

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-67162-0 - The Poems: Venus and Adonis, The Rape of Lucrece, The Phoenix and The Turtle, The Passionate Pilgrim, A Lover's Complaint: Updated edition

Edited by John Roe

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## THE NEW CAMBRIDGE SHAKESPEARE

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From the publication of the first volumes in 1984 the General Editor of the New Cambridge Shakespeare was Philip Brockbank and the Associate General Editors were Brian Gibbons and Robin Hood. From 1990 to 1994 the General Editor was Brian Gibbons and the Associate General Editors were A. R. Braunmuller and Robin Hood.

## THE POEMS

This is a fully annotated edition of all the poems which can be confidently assigned to Shakespeare, excluding the *Sonnets*. It contains *Venus and Adonis*, *The Rape of Lucrece*, *The Phoenix and the Turtle*, *The Passionate Pilgrim*, and *A Lover's Complaint*.

John Roe's introduction to the two long narrative poems examines their place within the classical and Renaissance European traditions, comparing Shakespeare's poetry with that of Ovid, Livy, Chaucer, Ariosto, Marlowe, and Daniel in the light of Neoplatonic influences and courtly style.

Some of these issues extend into the discussion of the various ways of reading *The Phoenix and the Turtle*. *The Passionate Pilgrim* is a miscellany of twenty sonnets and lyrics, containing only five poems which are certain to be Shakespeare's. John Roe analyses the interesting enigma of the publisher's role in preparing the collection and the conditions in which it was produced.

Evidence for and against Shakespeare's authorship of *A Lover's Complaint* is weighed. A reassessment of the much-debated question of the poem's genre concludes that it is best treated as a narrative in the 'complaint' mode.

The commentary on these poems is attentive to their rich and varied rhetorical manner. John Roe demonstrates how in his management of formal tropes Shakespeare, like the best Elizabethans, fashions a living language out of handbook oratory. This updated edition also contains a new introductory section on recent critical interpretations and an updated reading list.

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*The Tempest*, edited by David Lindley  
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*Troilus and Cressida*, edited by Anthony B. Dawson  
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*The First Quarto of King Henry V*, edited by Andrew Gurr  
*The First Quarto of King Lear*, edited by Jay L. Halio  
*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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# THE POEMS

VENUS AND ADONIS, THE RAPE OF LUCRECE,  
THE PHOENIX AND THE TURTLE,  
THE PASSIONATE PILGRIM, A LOVER'S COMPLAINT

Updated edition

*Edited by*

**JOHN ROE**

*Professor, Department of English and Related Literature, University of York*



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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

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

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521671620](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521671620)

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First published 1992

Fifth printing 2005

Updated edition 2006

8th printing 2015

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc.

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

ISBN 978-0-521-85551-8 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-67162-0 Paperback

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## PREFACE

I should like first to acknowledge the help invariably conferred by previous editors of Shakespeare's poetry, in particular H. E. Rollins, whose monumental Variorum edition of the *Poems* has proved indispensable. I have also gained immeasurably from the efforts of subsequent editors such as Prince, Maxwell, Lever, and Wells–Taylor. The process of saluting influence in detail is cumbersome; but I have tried to do my best, and I hope that economy in acknowledgment will not be taken for neglect or evasion.

I wish also to acknowledge the help and understanding of the founding editor of this series, the late Philip Brockbank. I also wish to thank Anthony Mortimer for bringing to my attention the depiction of Venus and Adonis, by the Flemish artist Bartholomäus Spranger, reproduced on p. 15. My copy-editor, Charles Hieatt, has smoothed my path in the latter stages by his keen detection of errors and inconsistencies, and Sarah Stanton of Cambridge University Press has been always attentive to queries and misgivings.

Various friends and colleagues have in addition read parts of the manuscript and given generously of their time and energy in making comments: Marie Axton, Jacques Berthoud, the late Bernard Harris, Gwynne Evans, Anne Jackson, Robin Robbins, and Timothy Webb. Thanks, also, to John and Vanessa Lindsay Smith for the use of Cragg Cottage at a critical stage.

The library staff of the following institutions have responded cooperatively to requests and queries: the Bodleian, Oxford, the Folger Library, Washington, D.C., the John Rylands Library, Manchester, the University of Leeds, the Shakespeare Institute, Stratford, and, not least, the University of York.

My gratitude, also, to the University of Kyoto, where I spent 1990–1 on leave of absence, which allowed me the time to incorporate some late revisions and emendations.

Finally, although my wife has modestly expressed her wish not to be included here, she has been my help and mainstay throughout, and it would be truly negligent of me not to acknowledge the very great debt I owe her.

For this new edition I have extended the introduction to take account of and evaluate recent developments in scholarship, a procedure which is also reflected in the expanded Reading List. The commentary remains largely unchanged, apart from the correction of a few factual errors and the modification of the occasional note. Otherwise I have found no reason to alter things substantially. I based my commentary originally on the principle of demonstrating Shakespeare's rhetorical resourcefulness as a poet, and this continues to be my aim. For this updated edition I should like to thank the general editors, Brian Gibbons and Al Braunmuller, for their help and advice.

J. R.

*University of York*

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND CONVENTIONS

## 1. Shakespeare's works

The abbreviated titles of Shakespeare's plays and poems have been modified from those used in the *Harvard Concordance of Shakespeare*. All quotations and line references to works other than *The Poems* are to G. Blakemore Evans (ed.), *The Riverside Shakespeare*, 1974, on which the *Concordance* is based.

