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.
In memory of Clifford Leech
## CONTENTS

*List of illustrations*  
*List of contributors*  
*Acknowledgements*  
*List of abbreviations*  
*Chronology*  

1. Introduction: Marlowe in the twenty-first century  
   **Patrick Cheney**  
   1  

2. Marlowe’s life  
   **David Riggs**  
   24  

3. Marlovian texts and authorship  
   **Laurie E. Maguire**  
   41  

4. Marlowe and style  
   **Russ McDonald**  
   55  

5. Marlowe and the politics of religion  
   **Paul Whitfield White**  
   70  

6. Marlowe and the English literary scene  
   **James P. Bednarz**  
   90  

7. Marlowe’s poems and classicism  
   **Georgia E. Brown**  
   106  

8. *Tamburlaine the Great, Parts One and Two*  
   **Mark Thornton Burnett**  
   127  

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9. The Jew of Malta
   JULIA REINHARD LUPTON

10. Edward II
    THOMAS CARTELLI

11. Doctor Faustus
    THOMAS HEALY

12. Dido, Queen of Carthage and The Massacre at Paris
    SARA MUNSON DEATS

13. Tragedy, patronage, and power
    RICHARD WILSON

14. Geography and identity in Marlowe
    GARRETT A. SULLIVAN, JR

15. Marlowe’s men and women: gender and sexuality
    KATE CHEDGZOY

16. Marlowe in theatre and film
    LOIS POTTER

17. Marlowe’s reception and influence
    LISA HOPKINS

Reference works

Index
ILLUSTRATIONS


2. In Clifford Williams’s production of *Doctor Faustus* for the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, in 1968, the Duchess of Vanholt (Diane Fletcher) flirtatiously feeds Faustus (Eric Porter) the grapes that Mephistopheles (Terence Hardiman) has just brought her, while her complaisant husband (Richard Simpson) looks on. Photograph by Thomas Holte. By permission of the Shakespeare Library, Shakespeare Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon. 265

3. Antony Sher as Tamburlaine in Terry Hands’s conflation of the two parts for the Royal Shakespeare Company, performed at the Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, in 1993. Photograph by Donald Cooper. 268

5. Edward II (Simon Russell Beale) with Gaveston (Grant Thatcher) and other followers antagonize the barons. Directed by Gerard Murphy (Royal Shakespeare Company at Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, 1990). Photograph by Michael le Poer Trench.
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The origin of this Companion traces to the reception held by Cambridge University Press for Andrew Hadfield’s Cambridge Companion to Edmund Spenser on 7 July 2001. Thanks to David Galbraith of Victoria College, University of Toronto, for generously introducing me to Sarah Stanton, the editor also of the present Companion, who has been both its originator and its guide. Without her thought, care, and support, this volume would not exist, and I remain grateful to her for inviting me to be its editor.

At the Press, I am also grateful to Jackie Warren, for courteously overseeing the production phase of the project; and to Margaret Berrill, for expertly copy-editing the manuscript.

I would also like to thank three friends and colleagues, Mark Thornton Burnett, Robert R. Edwards, and Garrett Sullivan, who served as judicious advisers and readers throughout the project. Others who supplied hearty comments on my introduction and other material include James P. Bednarz, Park Honan, and David Riggs. Richard McCabe hosted my Visiting Research Fellowship at Merton College, Oxford, in 2001, when much of the work on the volume began, while Andrew Hadfield supplied guidance, only in part through his model Companion to Spenser. Correspondence and conversation with this learned band of scholars and friends has been one of the joys of editing the volume.

Another has been communication with the sixteen other contributors, who have done a superb job of helping keep the volume on track. I count the volume and the field to be lucky in benefiting from such a deep reservoir of expertise on the life and works of Christopher Marlowe.

Also important has been the Marlowe Society of America, for its great and warming work on behalf of Marlowe studies (and for support of my own work during the past decade), especially Constance Brown Kuriyama, Robert A. Logan, Sara Munson Deats, Bruce E. Brandt, and Roslyn Knutson.

