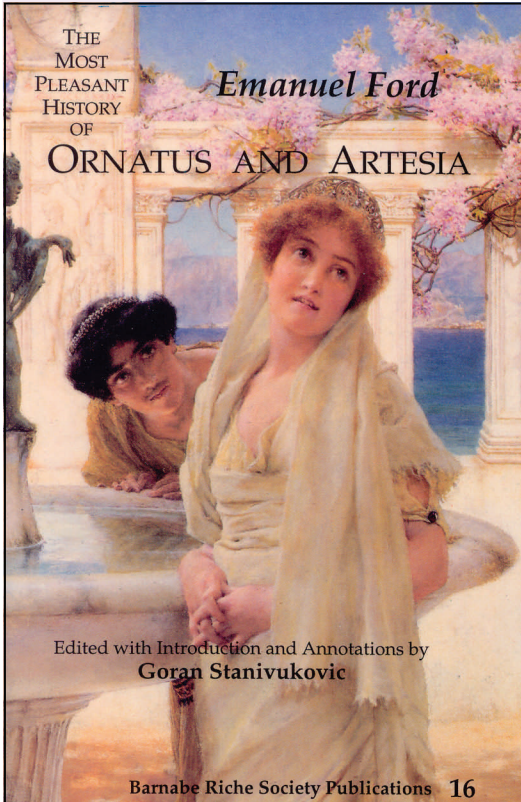


FROM THE CENTRE FOR REFORMATION AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES

The Most Pleasant History of Ornatus and Artesia Emanuel Ford



EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION & ANNOTATION BY
GORAN STANIVUKOVIC

The strikingly high number of reprintings of *Ornatus and Artesia* throughout the seventeenth century and well into the eighteenth bears witness to the sustained popularity of the gem of Elizabethan romance. Ford seems to have found the perfect formula: an eloquence of style, a sequence of episodes wondrous in their inventiveness, but without indulging in the gratuitously fantastic. There is passion, sensuality, and love delicately advanced between two attractive adolescents against a background of abduction, war, and violence. Feuding families, redolent of the “star-crossed” story of *Romeo and Juliet*, again provide the circumstances hostile to love. Ford’s narrative is embellished with references to classical mythology and a rich Mediterranean geography traversed by the protagonists. Stanivukovic’s extensive introduction provides background into style, genre, and cultural constructs that frame this work.

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