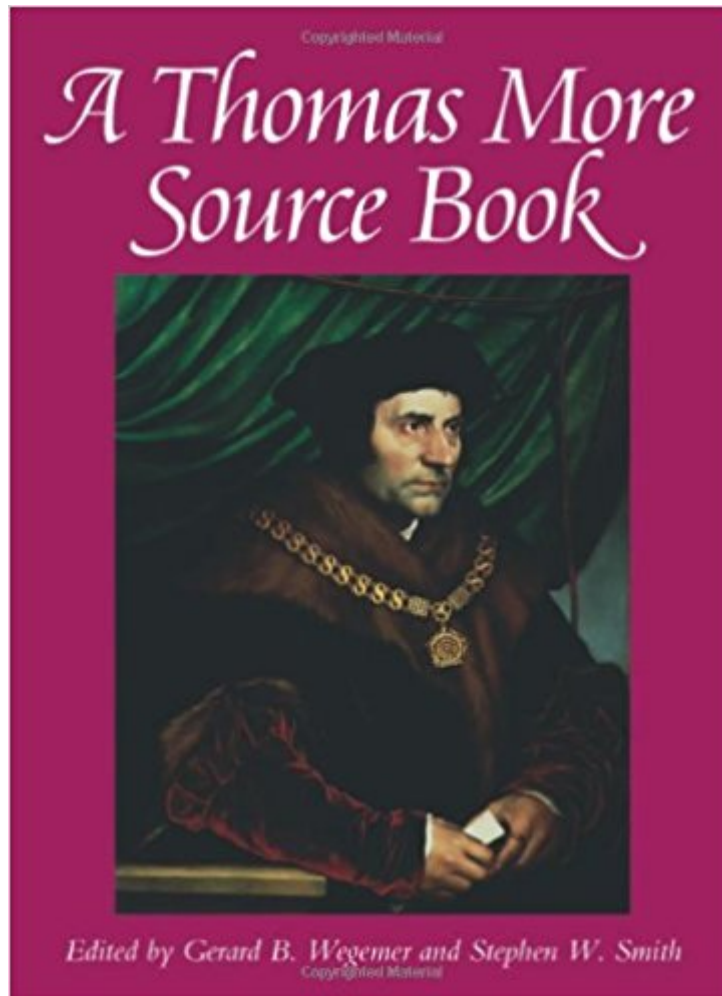




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A Thomas More Source Book



Synopsis

This Source Book brings together classic texts by and about Thomas More—a poet, scholar, statesman, family man, educational reformer, philosopher, historian, and saint. Thomas More is the first major figure of the English Renaissance, acclaimed in his own age but surprisingly unstudied in our own. In addition to serving as an introduction to More's life and writings, this collection is a helpful companion to the study of More's literary and philosophical masterwork, *Utopia*, and to the study of sixteenth-century history, literature, philosophy, or politics. The writings focus upon More's articulations of education, political theory, church-state relations, love and friendship, practical politics, and the vexing issues of conscience. They shed light on the distinctive Christian humanism that More expressed and embodied. Also included in this book are three famous sixteenth-century accounts of More's life by Erasmus, Roper, and a team of London playwrights including William Shakespeare. Gerard B. Wegemer is Professor of English at the University of Dallas. An expert on Thomas More, he is the author of numerous works including *Thomas More on Statesmanship* (1996) and *Thomas More: A Portrait of Courage* (1995). Stephen W. Smith is Assistant Professor of English at Hillsdale College and is coeditor of *Shakespeare's Last Plays: Readings in Literature and Politics* (2001).

PRAISE FOR THE BOOK: "The editors have captured powerfully and beautifully the essence of the 'man for all seasons.'"—*The Catholic Answer* "This collection (and the website accompaniment) is certainly a good place for those unfamiliar with More to begin their studies. . . ."

—Andrew A. Chibi, *Sixteenth Century Journal*

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Customer Reviews

What a great contribution these authors have made to the world of Renaissance and Thomas More studies! This comprehensive anthology provides a wealth of primary sources as well as related materials on Thomas More and his world. Due to the multi-faceted character of its subject, this book will be of interest to historians, biographers, educators, theologians, writers, politicians, and many others as well. The "Man for All Seasons" was a lawyer, judge, husband and father, scholar, counselor to the king, and martyr, and this rich source book provides the background to the inner man. The authors begin with contemporary biographies and sketches of More, then explore samples of his own works. Selections from his early poems and letters are followed by some of his writings on education (he was a trend-setter in promoting education of women), government, and religion. The closing section, "More's Last Days", includes samples of his letters, various accounts of his trial, and the Paris Newsletter report on his execution. This book provides a solid foundation for More studies and would serve as an excellent college text. Following an informative Introduction, a treasury of More-related material is provided. Even the Elizabethan play "Munday and Shakespeare's 'Sir Thomas More'" is provided in its entirety. Explanatory introductions are given to all selections, and clear glosses enrich the text throughout the book. Perhaps the only thing one might miss here is More's most famous work, "Utopia", but for study at this level, it certainly deserves to be treated separately, in its entirety.

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