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
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**Frontispiece**  Portrait (putative) of Christopher Marlowe. Courtesy of the Master and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. The College cannot vouch for the identity of the portrait.


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.
CONTRIBUTORS

JAMES P. BEDNARZ, Long Island University
GEORGIA E. BROWN, University of Cambridge
MARK THORNTON BURNETT, Queen’s University of Belfast
THOMAS CARTELLI, Muhlenberg College
KATE CHEDGZOY, University of Newcastle
PATRICK CHENEY, Pennsylvania State University
SARA MUNSON DEATS, University of South Florida
THOMAS HEALY, University of London
LISA HOPKINS, Sheffield Hallam University
JULIA REINHARD LUPTON, University of California – Irvine
LAURIE E. MAGUIRE, University of Oxford
RUSS MCDONALD, University of North Carolina – Greensboro
LOIS POTTER, University of Delaware
DAVID RIGGS, Stanford University
GARRETT A. SULLIVAN, JR, Pennsylvania State University
PAUL WHITFIELD WHITE, Purdue University
RICHARD WILSON, University of Lancaster
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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.

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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.
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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.
ABBREVIATIONS

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

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<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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<td>RenD</td>
<td>Renaissance Drama</td>
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<td>RES</td>
<td>Review of English Studies</td>
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<td>RenP</td>
<td>Renaissance Papers</td>
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<td>RORD</td>
<td>Research Opportunities in Renaissance Drama</td>
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<td>RQ</td>
<td>Renaissance Quarterly</td>
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<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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<tr>
<td>SoH</td>
<td>Southern History</td>
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<tr>
<td>SN</td>
<td>Studia Neophilologica</td>
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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>
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<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.

1564  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 _Tito_ 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
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. Iohan Fausten* published at Frankfurt, Germany.

1588

1588–92
- Writes *Doctor Faustus*, *The Jew of Malta*, *The Massacre at Paris*, *Edward II*, although the order of composition and the precise dates remain uncertain.

1589

1590
- 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.

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
- *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.

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**Chronology**


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.

15–27 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.
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 Raleigh’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
Bird 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.