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0521572606 - Textual Intercourse: Collaboration, Authorship, and Sexualities in Renaissance Drama

Jeffrey Masten

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*Textual Intercourse* proposes that the language and practice of writing plays in early modern England were inextricably linked to languages and practices of eroticism, sexuality, and reproduction. Jeffrey Masten reads a range of early modern materials – burial records, contemporary biographical anecdotes, and theatrical records; essays, conduct books, and poems; the printed apparatus of published plays, and the plays themselves – to illustrate the ways in which writing for the theatre shifted in the seventeenth century from a model of homoerotic collaboration toward singular authorship on a patriarchal-absolutist model. Plays and collections of plays by Shakespeare, Shakespeare and Fletcher, Beaumont and Fletcher, Margaret Cavendish, and others, are considered.

Masten thus brings together disciplines and interests that have traditionally worked in isolation: he shows how the history of the book can also be the history of sexualities; and he illustrates the ways in which methods attuned to sexuality and gender can illuminate more traditional questions of authorship, attribution, textual editing, and the history of literary and intellectual property.

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# Textual intercourse

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Jeffrey Masten

*Harvard University*



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 0521572606 - Textual Intercourse: Collaboration, Authorship, and Sexualities in  
 Renaissance Drama

Jeffrey Masten  
 Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Contents

---

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
Introduction: Textual intercourse	1
1 Seeing double: collaboration and the interpretation of Renaissance drama	12
2 Between gentlemen: homoeroticism, collaboration, and the discourse of friendship	28
3 Representing authority: patriarchalism, absolutism, and the author on stage	63
4 Reproducing works: dramatic quartos and folios in the seventeenth century	113
5 <i>Mistis corrival</i> : Margaret Cavendish's dramatic production	156
<i>Notes</i>	165
<i>Bibliography</i>	203
<i>Index</i>	217

Cambridge University Press

0521572606 - Textual Intercourse: Collaboration, Authorship, and Sexualities in Renaissance Drama

Jeffrey Masten

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Illustrations

---

- |   |  |         |
|---|--|---------|
| 1 | Title page and “Draught” of the frontispiece: Richard Brathwait, <i>THE English Gentleman</i> (London: by Iohn Haviland [for] Robert Bostock, 1630). Reproduced with permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University.   | page 29 |
| 2 | Detail of title page: Richard Brathwait, <i>THE English Gentleman</i> (London: by Iohn Haviland [for] Robert Bostock, 1630). Reproduced with permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University.   | 31      |
| 3 | Title page: Mr. John Fletcher, and Mr. William Shakspeare. Gent., <i>THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN</i> (London: Tho. Cotes for Iohn Waterson, 1634). Reproduced with permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University.   | 59      |
| 4 | “THE PROGENIE OF GEFREY CHAUCER,” in <i>THE Workes of our Antient and Learned English Poet, GEFREY CHAUCER, newly Printed</i> (London: by Adam Islip at the charges of Bonham Norton, 1598). Reproduced with permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University.                               | 65      |
| 5 | Title page: James I, <i>THE WORKES OF THE MOST HIGH AND MIGHTY PRINCE, IAMES, By the grace of God Kinge of Great Brittain France &amp; Ireland Defendor of ye Faith &amp;c.</i> (London: Iames, Bishop of Winton, 1616). Reproduced with permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University.   | 68      |
| 6 | Frontispiece portrait: <i>THE WORKES OF THE MOST HIGH AND MIGHTY PRINCE, IAMES, By the grace of God Kinge of Great Brittain France &amp; Ireland Defendor of ye Faith &amp;c.</i> (London: Iames, Bishop of Winton, 1616). Reproduced with permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University. | 69      |
| 7 | Title page: William Shakespeare, <i>Pericles, Prince of Tyre</i> (London: for Henry Gosson, 1609). Reproduced with permission of the Folger Shakespeare Library.   | 92      |

Cambridge University Press

0521572606 - Textual Intercourse: Collaboration, Authorship, and Sexualities in Renaissance Drama

Jeffrey Masten

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

List of illustrations	ix
8 Title page: Francis Beamount, and Iohn Flecher, <i>A King and no King</i> (London: for Thomas Walkley, 1619). Reproduced with permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University.	99
9 Title page: Francis Beamount & Iohn Fletcher Gent., <i>A KING, and NO KING</i> (London: by A.M. for Richard Hawkins, 1631). Reproduced with permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University.	118
10 Frontispiece portrait and title page: Francis Beavmont and Iohn Fletcher Gentlemen, <i>COMEDIES AND TRAGEDIES</i> (London: for Humphrey Robinson and Humphrey Moseley, 1647). Reproduced with permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University.	122
11 Engraved frontispiece: Margaret Cavendish, <i>PLAYS, Never before Printed. WRITTEN By the Thrice Noble, Illustrious, and Excellent PRINCESSE, THE Duchess of Newcastle</i> (London: by A. Maxwell, 1668). Reproduced with permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University.	163
<b>Illustrations in the text</b>	
Dedicatory letter (detail): <i>MR. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARES COMEDIES, HISTORIES &amp; TRAGEDIES</i> (London: by Isaac Iaggard, and Ed. Blount, 1623), “the First Folio,” sig. A2. Reproduced with permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University.	127
Dedicatory letter (detail): Francis Beavmont and Iohn Fletcher Gentlemen, <i>COMEDIES AND TRAGEDIES</i> (London: for Humphrey Robinson and Humphrey Moseley, 1647), sig. A2. Reproduced with permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University.	128
Commendatory poem (detail): Francis Beavmont and Iohn Fletcher Gentlemen, <i>COMEDIES AND TRAGEDIES</i> (London: for Humphrey Robinson and Humphrey Moseley, 1647), sig. c1. Reproduced with permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University.	134



Cambridge University Press

0521572606 - Textual Intercourse: Collaboration, Authorship, and Sexualities in  
Renaissance Drama

Jeffrey Masten

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

## Acknowledgments

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The process of writing this book has also been the process of imagining an institutional structure in which an acknowledgment page could be a title page. In the absence of that possibility, I want to affirm here that certain collaborations function throughout the pages that follow. There are, as is our custom, notes throughout this book that acknowledge particular debts, borrowings, and rearticulations, but here I cite other collaborations: how might I fully separate out these contributions, or know who is speaking a given word or sentence or method, so as to mark it?

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Cambridge University Press

0521572606 - Textual Intercourse: Collaboration, Authorship, and Sexualities in Renaissance Drama

Jeffrey Masten

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## xii Acknowledgments

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Cambridge University Press

0521572606 - Textual Intercourse: Collaboration, Authorship, and Sexualities in Renaissance Drama

Jeffrey Masten

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

Acknowledgments

xiii

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