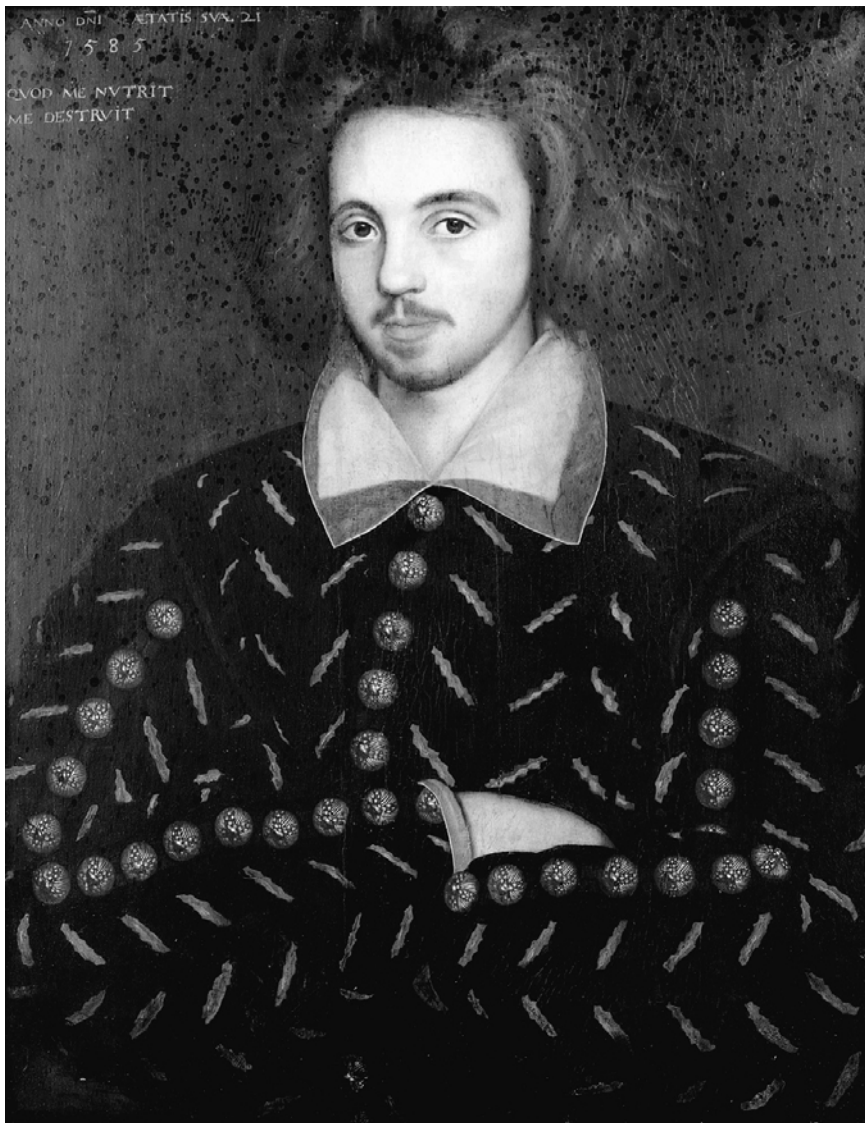


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The Cambridge Companion to Christopher Marlowe

The Cambridge Companion to Christopher Marlowe provides a full introduction to one of the great pioneers of both the Elizabethan stage and modern English poetry. It recalls that Marlowe was an inventor of the English history play (*Edward II*) and of Ovidian narrative verse (*Hero and Leander*), as well as being author of such masterpieces of tragedy and lyric as *Doctor Faustus* and 'The Passionate Shepherd to His Love'. Seventeen leading scholars provide accessible and authoritative chapters on Marlowe's life, texts, style, politics, religion, and classicism. The volume also considers his literary and patronage relationships and his representations of sexuality and gender and of geography and identity; his presence in modern film and theatre; and finally his influence on subsequent writers. The *Companion* includes a chronology of Marlowe's life, a note on reference works, and a reading list for each chapter.

