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*King Richard III* is one of Shakespeare's most popular and frequently performed plays. Janis Lull's introduction to this new edition, based on the First Folio, emphasises the play's tragic themes – individual identity, determinism and choice – and stresses the importance of women's roles in the play. It also underscores the special relationship between *Richard III* and *Macbeth*, demonstrating that the later tragedy re-examines issues raised in the earlier one. A thorough performance history of stage and film versions of *Richard III* shows how the text has been cut, rewritten and reshaped by directors and actors to enhance the role of Richard at the expense of other parts, especially those of the women. This updated edition contains a new introductory section covering recent criticism and performances – including the RSC cycles of the history plays – of this perennially popular play. The notes define the play's language in terms easily accessible to contemporary readers.

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*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, edited by R. A. Foakes  
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*Othello*, edited by Norman Sanders  
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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

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# KING RICHARD III

*Updated edition*

*Edited by*

JANIS LULL

*University of Alaska Fairbanks*



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**To David**

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND CONVENTIONS

### 1. Shakespeare's plays

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 (Rowe, Eccles) unless they are the work of more than one editor. In such cases, an abbreviated series title is used (Cam.). When more than one edition by the same editor is cited, later editions are discriminated with a raised figure (Collier<sup>2</sup>). All quotations from Shakespeare, except those from *Richard III*, use the lineation of *The Riverside Shakespeare*, under the general editorship of G. Blakemore Evans.

<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>

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<i>TGV</i>	<i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>
<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> , 3rd edn, 1870 (references are to numbered paragraphs)
Adelman	Janet Adelman, <i>Suffocating Mothers: Fantasies of Maternal Origin in Shakespeare's Plays, 'Hamlet' to 'The Tempest'</i> , 1992
Alexander	Peter Alexander, <i>Shakespeare's 'Henry VI' and 'Richard III'</i> , 1929
Arber	E. Arber, <i>A Transcript of the Registers of the Company of Stationers of London 1554–1640</i> , 5 vols., 1875–94
Barton and Hall	John Barton and Peter Hall, <i>The Wars of the Roses</i> , 1970
Bentley	G. E. Bentley, <i>The Jacobean and Caroline Stage</i> , 7 vol., 1941–68
Boswell-Stone	W. G. Boswell-Stone, <i>Shakespeare's Holinshed: The Chronicle and the Historical Plays Compared</i> , 1896
Braunmuller	A. R. Braunmuller (ed.), <i>Macbeth</i> , 1997 (New Cambridge Shakespeare)
Brewer	E. C. Brewer, <i>The Dictionary of Phrase and Fable</i> , 1981
Bullough	Geoffrey Bullough, <i>Narrative and Dramatic Sources of Shakespeare</i> , 8 vols., 1957–75
Cam.	<i>Works</i> , ed. William Aldis Wright, 9 vols., 1891–3 (Cambridge Shakespeare)
Campbell	Lily B. Campbell, <i>Shakespeare's 'Histories': Mirrors of Elizabethan Policy</i> , 1947
Capell	<i>Mr William Shakespeare his Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies</i> , ed. Edward Capell, 10 vols., 1767–8
Chambers	E. K. Chambers, <i>The Elizabethan Stage</i> , 4 vols., 1923
Churchill	George Bosworth Churchill, <i>Richard the Third up to Shakespeare</i> , 1900
Gibber	Colley Cibber, <i>The Tragical History of King Richard III, c. 1700</i> ; reprinted 1969
Clemen	Wolfgang Clemen, <i>A Commentary on Shakespeare's 'Richard III'</i> , first published in German, 1957; trans. Jean Bonheim, 1968
Colley	Scott Colley, <i>Richard's Himself Again: A Stage History of 'Richard III'</i> , 1992
Collier	<i>Works</i> , ed. John P. Collier, 8 vols., 1842–4
Collier <sup>2</sup>	<i>Works</i> , ed. John P. Collier, 1853
<i>Crowland</i>	<i>The Crowland Chronicle Continuations, 1459–1486</i> , ed. Nicholas Pronay and John Cox, 1986
Davison	<i>The First Quarto of King Richard III</i> , ed. Peter Davison, 1996 (New Cambridge Shakespeare)

