



## Death and Drama in Renaissance England: Shades of Memory (Hardback)

By William E. Engel

Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 2003. Hardback. Condition: New. New. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. Drawing on a range of works from the English Renaissance, *Death and Drama in Renaissance England* offers a novel way to understand, in their original contexts, key aspects of Renaissance mental life and letters. Focusing on the classical Memory Arts, William Engel explores issues of death and decline in exemplary dramas, dictionaries, and histories of the period, and demonstrates the ways in which emblems and memory images were used to communicate special meanings. Special attention is given, initially, to select tragedies by Shakespeare and other contemporary playwrights who stages spectacles of silent death. This is followed by a survey of the end to which foreign language phrase-books crafted highly mannered vignettes of daily life, and a discussion of the ways in which metaphors of the stage were translated into a body of work which portrayed the soul of history in terms of an overriding Aesthetic of Decline. The result is a thought-provoking account of the essentially mnemonic principles of design informing and animating a range of works from the English Renaissance.



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