This paper is a study of the English antiquarian Francis Douce and his collection of books, prints, drawings, coins, and artifacts. The major theme of the collection - the manners, beliefs, and customs of the world - is connected to three of Douce's most remarkable collecting interests: children's books and games; fools and jesters; and the sublime, including his collections of death, demonology, and witchcraft. The collection, divided between the Bodleian Library and the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, remains an invaluable resource for scholars in a wide variety of fields. It is hoped that this paper will emphasize the vision according to which Douce developed a distinctive collection; that it will shed additional light on British collecting and collectors of Douce's lifetime, 1757-1834; and that it will serve as a lesson in collecting that might be used by librarians and non-librarians alike.
Sir Francis Drake (c. 1540 – 28 January 1596) was an English sea captain, privateer, naval officer, and explorer. Drake is best known for his circumnavigation of the world in a single expedition, from 1577 to 1580. This included his incursion into the Pacific Ocean, until then an area of exclusive Spanish interest, and his claim to New Albion for England, an area in what is now the American state of California. His expedition inaugurated an era of conflict with the Spanish on the western coast of the...