

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Chapter I. INTRODUCTION:
THOMAS MORE, A NEGLECTED TUDOR POET 7
The subject matter of the twelve English poems – Method of analysis used – More’s theory of poetry – Norms of medieval rhetoric apparent in the poems – Humanistic and Renaissance overtones.
- Chapter II. A HUMOROUS AND DIDACTIC BALLAD:
'A MERI IEST HOW A SERGEANT
WOULD LEARNE TO PLAYE THE FRERE' 21
Expansion of medieval proverb, 'ex sutore medicus' – Invitation to a merry feast – Association with the twelve livery companies of London – Narrative form and technique – Dramatic presentation of character – Cogency of plot development – Forceful climax and emotional impact – Didacticism without moralization.
- Chapter III. 'NYNE PAGEAUNTES':
REFLECTIONS ON MAN'S LIFE 73
Allegorical personifications of stages in man's life – Overthrow and triumph technique – Concern with life hereafter – Form of the poem – Definition of pageant – Similarity in technique to Petrarch's 'Triumphs' – Overtones of medieval morality play – Effective voice and address treatment – Style and rhetorical devices used.
- Chapter IV. 'A RUFUL LAMENTACION':
EXPERIMENTATION WITH FORM 139
Death of Queen Elizabeth, wife of Henry VII – Rhyme royal verses with poignant refrain – Transiency of worldly joys – Union of diction and rhythm – Rhetorical and varied sentence structure patterns – Extension of the 'Dance of Death' motif – Experimentation with the Alexandrine – Study in paratactic and hypotactic structure – English and Latin epitaph appended to the elegy.

Chapter V. 'CERTAIN METERS':	
MORE'S DENOUNCEMENT OF FORTUNE	174
Pernicious influence of the <i>Boke of Fortune</i> – More's verses, a disapproval of the current belief – Description of the Goddess Fortuna in medieval literature – Influence of Boccaccio's <i>De Casibus Virorum Illustrium</i> – Echoes of the <i>Roman de la Rose</i> – Remedies advocated against Fortune's power – References to the fall of historical and Biblical personages – Wisdom of philosophers in rejecting Fortune – Felicitous rhythm and sound structure – Two short ballads written in the Tower.	
Chapter VI. RELIGIOUS THEME WITH ARTISTIC TREATMENT	216
Influence of the Life of <i>John Picus, the Earl of Mirandula</i> on Thomas More – English Translation of the Latin text – Obvious preoccupation with style and form – dedication to a Poor Clare nun, Joueuce Leigh – Paraphrase in rhyme royal verses rather than translation – A plea to live this life in view of man's last end – 'The twelve weapons haue we more at length declared as foloweth' – Amplification of Pico's twelve brief statements – 'The twelue propertees or condicyons of a louer' – Twelve attributes of human love compared with divine love – emotional intensity of 'A praier of Picus Mirandula unto God'.	
Chapt. VII. CONCLUSION:	
THOMAS MORE'S STATUS AS A POET	264
Reasons for More's obscurity – Distinction enjoyed during his lifetime – Various influences revealed in the poems – Grouping the poems into four categories according to theme – Poems and interludes attributed to More by Tottel, Warton, Boas, Walpole, and Reed – 'A Godly Meditation' written in the Tower.	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	279