

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51378-4 - Ben Jonson and the Politics of Genre

Edited by A. D. Cousins and Alison V. Scott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

BEN JONSON AND THE POLITICS OF GENRE

While Ben Jonson's political visions have been well documented, this is the first study to consider how he threaded his views into the various literary genres in which he wrote. For Jonson, these genres were interactive and mutually affirming, necessary for negotiating the tempestuous politics of early modern society, and here some of the most renowned Jonson scholars provide a collection of essays that discuss his use of genre. They present new perspectives on many of Jonson's major works, from his epigrams and epistles through to his Roman tragedies and satirical plays like *Volpone*. Other topics examined include Jonson's diverse representations of monarchy, his ambiguous celebrations of European commonwealths, his sexual politics, and his engagement with the issues of republicanism. These essays represent the forefront of critical thinking on Ben Jonson, and offer a timely reassessment of the author's political life in Jacobean and Caroline Britain.

A. D. COUSINS is Professor of English at Macquarie University.

ALISON V. SCOTT is Lecturer in Literature at the University of Queensland.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51378-4 - Ben Jonson and the Politics of Genre

Edited by A. D. Cousins and Alison V. Scott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

BEN JONSON AND THE POLITICS OF GENRE

EDITED BY

A. D. COUSINS AND ALISON V. SCOTT



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51378-4 - Ben Jonson and the Politics of Genre

Edited by A. D. Cousins and Alison V. Scott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521513784

© Cambridge University Press 2009

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2009

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-51378-4 hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this book, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51378-4 - Ben Jonson and the Politics of Genre

Edited by A. D. Cousins and Alison V. Scott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

for David and Matthew & for Valerie, Malcolm, and Andrew

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-51378-4 - Ben Jonson and the Politics of Genre
 Edited by A. D. Cousins and Alison V. Scott
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

	<i>Notes on contributors</i>	<i>page ix</i>
	<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>xi</i>
	Introduction A. D. Cousins and Alison V. Scott	1
1	Feigning the commonwealth: Jonson's <i>Epigrams</i> A. D. Cousins	14
2	The Jonsonian masque and the politics of decorum Alison V. Scott	43
3	The politics (and pairing) of Jonson's country house poems Robert C. Evans	73
4	Style, versatility, and the politics of the epistles John Roe	91
5	Jonson's politics of gender and genre: Mary Wroth and 'Charis' Marea Mitchell	115
6	Jonson's metempsychosis revisited: patronage and religious controversy Richard Dutton	134

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-51378-4 - Ben Jonson and the Politics of Genre
Edited by A. D. Cousins and Alison V. Scott
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

	<i>Contents</i>	viii
7	Jonson's humanist tragedies Tom Cain	162
8	A generic prompt in Jonson's <i>Timber, or Discoveries</i> Eugene D. Hill	190
	<i>Bibliography</i>	198
	<i>Index</i>	214

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51378-4 - Ben Jonson and the Politics of Genre

Edited by A. D. Cousins and Alison V. Scott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Notes on contributors

TOM CAIN is Professor of Early Modern Literature at Newcastle University.

He has edited Jonson's *Poetaster* for the Revels Plays, and has just finished an edition of *Sejanus* for the forthcoming Cambridge edition of *The Works of Ben Jonson*. He is currently working on a major new edition of the poems of Robert Herrick, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, due to be published by Oxford University Press in 2010.

A. D. COUSINS is Professor of English at Macquarie University. His books include *Donne and the Resources of Kind* (2002) and *Shakespeare's Sonnets and Narrative Poems* (2000). He is co-editor of the forthcoming *Cambridge Companion to the Sonnet* and the author of many essays on early modern British literature and culture.

RICHARD DUTTON is Humanities Distinguished Professor of English at Ohio State University. He has published widely on early modern drama, with particular emphasis on censorship, authorship, and the works of Ben Jonson. He has also edited a number of dramatic texts, including a volume of Jacobean pageants, four plays by Middleton, and Jonson's *Epicene*. His piece in this volume largely grows out of work done while editing *Volpone* for the Cambridge Ben Jonson. He has recently been awarded a fellowship by the National Endowment for the Humanities to work on the revision of Shakespeare's plays for performance at the courts of Elizabeth I and James I and the impact of this on their surviving texts.

ROBERT C. EVANS is Professor of English at Auburn University Montgomery. He is the author of several books (and various essays) on Jonson. His current research interests include Renaissance women authors, pluralist literary theory, and modern American fiction.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51378-4 - Ben Jonson and the Politics of Genre

Edited by A. D. Cousins and Alison V. Scott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Notes on contributors

x

EUGENE D. HILL is Professor of English at Mt Holyoke College. He has written *Edward, Lord Herbert of Cherbury* (1987) and numerous articles on Elizabethan tragedy. He is also co-editor of the *Garland Encyclopedia of Tudor England*.

MAREA MITCHELL is Associate Professor of English at Macquarie University (Australia). She has published on medieval and early modern studies, including *The Book of Margery Kempe*, Donne, Shakespeare, Weamys, Wroth, and romance, and is currently working on rewritings of Sidney's *Arcadia*.

JOHN ROE is Reader in English and related literature at the University of York (UK). His main literary interests are Shakespeare and Elizabethan poetry as well as Renaissance Italian literature. He has edited *Shakespeare: The Poems* (1992; revised and updated 2006) and has published *Shakespeare and Machiavelli* (2002). He is currently working on a short monograph on *Romeo and Juliet*.

ALISON V. SCOTT is Lecturer in Literature at the University of Queensland (Australia). She is the author of *Selfish Gifts: Gift Exchange and English Courtly Literature, 1580–1628* (2006) and articles relating to early modern literature and court culture. She is currently completing a monograph on *Languages of Luxury* in early modern England.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51378-4 - Ben Jonson and the Politics of Genre

Edited by A. D. Cousins and Alison V. Scott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following people for the many ways in which they have helped with the preparation of this book: Michael Ackland, Helen and Neil Cadzow, Jim and Maureen Cahillane, Mauro Di Nicola, Heather Dubrow, Arthur F. Kinney, Geoff and Penny Hiller, Manfred and Janet Mackenzie, and Dani and Tony Napton.

The emblem on the front cover of this book has been reproduced from George Wither's *Collection of Emblemes Ancient and Moderne* (1635) with the generous permission of the Huntington Library. We would also like to acknowledge the Department of English at Macquarie University for its financial support and Dr Geoff Payne for compiling the bibliography. Finally, our thanks to Stephen Tabor at the Huntington Library and Ambrose Chong at Macquarie University for kindly assisting us as we prepared this book for publication.