



‘Strange Habits’

Clothes, Climes, and the Environment in Shakespeare and his Contemporaries

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‘Garnished and Decked:’ Fashioning Shakespearean Accessories

There is a great deal of decking, dressing, garnishing, ornamenting, and embellishing in Shakespeare. This is presented sometimes as overblown artifice and at other times as a rhetorical or literal accent to natural beauty. In both cases, I will argue, this process of “accessorizing” is linked with the vernal equinox and thus with the ancient lyrical tradition that celebrates the arrival of spring and of the earth clothed in flowers and greenery, as well as with the literally changing habits required by the season.