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A Sidney Chronology 1554-1664

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A Sidney chronology, 1554-1654, by Michael G. Brennan and Noel J. Kinnamon, Palgrave Macmillan, 2003. 342p. Reviewed in 2004Nov CHOICE.

Brennan and Kinnamon present documented details about the literary, political, and personal history of members of the Sidney family, citing events noted in the Sidney family papers and other primary sources in this hundred-year calendar. The compilers augment archival materials with established secondary sources, and document sources of entries. A brief introductory essay traces the family lineage and history before the birth of Sir Philip Sidney (1554). The chronology incorporates details of the careers and family lives of Mary Sidney Herbert, Countess of Pembroke; Robert Sidney, 1st Earl of Leicester; Lady Mary Wroth; and Algernon Sidney. The compilers include facts, selected illuminating quotations and anecdotes, and occasional reflection on how events shaped the literary or political expressions of each Sidney. For each year, a handy summary lists works produced by Sidneys, works dedicated to members of the family, and notable references to them in works published that year. Kinnamon and Brennan have created a convenient and valuable reference tool for scholars of the English Renaissance, which enables scholars to trace themes in new ways. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Undergraduate and graduate-level literature and history collections.

-- P. Finley, *University of Nevada, Las Vegas*