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THE NEW CAMBRIDGE SHAKESPEARE

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KING HENRY VIII

Henry VIII was one of Shakespeare's most popular plays in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries when great actors took the roles of Queen Katherine and Cardinal Wolsey, and elaborate pageantry was much extended. It has not been staged frequently in the twentieth century, but a number of important recent productions have revealed the theatrical potential of a more complete text.

Professor Margeson considers and illustrates the stage history of the play, and gives a balanced account of the authorship controversy from the mid nineteenth century, when John Fletcher's name was first put forward as a collaborator, to recent scholarship, which has not yet reached a consensus. The Introduction discusses the political and religious background of the play, its pageant-like structure and visual effects, and its varied ironies. The Commentary is detailed but concise, explaining difficult passages and contemporary references, and suggesting how the play might have been staged in an Elizabethan theatre, or might still be staged for a modern audience.

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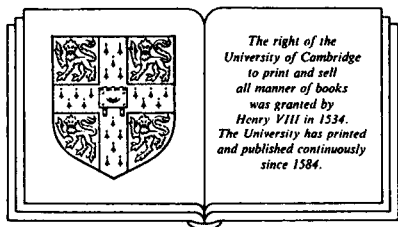
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KING HENRY VIII

Edited by

JOHN MARGESON

Emeritus Professor of English, University of Toronto



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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

Like any editor of a play of Shakespeare's, I am indebted to the rich treasure-house of previous scholarship and criticism, where gold can be found, as well as a little dross. I owe much to recent editors of *Henry VIII*, particularly to R. A. Foakes, and to J. C. Maxwell who did not like the play but whose scholarship is evident in every note. The editions by David Hoeniger and A. R. Humphreys have been valuable to me, and also an unpublished dissertation by Margaret Swayze on the stage history and critical reception of the play over several centuries.

I am obliged to Dr Maija Jansson and to the editors of *Shakespeare Quarterly* for permission to quote the previously unknown letter of Henry Bluett about the fire at the Globe theatre in 1613. Former colleagues and friends in the University of Toronto have encouraged me with comments and criticism; I am grateful also for the practical assistance given me by the Research Board of the University. Dr Levi Fox and his staff at the Shakespeare Centre Library in Stratford-upon-Avon have given me their time and assistance during visits and by correspondence. At the Cambridge University Press, Paul Chipchase has used his sharp eye and extensive knowledge of the plays to warn me of inconsistencies and possible errors.

A lively correspondence with C. Walter Hodges in relation to the Jacobean staging of the play has proved illuminating on several important issues. Beyond any other, I am grateful to Philip Brockbank for his encouragement and for his often disconcerting and stimulating observations.

J. M.

ABBREVIATIONS AND CONVENTIONS

Shakespeare's plays, when cited in this edition, are abbreviated in a style modified slightly from that used in the *Harvard Concordance to Shakespeare*. Other editions of Shakespeare are abbreviated under the editor's surname (Foakes, Hoeniger) unless they are the work of more than one editor. In such cases, an abbreviated series name is used (Cam., Var. 1773). When more than one edition by the same editor is cited, later editions are discriminated with a raised figure (Rowe³). All quotations from Shakespeare, except those from *King Henry VIII*, use the lineation of *The Riverside Shakespeare*, under the general editorship of G. Blakemore Evans.

1. Shakespeare's plays

<i>Ado</i>	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
<i>Ant.</i>	<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>
<i>AWW</i>	<i>All's Well That Ends Well</i>
<i>AYLI</i>	<i>As You Like It</i>
<i>Cor.</i>	<i>Coriolanus</i>
<i>Cym.</i>	<i>Cymbeline</i>
<i>Err.</i>	<i>The Comedy of Errors</i>
<i>Ham.</i>	<i>Hamlet</i>
<i>1H4</i>	<i>The First Part of King Henry the Fourth</i>
<i>2H4</i>	<i>The Second Part of King Henry the Fourth</i>
<i>H5</i>	<i>King Henry the Fifth</i>
<i>1H6</i>	<i>The First Part of King Henry the Sixth</i>
<i>2H6</i>	<i>The Second Part of King Henry the Sixth</i>
<i>3H6</i>	<i>The Third Part of King Henry the Sixth</i>
<i>H8</i>	<i>King Henry the Eighth</i>
<i>JC</i>	<i>Julius Caesar</i>
<i>John</i>	<i>King John</i>
<i>LLL</i>	<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>
<i>Lear</i>	<i>King Lear</i>
<i>Mac.</i>	<i>Macbeth</i>
<i>MM</i>	<i>Measure for Measure</i>
<i>MND</i>	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
<i>MV</i>	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>
<i>Oth.</i>	<i>Othello</i>
<i>Per.</i>	<i>Pericles</i>
<i>R2</i>	<i>King Richard the Second</i>
<i>R3</i>	<i>King Richard the Third</i>
<i>Rom.</i>	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
<i>Shr.</i>	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>
<i>STM</i>	<i>Sir Thomas More</i>
<i>Temp.</i>	<i>The Tempest</i>
<i>TGV</i>	<i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>

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<i>Tim.</i>	<i>Timon of Athens</i>
<i>Tit.</i>	<i>Titus Andronicus</i>
<i>TN</i>	<i>Twelfth Night</i>
<i>TNK</i>	<i>The Two Noble Kinsmen</i>
<i>Tro.</i>	<i>Troilus and Cressida</i>
<i>Wiv.</i>	<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i>
<i>WT</i>	<i>The Winter's Tale</i>

