THE NEW CAMBRIDGE SHAKESPEARE

GENERAL EDITOR
Brian Gibbons

ASSOCIATE GENERAL EDITOR
A. R. Braunmuller, University of California, Los Angeles

From the publication of the first volumes in 1984 the General Editor of the New Cambridge Shakespeare was Philip Brockbank and the Associate General Editors were Brian Gibbons and Robin Hood. From 1990 to 1994 the General Editor was Brian Gibbons and the Associate General Editors were A. R. Braunmuller and Robin Hood.

KING JOHN

King John had a distinguished life on the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century stage but for most of this century the play has been undervalued.

The introduction to Professor Beaurline’s edition presents the fullest account to date of the stage history, with accompanying illustrations to suggest the dramatic potential of the script. The play’s political importance, its rich and varied language, and its skilful design suggest that King John deserves a high place among Shakespeare’s historical tragedies. Professor Beaurline points out that late in the play the Bastard Falconbridge’s character assumes some of the attitudes of Montaigne, especially his mixed feelings about the affairs of this world.

The textual analysis examines several disputed emendations to the text. In the appendix Professor Beaurline surveys the arguments about the dating of Shakespeare’s King John and the anonymous Troublesome Reign of King John, and presents new evidence for the possibility that Shakespeare’s play was written first. In that case, King John would be an early composition and Troublesome Reign an adaptation of it.
THE NEW CAMBRIDGE SHAKESPEARE

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The Two Gentlemen of Verona, edited by Kurt Schlueter
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The First Quarto of King Richard III, edited by Peter Davison
The First Quarto of Othello, edited by Scott McMillin
The First Quarto of Romeo and Juliet, edited by Lukas Erne
The Taming of a Shrew: The 1594 Quarto, edited by Stephen Roy Miller
KING JOHN

Edited by

L. A. BEAURLINE
THE NEW CAMBRIDGE SHAKESPEARE

The New Cambridge Shakespeare succeeds The New Shakespeare which began publication in 1921 under the general editorship of Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch and John Dover Wilson, and was completed in the 1960s, with the assistance of G. I. Duthie, Alice Walker, Peter Ure and J. C. Maxwell. The New Shakespeare itself followed upon The Cambridge Shakespeare, 1863–6, edited by W. G. Clark, J. Glover and W. A. Wright.

The New Shakespeare won high esteem both for its scholarship and for its design, but shifts of critical taste and insight, recent Shakespearean research, and a changing sense of what is important in our understanding of the plays, have made it necessary to re-edit and redesign, not merely to revise, the series.

The New Cambridge Shakespeare aims to be of value to a new generation of playgoers and readers who wish to enjoy fuller access to Shakespeare’s poetic and dramatic art. While offering ample academic guidance, it reflects current critical interests and is more attentive than some earlier editions have been to the realisation of the plays on the stage, and to their social and cultural settings. The text of each play has been freshly edited, with textual data made available to those users who wish to know why and how one published text differs from another. Although modernised, the edition conserves forms that appear to be expressive and characteristically Shakespearean, and it does not attempt to disguise the fact that the plays were written in a language other than that of our own time.

Illustrations are usually integrated into the critical and historical discussion of the play and include some reconstructions of early performances by C. Walter Hodges. Some editors have also made use of the advice and experience of Maurice Daniels, for many years a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Each volume is addressed to the needs and problems of a particular text, and each therefore differs in style and emphasis from others in the series.

PHILIP BROCKBANK

General Editor
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PREFACE

My debt to former editors is far greater than the notes can record, especially to E. A. J. Honigmann and to R. L. Smallwood. Both kindly read a draft of the introduction, and Professor Honigmann read the appendix. When I began thinking about the vexing problems in King John, I was influenced by the critical studies of Emrys Jones and Wilbur Sanders, and that respect has deepened steadily. Stanley Wells’s judicious books Modernizing Shakespeare’s Spelling (1979) and Re-Editing Shakespeare for the Modern Reader (1984) have shaped many decisions in the text.

My friends and colleagues, Verdel Kolve, David Vander Muelen, Daniel Kinney, Gordon Braden, Fredson Bowers and Arthur Kirsch have answered questions about the text and interpretation. Special thanks go to Mike Stanford, Scott Boltwood, and Brent Harris, who helped check the commentary, and to Deborah Shea for putting the text and commentary on a word processor.