Finally, I would like to thank David Goldfarb, who helped with the initial stages of research for the introduction and the note on Marlowe reference
works; and Letitia Montgomery, who served as a loyal and conscientious Research Intern, helping with the copy-editing of the chapters, as well as with checking quotations and citations for the introduction.

I first studied Marlowe in 1969 at the University of Montana under the inspiring teaching of the late Walter N. King. Then in 1974–5 I enrolled in the year-long graduate seminar on Marlowe at the University of Toronto taught by a distinguished editor of Marlowe, the late Millar MacLure. I shall never forget those early days.

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BJRL</td>
<td>Bibliography of the John Rylands Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CahiersE</td>
<td>Cahiers Elisabethains</td>
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<tr>
<td>CritI</td>
<td>Critical Inquiry</td>
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<tr>
<td>DF</td>
<td>Doctor Faustus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dido</td>
<td>Dido, Queen of Carthage</td>
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<tr>
<td>EII</td>
<td>Edward II</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELR</td>
<td>English Literary Renaissance</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>English: The Journal of the English Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESC</td>
<td>English Studies in Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>HL</td>
<td>Hero and Leander</td>
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<tr>
<td>JM</td>
<td>The Jew of Malta</td>
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<tr>
<td>JMEMS</td>
<td>Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>JMRIS</td>
<td>Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JWCI</td>
<td>Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LFB</td>
<td>Lucan’s First Book</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Library: The Transactions of the Bibliographical Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>LnL</td>
<td>Language and Literature</td>
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<td>Manwood</td>
<td>Epitaph on Sir Roger Manwood</td>
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<td>MLN</td>
<td>Modern Language Notes</td>
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<td>MLQ</td>
<td>Modern Language Quarterly</td>
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<td>MLR</td>
<td>Modern Language Review</td>
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<td>The Massacre at Paris</td>
</tr>
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<td>Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSAN</td>
<td>Marlowe Society of America Newsletter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N&amp;Q</td>
<td>Notes &amp; Queries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OE</td>
<td>Ovid’s Elegies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OED</td>
<td>Oxford English Dictionary</td>
</tr>
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### List of Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PBA</td>
<td>Proceedings of the British Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pembroke Dedication</td>
<td>The Dedicatory Epistle to the Countess of Pembroke</td>
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<tr>
<td>‘PS’</td>
<td>“The Passionate Shepherd to His Love”</td>
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<tr>
<td>RenD</td>
<td>Renaissance Drama</td>
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<td>RES</td>
<td>Review of English Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Renaissance Papers</td>
</tr>
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<td>RORD</td>
<td>Research Opportunities in Renaissance Drama</td>
</tr>
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<td>RQ</td>
<td>Renaissance Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAQ</td>
<td>South Atlantic Quarterly</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB</td>
<td>Studies in Bibliography</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEL</td>
<td>Studies in English Literature 1500–1900</td>
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<tr>
<td>ShakS</td>
<td>Shakespeare Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>ShS</td>
<td>Shakespeare Survey</td>
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<td>SoH</td>
<td>Southern History</td>
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<td>SN</td>
<td>Studia Neophilologica</td>
</tr>
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<td>SP</td>
<td>Studies in Philology</td>
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<tr>
<td>SQ</td>
<td>Shakespeare Quarterly</td>
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<tr>
<td>SR</td>
<td>Sewanee Review</td>
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<td>SWR</td>
<td>Southwest Review</td>
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<td>StHR</td>
<td>Stanford Humanities Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Tamb.</td>
<td>Tamburlaine, Part One</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Tamb.</td>
<td>Tamburlaine, Part Two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDR</td>
<td>Tulane Drama Review</td>
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<td>TJ</td>
<td>Theatre Journal</td>
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<td>TLS</td>
<td>Times Literary Supplement</td>
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CHRONOLOGY

26 Feb. Christened at St George the Martyr.
26 Apr. William Shakespeare baptized at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon.


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
chronology

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. Iohann Fausten* published at Frankfurt, Germany.

1588

1588–92

1589

1590

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 John 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.

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 'sestiads', 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 Ralegh'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.