2. Other works cited and general references

Abbott	E. A. Abbott, <i>A Shakespearian Grammar</i> , 1869 (references are to numbered paragraphs)
Cam.	<i>The Works of William Shakespeare</i> , ed. W. G. Clark and J. Glover, 9 vols., 1863–6 (Cambridge Shakespeare)
Capell	<i>Mr William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies</i> , ed. Edward Capell, 1767–8
Chambers, <i>ES</i>	E. K. Chambers, <i>The Elizabethan Stage</i> , 4 vols., 1923
Collier conj.	<i>The Works of William Shakespeare</i> , ed. J. Payne Collier, 1842–4 conjecture
Dyce	<i>The Works of William Shakespeare</i> , ed. Alexander Dyce, 1857
<i>ELH</i>	<i>ELH: A Journal of English Literary History</i>
F	<i>Mr William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies</i> , 1623 (First Folio)
F2	<i>Mr William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies</i> , 1632 (Second Folio)
F3	<i>Mr William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies</i> , 1664 (Third Folio)
F4	<i>Mr William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies</i> , 1685 (Fourth Folio)
Foakes	<i>King Henry VIII</i> , ed. R. A. Foakes, 1957, 1964 (Arden Shakespeare)
Foxe, <i>Acts</i>	John Foxe, <i>The Acts and Monuments of Martyrs</i> , 2 vols., 1596
Halle	<i>Henry VIII by Edward Hall</i> , ed. C. Whibley, 2 vols., 1904 (from Edward Halle, <i>The Union of the Two Noble . . . Families of Lancaster and York</i> , 1550)
Hanmer	<i>The Works of Shakespear</i> , ed. Thomas Hanmer, 1743–4
Hinman	Charlton Hinman, <i>The Printing and Proof-Reading of the First Folio of Shakespeare</i> , 2 vols., 1963
Hoeniger	<i>The Life of King Henry the Eighth</i> , ed. F. David Hoeniger, 1966 (Pelican Shakespeare)
Holinshed	Raphael Holinshed, <i>The Chronicles of England</i> , 1587
Hoy, 1962	Cyrus Hoy, 'The shares of Fletcher and his collaborators in the Beaumont and Fletcher canon vii', <i>SB</i> 15 (1962), 71–90
Humphreys	<i>King Henry the Eighth</i> , ed. A. R. Humphreys, 1971 (New Penguin Shakespeare)
Johnson	<i>The Plays of William Shakespeare</i> , ed. Samuel Johnson, 1765
Kittredge	<i>The Complete Works of Shakespeare</i> , ed. G. L. Kittredge, 1936
Malone	<i>The Plays and Poems of William Shakespeare</i> , ed. Edmond Malone, 1790
Maxwell	<i>King Henry the Eighth</i> , ed. J. C. Maxwell, 1962 (New Shakespeare)
Maxwell, Baldwin	Baldwin Maxwell, 'Fletcher and Shakespeare', in <i>Studies in Beaumont, Fletcher, and Massinger</i> , 1939

<i>N&Q</i>	<i>Notes and Queries</i>
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
Onions	C. T. Onions, <i>A Shakespeare Glossary</i> , 1911, 1982
<i>PBA</i>	<i>Proceedings of the British Academy</i>
<i>PMLA</i>	<i>Publications of the Modern Language Association of America</i>
Pooler	<i>The Famous History of the Life of King Henry VIII</i> , ed. C. K. Pooler, 1915, 1936 (Arden Shakespeare)
Pope	<i>The Works of Shakespear</i> , ed. Alexander Pope, 1723–5
Rann	<i>The Dramatic Works of Shakespear</i> , ed. Joseph Rann, 1786–94
Rowe	<i>The Works of Mr William Shakespear</i> , ed. Nicholas Rowe, 1709
Rowe ³	<i>The Works of Mr William Shakespear</i> , ed. Nicholas Rowe, 3rd edn, 1714
<i>SB</i>	<i>Studies in Bibliography</i>
<i>SD</i>	stage direction
<i>SH</i>	speech heading
Sisson	C. J. Sisson, <i>New Readings in Shakespear</i> , 1956
<i>SP</i>	<i>Studies in Philology</i>
<i>SQ</i>	<i>Shakespeare Quarterly</i>
<i>S.Sur.</i>	<i>Shakespeare Survey</i>
Theobald	<i>The Works of Shakespear</i> , ed. Lewis Theobald, 1733
Tilley	M. P. Tilley, <i>A Dictionary of the Proverbs in England in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries</i> , 1959 (references are to numbered proverbs)
<i>TLS</i>	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>
Var. 1773	<i>The Plays of William Shakespear</i> , ed. Samuel Johnson and George Steevens, 1773
Var. 1778	<i>The Plays of William Shakespear</i> , ed. Samuel Johnson and George Steevens, 2nd edn, 1778
Vaughan	H. H. Vaughan, <i>New Readings and New Renderings of Shakespear's Tragedies</i> , 1886
Walker	W. S. Walker, <i>A Critical Examination of the Text of Shakespear</i> , 3 vols., 1860
Warburton	<i>The Works of Shakespear</i> , ed. William Warburton, 1747
Wright	<i>The Works of William Shakespear</i> , ed. William Aldis Wright, 1891–3 (Clarendon Shakespeare)

Quotations from the Bible are taken from the Geneva version, 1560.