Professor Philip Brockbank helped me generously with the unruly introduction, and at Cambridge University Press Paul Chipchase’s copy-editing has improved almost every page of this edition.

Staff at the Folger Library, the Harvard Theatre Collection, the Huntington Library, the Royal Shakespeare Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Weimar National Theatre, Yale University Art Gallery, and the British Museum Department of Prints and Drawings have found fugitive material and have generously allowed me to reproduce pictures from their collections. The most delightful part of making this edition has been the spirited correspondence with Walter Hodges. His splendid drawings and his fund of theatrical knowledge have enriched the edition incomparably.

My deepest debt is to my wife, who has put up with my groans and questions for more than seven years. If there are any good sentences in the introduction, she has shaped them.

University of Virginia

L. A. B.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND CONVENTIONS

Shakespeare’s plays, when cited in this edition, are abbreviated in a style modified slightly from that used in the Harcard Concordance to Shakespeare. Other editions of Shakespeare are abbreviated under the editor’s surname (Honigmann, Capell), or, in certain cases, under the series title (Cam., Oxford). When more than one edition by the same editor is cited, later editions are discriminated with a raised figure (Rowe²). All quotations from Shakespeare, except those from King John, use the text and lineation of The Riverside Shakespeare, under the general editorship of G. Blakemore Evans.

1. Shakespeare’s plays

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<tr>
<th>Play</th>
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<td>JC</td>
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<td>Love’s Labour’s Lost</td>
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<td>Mac.</td>
<td>Macbeth</td>
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<td>Measure for Measure</td>
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<td>MND</td>
<td>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</td>
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<td>MV</td>
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<td>R2</td>
<td>King Richard the Second</td>
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<td>Rom.</td>
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<td>STM</td>
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<td>Tim.</td>
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<td>Tit.</td>
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<td>TN</td>
<td>Twelfth Night</td>
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</table>

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Abbreviations and conventions

TNK The Two Noble Kinsmen
Tro. Troilus and Cressida
Wiv. The Merry Wives of Windsor
WT The Winter’s Tale

2. Editions and general references
Abbott E. A. Abbott, A Shakespearian Grammar, rev. edn, 1870 (references are to numbered paragraphs)
Baker Herschel Baker, explanatory notes to King John in Riverside
Capell Mr William Shakespeare His Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies, ed. Edward Capell, 1767–8
Collier The Works of William Shakespeare, ed. J. P. Collier, 1842–4
Collier² The Plays of Shakespeare, ed. J. P. Collier, 1853
Collier MS. Manuscript emendations in Perkins’s Second Folio (1632), Huntington Library
conj. conjecture
Cotgrave Randle Cotgrave, A Dictionarie of the French and English Tongues, 1611
Davies Thomas Davies, Dramatic Miscellanies, 3 vols., 1784
Dent R. W. Dent, Shakespeare’s Proverbal Language: An Index, 1981 (references are to numbered proverbs)
Dyce² Works, 2nd edn, 1864–7
Edward III The Reign of King Edward III, in The Shakespeare Apocrypha, ed. C. F. Tucker Brooke, 1908
EIC Essays in Criticism
ELH ELH: A Journal of English Literary History
ESC English Studies in Canada
F Mr William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies, 1623 (First Folio)
F₂ Second Folio, 1632
F3 Third Folio, 1664
F₄ Fourth Folio, 1685
Farmer John Farmer and W. E. Henley, Slang and its Analogues, 7 vols., 1890–1904
and Henley
Fleay King John, ed. F. G. Fleay, 1878 (Collins Classics)
Foxe John Foxe, Acts and Monuments, 1583 edn
Furness A New Variorum Edition of Shakespeare, The Life and Death of King John, ed.
H. H. Furness, 1919
Hammer The Works of Shakespeare, ed. Thomas Hamner, 1743–4
Heath Benjamin Heath, A Revival of Shakespeare’s Text, 1765
Hinman Charlton Hinman, The Printing and Proof-Reading of the First Folio of Shakespeare, 2 vols., 1963
Holinshed Holinshed’s Chronicles of England, Scotland, and Ireland (1587), a photo-facsimile of Henry Ellis’s edn, 6 vols., 1807–8, with an introduction by Vernon Snow, 1965
King John

Honigmann  
King John, ed. E. A. J. Honigmann, 1954 (Arden Shakespeare)

John  
King John, ed. Ivor John, 1904 (Arden Shakespeare)

