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[Review of] Seventeenth-century British Nondramatic Poets. First Series

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Seventeenth-century British nondramatic poets. First series, ed. by M. Thomas Hester. Gale, 1992. 414p afp (Dictionary of literary biography, 121) ISBN 0810375982, \$113.00

Hester (North Carolina State, English; coeditor of *The John Donne Journal*) here offers summaries of 28 poets from the first generation of 17th-century British poets, those poets constituting the "lasting Elizabethans," who still maintained an essentially Christocentric view of the world. As with previous volumes of this series, success depends on the choice of an editor; Hester does an excellent job selecting appropriate contributors from a wide range of students and scholars. The entries follow the prescribed *DLB* scheme, with opening lists of works by the biographee, followed by a critical biographical essay, usually 10-20 pages in length. Short selected bibliographies end each essay, and a more general 125-item bibliography ends the volume. The figures selected would be of most use to those programs that offer detailed examinations of the period: Aemilia Lanyer and Josuah Sylvester are included along with the more prominent John Donne and Ben Jonson. A concluding essay, "Minor Poets of the Earlier Seventeenth Century," offers brief observations on eight poets, including Gervase Markham and Sir Francis Kynaston. For graduate English programs.

--R. A. Aken, *University of Kentucky*

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