Dent	R. W. Dent, <i>Shakespeare's Proverbial Language: An Index</i> , 1981 (references are to numbered proverbs)
Dyce	<i>The Works of William Shakespeare</i> , ed. Alexander Dyce, 6 vols., 1857
Dyce <sup>2</sup>	<i>The Works of William Shakespeare</i> , ed. Alexander Dyce, 9 vols., 1864–7
Eccles	<i>The Tragedy of Richard the Third</i> , ed. Mark Eccles, 1964 (Signet Shakespeare)
ELR	<i>English Literary Renaissance</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 Shakespear's Comedies, Histories and Tragedies</i> , 1663–4 (Third Folio)
F4	<i>Mr William Shakespear's Comedies, Histories and Tragedies</i> , 1685 (Fourth Folio)
Greg	W. W. Greg, <i>The Editorial Problem in Shakespeare</i> , 3rd edn, 1954
Griggs facsimile	William Griggs's facsimile of Q <i>Richard III</i> , 1885
Gurr	Andrew Gurr, <i>The Shakespearean Stage 1574–1642</i> , 3rd edn, 1992
Hall	Edward Hall, <i>The Union of the Two Noble and Illustre Famelies of Lancastre and York</i> , 1548, reprinted 1809, reprinted 1965 (cited here)
Hammond	Antony Hammond (ed.), <i>King Richard III</i> , 1981 (Arden Shakespeare)
Hankey	Julie Hankey (ed), <i>Richard III</i> , 1981 (Plays in Performance)
Hanmer	<i>The Works of Shakespear</i> , ed. Thomas Hanmer, 6 vols., 1743–4
Hassel	R. Chris Hassel, Jr, <i>Songs of Death: Performance, Interpretation, and the Text of 'Richard III'</i> , 1987
Holinshed	Raphael Holinshed, <i>Chronicles of England, Scotland, and Ireland</i> , second edn, 1587, reprinted in 6 vols., 1808, reprinted 1965 (cited here)
Honigmann	E. A. J. Honigmann (ed), <i>King Richard the Third</i> , 1968 (New Penguin Shakespeare)
Honigmann, <i>Stability</i>	E. A. J. Honigmann, <i>The Stability of Shakespeare's Text</i> , 1965
Honigmann, 'Text'	E. A. J. Honigmann, 'The text of <i>Richard III</i> ', <i>Theatre Research</i> 7 (1965), 48–55
Ioppolo	Grace Ioppolo, <i>Revising Shakespeare</i> , 1991
Irace	Kathleen O. Irace, 'Origins and agents of Q1 <i>Hamlet</i> ', in Thomas Clayton (ed.), <i>The 'Hamlet' First Published (Q1, 1603)</i> , 1992, pp. 90–122
Johnson	<i>The Plays of William Shakespeare</i> , ed. Samuel Johnson, 8 vols., 1765
Jones	Emrys Jones, <i>The Origins of Shakespeare</i> , 1977
Kelly	Henry Ansgar Kelly, <i>Divine Providence in the England of Shakespeare's Histories</i> , 1971

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- McKellen Ian McKellen and Richard Loncraine, *William Shakespeare's 'Richard III'*, 1996 (screenplay)
- Maguire Laurie E. Maguire, *Shakespearean Suspect Texts: The 'Bad' Quartos and Their Contexts*, 1996
- Malone *The Plays and Poems of William Shakespeare*, ed. Edmond Malone, 10 vols., 1790
- Mancini Dominic Mancini, *The Usurpation of Richard III*, ed. C. A. J. Armstrong, 2nd edn, 1969
- Marlowe *The Complete Works of Christopher Marlowe*, ed. Fredson Bowers, 2nd edn, 2 vols., 1981
- More Sir Thomas More, *The History of King Richard the Third*, ed. Richard S. Sylvester (*The Complete Works of St Thomas More*, vol. 2), 1963
- NQ* *Notes and Queries*
- OED* *Oxford English Dictionary*
- Ornstein Robert Ornstein, *A Kingdom for a Stage: The Achievement of Shakespeare's History Plays*, 1972
- Oxford *William Shakespeare: The Complete Works*, ed. Stanley Wells and Gary Taylor, 1986
- Patrick David Lyall Patrick, *The Textual History of 'Richard III'*, 1936
- Pope *The Works of Shakespeare*, ed. Alexander Pope, 6 vols., 1723–5 (vol. 4)
- Q [William Shakespeare], *The Tragedy of King Richard the third*, 1597 (first quarto)
- Q2 [William Shakespeare], *The Tragedy of King Richard the third*, 1598 (second quarto)
- Q3 [William Shakespeare], *The Tragedy of King Richard the third*, 1602 (third quarto)
- Q4 [William Shakespeare], *The Tragedy of King Richard the third*, 1605 (fourth quarto)
- Q5 [William Shakespeare], *The Tragedy of King Richard the third*, 1612 (fifth quarto)
- Q6 [William Shakespeare], *The Tragedy of King Richard the third*, 1622 (sixth quarto)
- Q7 [William Shakespeare], *The Tragedy of King Richard the third*, 1629 (seventh quarto)
- Q8 [William Shakespeare], *The Tragedy of King Richard the third*, 1634 (eighth quarto)
- RES* *Review of English Studies*
- Ribner Irving Ribner, *The English History Play in the Age of Shakespeare*, 1957
- Richmond Hugh M. Richmond, *King Richard III*, 1989 (Shakespeare in Performance)
- Riverside *The Riverside Shakespeare*, ed. G. Blakemore Evans, 1974