Johnson  
The Plays of William Shakespeare, ed. Samuel Johnson, 1765

Jones, Origins  
Emrys Jones, The Origins of Shakespeare, 1977

Keightley  
The Plays of Shakespeare, ed. Thomas Keightley, 1864

Kemble  
Shakespeare’s King John, A Historical Play, revised by J. P. Kemble, 1804  

Kittredge  
The Complete Works of Shakespeare, ed. George Lyman Kittredge, 1936

Knight  
The Pictorial Edition of the Works of Shakespeare, ed. Charles Knight, 1839–43

Kökeritz  
Helge Kökeritz, Shakespeare’s Pronunciation, 1953

Malone  
The Plays and Poems of William Shakespeare, ed. Edmond Malone, 1790

Matchett  
King John, ed. William H. Matchett, 1966

Maxwell  
J. C. Maxwell’s emendations of King John, Notes & Queries 195 (1950), 75–6; 473–4

Moore Smith  
King John, ed. G. C. Moore Smith, 1900 (Heath’s English Classics)

MSR  
Malone Society Reprint

Neilson  

ODEP  

OED  
Oxford English Dictionary

Onions  
C. T. Onions, A Shakespeare Glossary, 1911, rev. edn, 1953

Oxford  

PBA  
Proceedings of the British Academy

PBSA  
Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America

Pope  

RES  
Review of English Studies

Riverside  
The Riverside Shakespeare, ed. G. Blakemore Evans, Harry Levin et al., 1974

Roderick  
R. Roderick, Remarks on Shakespeare, in T. Edwards, Canons of Criticism, 7th edn, 1765

Rowe  
The Works of Mr William Shakespear, ed. Nicholas Rowe, 1709

Rowe²  
Works, 2nd edn, 1709

Rowe³  
Works, 3rd edn, 1714

SB  
Studies in Bibliography

Schmidt  
Alexander Schmidt, Shakespeare Lexicon, 3rd edn, 2 vols., 1901

sd  
stage direction

SEL  
Studies in English Literature

sh  
speech heading

Sider  
The Troublesome Raigne of John, King of England, ed. J. W. Sider, 1799

Sisson  
C. J. Sisson, New Readings in Shakespeare, 2 vols., 1956

SJH  
Shakespeare-Jahrbuch (Heidelberg)

SJW  
Shakespeare-Jahrbuch (Weimar)

Smallwood  
King John, ed. R. L. Smallwood, 1974 (New Penguin)

SN  
Studia Neophilologica

SP  
Studies in Philology

SQ  
Shakespeare Quarterly

S.St.  
Shakespeare Studies

S.Sur.  
Shakespeare Survey
Abbreviations and conventions

Staunton  The Plays of Shakespeare, ed. H. Staunton, 1858–60
Steevens  The Plays of William Shakespeare, ed. George Steevens (with Johnson), 1773
Steevens²  Plays, 2nd edn, 1778
Steevens³  Plays, 4th edn, 1793
subst.  substantively
Theobald  The Works of Shakespeare, ed. Lewis Theobald, 1733
Theobald⁴  Works, 2nd edn, 1740
Tilley  M. P. Tilley, A Dictionary of the Proverbs in England in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries, 1950 (references are to numbered proverbs)
TLS  The Times Literary Supplement
TR  The Troublesome Raigne of John, King of England, 1591 (scene and line numbers are keyed to Sider’s edn (see above))
Tyrwhitt  Thomas Tyrwhitt, Observations and Conjectures upon Some Passages of Shakespeare, 1766
Upton  John Upton, Critical Observations on Shakespeare, 1746
UTQ  University of Toronto Quarterly
Vaughan  H.H. Vaughan, New Readings and New Renderings of Shakespeare’s Tragedies, vol. 1, 1878
Walker  William Sidney Walker, A Critical Examination of the Text of Shakespeare, 3 vols., 1860
Warburton  The Works of Shakespeare, ed. William Warburton, 1747
Whiting  Bartlett Jere Whiting, Proverbs, Sentences, and Proverbial Phrases; from English Writings Mainly before 1500, 1968 (references are to numbered proverbs)
Wilson  King John, ed. John Dover Wilson, 1936 (New Shakespeare)
Wright  King John, ed. W. Aldis Wright, 1886 (Clarendon Shakespeare)

Quotations from the Bible are from the Geneva version unless otherwise specified.