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Portrait (putative) of Christopher Marlowe. Courtesy of the Master and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. The College cannot vouch for the identity of the portrait.

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In memory of Clifford Leech

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The volume is dedicated to the memory of Clifford Leech, whose contributions to Marlowe studies were also historically important, as the volume introduction attempts to record. During the academic year 1973–4, I took Professor Leech's 'Shakespeare the Text' seminar at the University of Toronto, receiving my introduction to textual scholarship but also to the energy, care, and humour of a great teacher, scholar, and man of the theatre.

ABBREVIATIONS

BJRL	<i>Bibliography of the John Rylands Library</i>
<i>CahiersE</i>	<i>Cahiers Elisabethains</i>
<i>CritI</i>	<i>Critical Inquiry</i>
DF	<i>Doctor Faustus</i>
<i>Dido</i>	<i>Dido, Queen of Carthage</i>
EII	<i>Edward II</i>
ELR	<i>English Literary Renaissance</i>
<i>English</i>	<i>English: The Journal of the English Association</i>
ESC	<i>English Studies in Canada</i>
HL	<i>Hero and Leander</i>
JM	<i>The Jew of Malta</i>
JMEMS	<i>Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies</i>
JMRS	<i>Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies</i>
JWCI	<i>Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes</i>
LFB	<i>Lucan's First Book</i>
<i>Library</i>	<i>Library: The Transactions of the Bibliographical Society</i>
<i>LnL</i>	<i>Language and Literature</i>
MacLure	Millar MacLure (ed.), <i>Marlowe: The Critical Heritage 1588–1896</i> (London: Routledge, 1979)
Manwood	Epitaph on Sir Roger Manwood
MLN	<i>Modern Language Notes</i>
MLQ	<i>Modern Language Quarterly</i>
MLR	<i>Modern Language Review</i>
MP	<i>The Massacre at Paris</i>
MRDE	<i>Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England</i>
MSAN	<i>Marlowe Society of America Newsletter</i>
N&Q	<i>Notes & Queries</i>
OE	<i>Ovid's Elegies</i>
OED	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

PBA	<i>Proceedings of the British Academy</i>
<i>Pembroke Dedication</i>	The Dedicatory Epistle to the Countess of Pembroke
‘PS’	“The Passionate Shepherd to His Love”
<i>RenD</i>	<i>Renaissance Drama</i>
RES	<i>Review of English Studies</i>
<i>RenP</i>	<i>Renaissance Papers</i>
RORD	<i>Research Opportunities in Renaissance Drama</i>
RQ	<i>Renaissance Quarterly</i>
SAQ	<i>South Atlantic Quarterly</i>
SB	<i>Studies in Bibliography</i>
SEL	<i>Studies in English Literature 1500–1900</i>
<i>ShakS</i>	<i>Shakespeare Studies</i>
<i>ShS</i>	<i>Shakespeare Survey</i>
<i>SoH</i>	<i>Southern History</i>
SN	<i>Studia Neophilologica</i>
SP	<i>Studies in Philology</i>
SQ	<i>Shakespeare Quarterly</i>
SR	<i>Sewanee Review</i>
SWR	<i>Southwest Review</i>
<i>StHR</i>	<i>Stanford Humanities Review</i>
1 <i>Tamb.</i>	<i>Tamburlaine, Part One</i>
2 <i>Tamb.</i>	<i>Tamburlaine, Part Two</i>
Thomas and Tydeman	Vivien Thomas and William Tydeman (eds.), <i>Christopher Marlowe: The Plays and Their Sources</i> (London: Routledge, 1994)
TDR	<i>Tulane Drama Review</i>
TJ	<i>Theatre Journal</i>
TLS	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>

