Images to 1700 database before its official launch.

I am also in the debt of an entire host of scholars who have all enriched both my thesis and my life. These include: the history faculties at the University of Texas at Tyler, Cardiff University and the University of Exeter. Also, I am particularly grateful for the support and guidance of Jonathan Barry, Peter Marshall, Kevin Passmore, Garthine Walker, Patrick Collinson, Ian Green, Ann Dillon, Ann Overell, Elizabeth Evenden, Adam Morton, Laura Sangha, Martha Driver, Mike Duffy, John King and Sarah Toulalan. Their comments, suggestions, conversations, guidance, criticisms and encouragement were vitally important. Most of all, my supervisor Alex Walsham has provided me with not only countless hours of intellectual engagement, poignant questions and suggestions and a wealth of historical scholarship but also an excellent model of how to be an academic. Any academic virtues I possess are a testament of her example, and the excellent guidance of Garthine Walker and Kevin Passmore over the past few years.

I am forever indebted to those who have graciously engaged in the laborious task of proofreading portions of this work. Jennifer Evans, Sarah Scutts, Hannah Newton, Tamsin Rowe, Natasha Milhailovic and Alison Carrol have all interrupted their own work and schedules for this job. However, my wife Lisa has read and commented upon more of this thesis than anyone else. Her patience and commitment both to my research and our life together continues to be an unseen, powerful impetus behind my work. *Sine amore, nihil est vita.*