The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare’s History Plays

Shakespeare’s history plays have been performed more in recent years than ever before, in Britain, North America, and in Europe. This volume provides an accessible, wide-ranging, and informed introduction to Shakespeare’s history and Roman plays. It is attentive throughout to the plays as they have been performed over the centuries since they were written. The first part offers accounts of the genre of the history play, of Renaissance historiography, of pageants and masques, and of women’s roles, as well as comparisons with history plays in Spain and the Netherlands. Chapters in the second part look at individual plays as well as other Shakespearean texts which are closely related to the histories. The Companion offers a full bibliography, genealogical tables, and a list of principal and recurrent characters. It is a comprehensive guide for students, researchers, and theatre-goers alike.
THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
SHAKESPEARE’S
HISTORY PLAYS

EDITED BY
MICHAEL HATTAWAY

Cambridge University Press
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ABBREVIATIONS

References to Shakespeare's plays when using the abbreviation alone are to volumes in the *New Cambridge Shakespeare*, published under the general editorship of Brian Gibbons and A. R. Braunmuller. Other editions are included in the following list.

Abbreviated titles are as follows:

- **Ado** *Much Ado about Nothing*
- **AWW** *All's Well that Ends Well*
- **AYLI** *As You Like It*
- **Cym.** *Cymbeline*
- **Err.** *The Comedy of Errors*
- **Ham.** *Hamlet*
### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year(s) of Edition</th>
<th>Editors/Contributors</th>
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<tr>
<td>1H6</td>
<td>The First Part of King Henry VI</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Michael Hattaway, New Cambridge Shakespeare</td>
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<td>R. A. Foakes, New Arden Shakespeare</td>
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<td>Arthur Humphreys, Oxford Shakespeare; 1988, Marvin Spevack, New Cambridge Shakespeare</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>L. A. Beaurline, New Cambridge Shakespeare</td>
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<td>MM</td>
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<td>MV</td>
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<td>STM</td>
<td>Sir Thomas More</td>
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<td>Temp.</td>
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<td>TGV</td>
<td>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</td>
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<td>Tim.</td>
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<td>TN</td>
<td>Twelfth Night</td>
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

TNK  The Two Noble Kinsmen
Wiv.  The Merry Wives of Windsor
WT   The Winter's Tale
CHRONOLOGY

Dates given for plays (some of which are as much tragedies or romances as histories) are of first performance unless otherwise specified; many of these dates are approximate.

Other history plays, extant or lost, performed in universities, at court, or the Inns of Court, or written in Latin, can be traced in Alfred Harbage (ed.), *Annals of English Drama 975–1700*, 3rd edn (London, 1989).

1509  Accession of Henry VIII
1521  c.  Accession of Edward VI
1533  Accession of Mary Tudor
1558  Accession of Elizabeth I
1562  Norton and Sackville, *Gorboduc*
1564  Shakespeare born in Stratford-upon-Avon
1566  Red Lion playhouse opens
1576  The Theatre opens
1577  Curtain playhouse opens
1582  Shakespeare marries Anne Hathaway; the license is issued on 27 November and the first child (Susanna) is born six months later
1585  Shakespeare's twin son and daughter, Hamnet and Judith, born
1586  c.  Shakespeare leaves Stratford; nothing is known for certain of his life between this date and 1592, by which time he is in London; Anon., *The Famous Victories of Henry V*
1587  Rose playhouse opens
1587  c.  Marlowe, *Tamburlaine*
1588  c.  Marlowe, 2 *Tamburlaine*; Lodge, *The Wounds of Civil War*
1589  Peele, *The Battle of Alcazar*
chronology

c.1590  Shakespeare, *Edward III*, 1–3 *Henry VI*; Anon., *King Leir*
       Anon., *The Troublesome Reign of John, King of England*

       *The True Tragedy of Richard III*; Anon., *Jack Straw*

1592  Marlowe, *Edward II*; Shakespeare, *Richard III*

c.1593  Anon., *Thomas of Woodstock*; Anon., *Edmund Ironside*

1593  Daniel, *Cleopatra*; Marlowe, *The Massacre at Paris*

1595  Munday etc., *Sir Thomas More*; Anon., *Caesar and Pompey*;
       Shakespeare, *Richard II*

c.1596  Shakespeare, *King John*; Greville, *Mustapha*; Anon.,
       *Captain Thomas Stukeley*

c.1597  Shakespeare, 1–2 *Henry IV*

1598  Chettle and Munday, *The Death of Robert, Earl of
       Huntingdon, The Downfall of Robert, Earl of Huntingdon*
       (2 and 1 *Robin Hood*); Anon., *Look about You*

c.1599  Globe playhouse opens; Drayton etc., 1 *Sir John Oldcastle*;
       Heywood etc., 1 and 2 *Edward IV*; Shakespeare, *Henry V*,
       *Julius Caesar*

1600  Greville, *Alaham*; Anon., *Lust’s Dominion*; Anon., *Thomas
       Lord Cromwell*

1602  Chettle, *Hoffman*; Dekker and Webster, *Sir Thomas Wyatt*;
       Shakespeare, *Troilus and Cressida*

1603  Accession of James I, who takes the acting companies under
       royal patronage; Shakespeare’s company, the Chamberlain’s
       Men, becomes the King’s Men; Jonson, *Sejanus*

       Me You Know Me (Henry VIII)*

1605  Chapman, *Caesar and Pompey*; Shakespeare, *King Lear*;
       Heywood, *If You Know not Me You Know Nobody*

1606  Shakespeare, *Macbeth*, *Antony and Cleopatra*

1607  Alexander, *Julius Caesar*; Anon., *Claudius Tiberius Nero*

1608  Shakespeare, *Coriolanus*

1611  Jonson, *Catiline his Conspiracy*

c.1612  Chapman, *Chabot, Admiral of France*; ‘R.A.’, *The Valiant
       Welshman*

1613  Shakespeare and Fletcher, *Henry VIII*

1616  Shakespeare dies in Stratford

c.1618  Middleton, *Hengist, King of Kent*

1619  Fletcher and Massinger, *Sir John van Olden Barnavelt*;
       Anon., *Nero*

c.1622  Markham and Sampson, *Herod and Antipater*
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<td>1623</td>
<td>Publication of the First Folio, the first collected edition of Shakespeare's plays; in it are published for the first time among others, <em>King John</em>, <em>1 Henry VI</em>, <em>Henry VIII</em>, <em>Coriolanus</em>, <em>Julius Caesar</em>, <em>Macbeth</em>, and <em>Antony and Cleopatra</em></td>
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<td>May, <em>Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt</em></td>
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<td>c.1628</td>
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