CHRONOLOGY

- 1564 Marlowe born in Canterbury. Son of John Marlowe and Katherine Arthur Marlowe.
 26 Feb. Christened at St George the Martyr.
 26 Apr. William Shakespeare baptized at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon.
- 1572 24 Aug. St Bartholomew Day's Massacre, France.
- 1576 Opening of the Theatre, Shoreditch, first regular commercial playhouse in London, built by James Burbage.
- 1579–80 Holds scholarship at the King's School, Canterbury.
- 1580 Begins residence at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Sir Francis Drake circumnavigates the globe.
- 1581 Matriculates as a 'pensioner' at Corpus Christi. Thomas Watson's *Antigone* published.
 7–11 May. Elected to a Matthew Parker scholarship at Corpus Christi.
- 1584 Completes the BA degree at Cambridge University.
- 1585 Probably composes *Ovid's Elegies*. *Dido*, *Queen of Carthage* probably first written while Marlowe is at Cambridge. Watson's *Aminta* published.
 31 Mar. Admitted to candidacy for the MA degree at Cambridge.
 Nov. Witnesses the will of Katherine Benchkin of Canterbury.
- 1586 Death of Sir Philip Sidney. Babington Plot to assassinate Queen Elizabeth exposed.
- 1587–8 *Tamburlaine, Parts One and Two* performed in London; Marlowe works for the Admiral's Men, Edward Alleyn its leading actor. Possibly composes 'The Passionate Shepherd to His Love'.
- 1587 29 Jun. The Privy Council writes a letter to the Cambridge authorities exonerating Marlowe for his absences and

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- supporting his candidacy for the MA degree. Marlowe probably doing secret service work for the Queen's Privy Council. The Rose theatre built on Bankside (Southwark) by Philip Henslowe. Execution of Mary, Queen of Scots, mother of James VI of Scotland, future king of England (James I). *Historia von D. Iohañ Fausten* published at Frankfurt, Germany.
- 1588 England defeats the Spanish Armada. Robert Greene charges Marlowe with atheism in his *Epistle to Perimedes the Blacksmith*. Thomas Herriot's *A Brief and True Report of the New Found land of Virginia* published.
- 1588–92 Writes *Doctor Faustus*, *The Jew of Malta*, *The Massacre at Paris*, *Edward II*, although the order of composition and the precise dates remain uncertain.
- 1589 *Sept.–Dec.* Engages in swordfight on 18 Sept. in Hog Lane, London, with William Bradley, who is killed by Thomas Watson, Marlowe's friend and fellow poet–playwright. Watson and Marlowe are jailed on suspicion of murder in Newgate Prison but eventually released.
- 1590 *Tamburlaine, Parts One and Two* published, without Marlowe's name on the title page. Edmund Spenser's epic poem, *The Faerie Queene* (Books 1–3), also published. Death of Sir Francis Walsingham.
- 1591 Shares room with Thomas Kyd, author of *The Spanish Tragedy*. Seeks patronage from Ferdinando Stanley, Lord Strange, whose acting company, Lord Strange's Men, performs his plays.
- 1592–3 Plague breaks out in London, closing the theatres.
- 1592 *The Historie of the damnable life, and deserved death of Doctor Iohn Faustus* published (the earliest extant English translation of the 1577 *Historia*). The Gabriel Harvey–Thomas Nashe dispute begins.
- 26 *Jan.* Accused of counterfeiting by Richard Baines in Flushing, the Netherlands, and sent back to London by Sir Robert Sidney, Governor of Flushing, to be examined by the Treasurer, William Cecil, Lord Burleigh, but is evidently released. According to Sidney, Marlowe admitted to counterfeiting, but claimed he was prompted by curiosity.
- 9 *May.* Bound to keep the peace by the constable and subconstable of Holywell Street, Shoreditch.
- 3 *Sept.* Robert Greene dies. The posthumously published *Greene's Groatsworth of Wit*, perhaps co-authored by Henry Chettle, again accuses Marlowe of atheism.