Robinson, P. M. W.	<i>Collate: Interactive Collation of Large Textual Traditions, Version 2</i> , 1995. Computer Program distributed by Oxford University Computing Service, Oxford
Rossiter	A. P. Rossiter, <i>English Drama from Early Times to the Elizabethans</i> , 1950
Rous	John Rous, <i>Joannis Rossi Antiquarii Warwicensis Historia Regum Angliae</i> , ed. T. Hearne, 1745
Rowe	<i>The Works of Mr William Shakespear</i> , ed. Nicholas Rowe, 6 vols., 1709
Rowe <sup>2</sup>	<i>The Works of Mr William Shakespear</i> , ed. Nicholas Rowe, 2nd edn, 6 vols., c. 1709
Rowe <sup>3</sup>	<i>The Works of Mr William Shakespear</i> , ed. Nicholas Rowe, 3rd edn, 8 vols., 1714
SB	<i>Shakespeare Bulletin</i>
SD	stage direction
Seneca	Lucius Annaeus Seneca, <i>Seneca's Tragedies with an English Translation</i> , trans. F. J. Miller, 2 vols., 1917
SH	speech heading
Sher	Antony Sher, <i>The Year of the King</i> , 1987
Smidt	Kristian Smidt, <i>Iniurious Impostors and 'Richard III'</i> , 1963
Smidt, <i>Memorial</i>	Kristian Smidt, <i>Memorial Transmission and Quarto Copy in 'Richard III': A Reassessment</i> , 1970
Spivack	Bernard Spivack, <i>Shakespeare and the Allegory of Evil</i> , 1958
SQ	<i>Shakespeare Quarterly</i>
Steevens	<i>The Plays of William Shakespeare</i> , ed. George Steevens and Isaac Reed, 4th edn, 15 vols., 1793
subst.	substantively
Taylor and Warren	Gary Taylor and Michael Warren (eds), <i>The Division of the Kingdoms: Shakespeare's Two Versions of King Lear</i> , 1983; reprinted 1986
Thayer	C. G. Thayer, <i>Shakespearean Politics: Government and Misgovernment in the Great Histories</i> , 1983
Theobald	<i>The Works of Shakespeare</i> , ed. Lewis Theobald, 7 vols., 1733
Thompson	A. Hamilton Thompson (ed.), <i>The Tragedy of King Richard the Third</i> , 1907 (Arden Shakespeare)
Thomson	W. H. Thomson, <i>Shakespeare's Characters: A Historical Dictionary</i> , 1951
Tilley	M. P. Tilley, <i>A Dictionary of the Proverbs in England in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries</i> , 1950 (references are to numbered proverbs)
Tillyard	E. M. W. Tillyard, <i>Shakespeare's History Plays</i> , 1944; reprinted 1962
TLN	Through line numbering (from Charlton Hinman, <i>The Norton Facsimile of Shakespeare</i> , 1968)
TLS	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>

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<i>True Tragedie</i>	<i>The True Tragedie of Richard the Third</i> , 1594; reprinted as <i>The True Tragedy of Richard the Third</i> , ed. W. W. Greg, 1929 (Malone Society)
Urkowitz	Steven Urkowitz, 'Reconsidering the relationship of quarto and Folio texts of <i>Richard III</i> ', <i>ELR</i> 16 (1986), 442–66
Variorum	Horace Howard Furness (ed.), <i>The Tragedy of Richard the Third</i> , 1908 (New Variorum Shakespeare, vol. 17)
Walker	Alice Walker, <i>Textual Problems of the First Folio</i> , 1953
Walton	J. K. Walton, <i>The Copy of the Folio Text of 'Richard III'</i> , 1955
Weimann	Robert Weimann, <i>Shakespeare and the Popular Tradition in the Theater</i> , 1978
Wells and Taylor	Stanley Wells and Gary Taylor, <i>William Shakespeare: A Textual Companion</i> , 1987
Wilson	J. Dover Wilson (ed.), <i>Richard III</i> , 1952 (New Shakespeare)

Unless otherwise specified, biblical quotations are given in the Geneva version (1560).