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It is a critical commonplace to note sharp cultural differences between Elizabethan and Jacobean England. But how and why did this transition take place? What kinds of decisions and assumptions were involved as writers responded to the new king? How did residual Elizabethan expectations and habits of mind shape the English response to James I, and what were the consequences? How much control did James have over his reception? This study examines these questions in detail by exploring a wide range of texts written during the first decade of his reign in England, from 1603 to 1613. At stake in these questions are some larger issues which have been central to much recent historically oriented work on English Renaissance literature, concerning the relationships between king and culture, literature and authority. Curtis Perry's original study provokes a fresh examination of the contingencies shaping long-familiar notions of what constitutes the Jacobean as a literary period.

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# THE MAKING OF JACOBEOAN CULTURE

*James I and the renegotiation of Elizabethan literary practice*

CURTIS PERRY

*Arizona State University*



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## *Illustrations*

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## *Abbreviations*

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Bacon, <i>Works</i>    | <i>The Works of Francis Bacon</i> , 14 vols., ed. James Spedding, R. L. Ellis, and D. D. Heath (London, 1861–79)   |
| CSP Ven                | <i>Calendar of Letters and State Papers relating to English Affairs, Preserved in Archives and Collections of Venice and in Other Libraries of Northern Italy</i> , 38 vols., ed. Rawdon Brown <i>et al.</i> (London, 1864–1947) |
| Daniel, <i>Works</i>   | <i>The Complete Works in Verse and Prose of Samuel Daniel</i> , 5 vols., ed. Alexander B. Grosart (London, 1885–96)  |
| Drayton, <i>Works</i>  | <i>The Works of Michael Drayton</i> , 5 vols., ed. J. William Hebel <i>et al.</i> (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1931–41)   |
| H&S                    | <i>Ben Jonson: The Man and His Work</i> , 11 vols., ed. C. H. Herford and Percy and Evelyn Simpson (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1925–52)  |
| Nichols                | John Nichols, ed., <i>The Progresses, Processions, and Magnificent Festivities of King James the First, His Royal Consort, Family, and Court</i> , 4 vols. (London, 1828)  |
| <i>Political Works</i> | <i>The Political Works of James I</i> , ed. Charles Howard McIlwain (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1918)  |

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### *A note on texts*

In passages quoted from Renaissance texts, I have silently modernized i/j and u/v, and regularized abbreviations requiring special orthography.

My text for Shakespeare's plays throughout is *The Riverside Shakespeare*, G. Blakemore Evans, ed. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1974). In quotations from this edition, I have dropped editorial brackets. Citations from the Bible refer to the King James Version. In a few cases I have regularized quotations by rendering italic type as roman.

Except with those texts whose titles I abbreviate throughout, I give a full citation the first time a book or series appears in each chapter, and short-title citations thereafter. In detailed examinations of primary sources, I give full citation in a note the first time a given text appears, and parenthetical citation thereafter for the remainder of the chapter.