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- 15 Sept. Fights with William Corkine in Canterbury. Corkine's suit against Marlowe is settled out of court.
- 26 Sept. Watson buried at St Bartholomew the Less, London, perhaps a victim of plague. Watson's *Amintae gaudia* published posthumously, with Marlowe contributing a Latin *Dedicatory Epistle* to Mary Sidney Herbert, Countess of Pembroke.
- 14 Dec. Death of Sir Roger Manwood, Canterbury jurist. Marlowe writes Manwood's epitaph sometime during the next few months.
- 1593 Perhaps under the patronage of Thomas Walsingham, of Scadbury, Kent, translates *Lucan's First Book* and writes *Hero and Leander*. Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis* published.
- 5 May. Libel attacking Protestant immigrants is posted on the wall of the Dutch Church in London. It is signed 'per Tamberlaine' and contains several allusions to Marlowe's plays.
- 11 May. The Privy Council orders the Lord Mayor to arrest and examine persons suspected in connection with the Dutch Church Libel.
- 12 May. Thomas Kyd arrested on suspicion of libel, imprisoned, and tortured. Investigators discover a heretical document in Kyd's room, but he claims it is Marlowe's.
- ?12–27 May. An unnamed spy writes 'Remembrances of words & matter against Richard Cholmeley', which reports that Marlowe has been lecturing on behalf of atheism.
- 18 May. The Privy Council issues a warrant for Marlowe's arrest.
- 20 May. Appears before the Privy Council and is instructed to give his 'daily attendance'; released on his own cognizance.
- 27 May. Possible delivery of the Baines Note accusing Marlowe of atheism.
- 30 May. Killed by Ingram Frizer at the house of Eleanor Bull, Deptford. Witnesses in the room are Robert Poley and Nicholas Skeres. The official coroner's report says that Marlowe attacked Frizer over a dispute about who would pay the 'reckoning' or bill.
- 1 Jun. A jury determines that Frizer acted in self-defence for the killing of Christopher Marlowe. Buried in a nameless grave at St Nicholas's Church, Deptford. Soon afterwards, Kyd writes two documents to the Lord Keeper, Sir John Puckering, accusing Marlowe of atheism and of being an injurious person.

CHRONOLOGY

- 29 Jun. Richard Cholmley admits he has been influenced by Marlowe's atheism.
- 28 Sept. *Lucan's First Book* and *Hero and Leander* entered together in the Stationers' Register.
- 1594 Publication of *Dido, Queen of Carthage* and *Edward II*, the first works bearing Marlowe's name on the title page, although Thomas Nashe's name also appears on *Dido*. Possible publication of *The Massacre at Paris*. Publication of Shakespeare's *The Rape of Lucrece* and *Titus Andronicus*. Nashe's *The Unfortunate Traveller* also published.
- 1597 Thomas Beard's *The Theatre of God's Judgments* published.
- 1598 *Hero and Leander* published, first as an 818-line poem and later as a Homeric and Virgilian epic, divided into 'sestiaids', and completed by George Chapman.
- 1599 The Bishop of London and Archbishop of Canterbury ban *Ovid's Elegies* (probably published in mid- to late-1590s), along with Sir John Davies's *Epigrams*, and have them burned in public. *The Passionate Pilgrim* published, with Shakespeare's name on the title page, and including versions of 'The Passionate Shepherd' and Raleigh's 'The Nymph's Reply'.
- 1600 *Lucan's First Book* published with Marlowe's name on the title page. *England's Helicon* published, including versions of 'The Passionate Shepherd' and Raleigh's 'The Nymph's Reply'.
- 1602 Philip Henslowe, manager of the Admiral's Men, pays William Birde and Samuel Rowley £4 for additions to *Doctor Faustus*.
- 1603 Death of Queen Elizabeth I. Succession of James VI of Scotland as James I.
- 1604 'A' text of *Doctor Faustus* published, with Marlowe's name on the title page.
- 1616 The 'B' text of *Doctor Faustus* published, with Marlowe's name on the title page.
- 1633 Thomas Heywood publishes *The Jew of Malta*, identifying Marlowe as the author.