



Closet Devotions: Faith, Friendship and Same-Sex Desire in the English Civil War



Gary Kuchar
University of Victoria

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Joseph Beaumont's manuscript collection of 177 religious lyrics is a significant, but little-known, document in the history of same-sex desire in early modern England. Written in the wake of several high-profile sexual scandals, the collection is both a confession of transgressive desire as well as an attempt to model an ideal of Christian friendship built on the life-long, ceremonially formalized, commitment of "ritual brotherhood." The result is a revealingly vexed articulation of religious and romantic passions.

Gary Kuchar is Professor of English at UVic and author of several academic monographs, including *Shakespeare and the World of 'Slings & Arrows'* (2024).

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MAC D282



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