Review of "English Historical Poetry: 1476-1603: A Bibliography" by Nancy A. Gutierrez

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List about 1,000 examples by about 200 authors of historical verse—a genre, as Gutierrez explains in her interesting introduction, characterized by rhetorical and narrative use of factual and legendary events to teach moral and civic “virtue.” Each entry identifies the poem’s author and gives title and first line, with original spellings; line count and rhyme description; locations of manuscript texts; STC and NSTC numbers (with some exceptions) of pre-1640 printings (Wing numbers for poems composed before 1603 but not printed before 1640); major modern reprints; and brief notes about the poem’s type (elegy, mirror, etc.), subject, text, and history, with secondary references. The entries are arranged by the dates (some arbitrarily precise) of the events described in the poems. Thus, the first poem listed, dealing with the Old Testament, is assigned over the year 3962 BC. Helpful cross-referencing indexes of works consulted, composition dates, first lines, and authors are appended. Some kind of subject indexing, however, would make the bibliography more usable. The scholarly audience for which it is intended should recall the significant English events of 1066 and 1588. Dates of the events, English and otherwise, of the years 1189 BC and AD 73 and 1536, about which many English poems were written, are not so well known; and users will have to browse to find the poems about the falls of Troy, Jerusalem, and Anne Boleyn. Nonetheless, the bibliography will be useful to scholars of the historical verse genre. Recommended only for university and research collections supporting graduate activities.