<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>LC</i>	<i>A Lover's Complaint</i>
<i>LLL</i>	<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>
<i>Lear</i>	<i>King Lear</i>
<i>Luc.</i>	<i>The Rape of Lucrece</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>PhT</i>	<i>The Phoenix and the Turtle</i>
<i>PP</i>	<i>The Passionate Pilgrim</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>



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<i>Shr.</i>	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>
<i>Son.</i>	<i>Sonnets</i> (Riverside)
<i>STM</i>	<i>Sir Thomas More</i>
<i>Temp.</i>	<i>The Tempest</i>
<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>Ven.</i>	<i>Venus and Adonis</i>
<i>Wiv.</i>	<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i>
<i>WT</i>	<i>The Winter's Tale</i>

## 2. Editions

Adams	<i>The Passionate Pilgrim</i> (facsimile of Folger copy), introduction by Joseph Quincy Adams, 1939
Benson	<i>Poems: written by Wil. Shakespeare, Gent.</i> , printed by Thomas Cotes for John Benson, 1640 (see Klein)
Booth	<i>Shakespeare's Sonnets</i> , ed. Stephen Booth, 1977
Boswell	<i>Plays and Poems</i> , ed. James Boswell (with notes by Malone, Steevens, etc.), 1821
Brown	<i>Poems</i> , ed. Carleton Brown, 1913
Cambridge	<i>Works</i> (Cambridge), ed. W. G. Clark and W. Aldis Wright, 1893
Cotes-Benson	see Benson
Craig	<i>Works</i> (Oxford), ed. W. J. Craig, 1891
Craig <sup>2</sup>	<i>Poems</i> , 2 vols., ed. W. J. Craig, 1905
Dowden	<i>Poems</i> , ed. E. Dowden, 1903
Dyce	<i>Poems</i> , ed. Alexander Dyce, 1832
Feuillerat	<i>Poems</i> , ed. Albert Feuillerat, 1927
Gildon	<i>Poems</i> , ed. Charles Gildon, 1710
Gildon <sup>2</sup>	<i>Poems</i> , ed. Charles Gildon, 1714
Herford	<i>Works</i> , ed. C. H. Herford, 1899
Hudson	<i>Works</i> , ed. H. N. Hudson, 1856
Hudson <sup>2</sup>	<i>Works</i> (Harvard Shakespeare), ed. H. N. Hudson, 1881
Johnson	<i>Plays</i> , ed. Samuel Johnson, 1765
Kerrigan	<i>The Sonnets and A Lover's Complaint</i> , ed. John Kerrigan, 1986
Kittredge	<i>Works</i> , ed. G. L. Kittredge, 1936
Klein	<i>Shakespeare: Poems (1640)</i> (i.e. facsimile of Benson), introduced by H. Klein, 1979

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- Knight *Works*, ed. Charles Knight, 1841
- Lee *Works*, ed. Sidney Lee, 1907
- Lever *The Rape of Lucrece*, ed. J. W. Lever, 1971
- Lintott *Poems*, 2 vols., ed. Bernard Lintott, 1709, 1711
- Malone Edmund Malone, *Supplement to the Edition of Shakespeare's Plays published in 1778 by Dr Samuel Johnson and George Steevens*, 2 vols., 1780.
- Malone<sup>2</sup> *Plays and Poems*, ed. Edmund Malone (with Steevens), 1790
- Maxwell *Poems* (New Shakespeare), ed. J. K. Maxwell, 1966
- Pooler *Poems* (Arden), ed. C. K. Pooler, 2nd edn 1927
- Pooler<sup>2</sup> *Sonnets and A Lover's Complaint*, ed. C. K. Pooler, 1918
- Porter *Poems*, ed. Charlotte Porter, 1912
- Prince *Poems* (New Arden), ed. F. T. Prince, 1960
- Q1 First quarto, *Venus and Adonis*, 1593; *The Rape of Lucrece*, 1594
- Q2 Second quarto, *Venus and Adonis*, 1594; *The Rape of Lucrece*, 1598
- Q3 Third quarto, *Venus and Adonis*, 1595?; *The Rape of Lucrece*, 1600
- Q4 Fourth quarto, *Venus and Adonis*, 1596; *The Rape of Lucrece*, 1600
- Q5 Fifth quarto, *Venus and Adonis*, 1599; *The Rape of Lucrece*, 1607
- Q6 Sixth quarto, *Venus and Adonis*, 1599; *The Rape of Lucrece*, 1616
- Q7 Seventh quarto, *Venus and Adonis*, 1602?; *The Rape of Lucrece*, 1624
- Q8 Eighth quarto, *Venus and Adonis*, 1602; *The Rape of Lucrece*, 1632
- Q9 Ninth quarto, *Venus and Adonis*, 1602; *The Rape of Lucrece*, 1655
- Q10 Tenth quarto, *Venus and Adonis*, 1617
- Q11 Eleventh quarto, *Venus and Adonis*, 1620
- Q12 Twelfth quarto, *Venus and Adonis*, 1627
- Q13 Thirteenth quarto, *Venus and Adonis*, 1630
- Q14 Fourteenth quarto, *Venus and Adonis*, 1630
- Q15 Fifteenth quarto, *Venus and Adonis*, 1636
- Q16 Sixteenth quarto, *Venus and Adonis*, 1675
- Ridley *Works* (New Temple Shakespeare), ed. M. R. Ridley, 1934
- Riverside *Riverside Shakespeare*, textual editor G. Blakemore Evans, 1974
- Rollins *Shakespeare: the Poems* (New Variorum), ed. H. E. Rollins, 1938

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Rollins (1612)	<i>The Passionate Pilgrim</i> (facsimile of 1612 edn), introduction by H. E. Rollins, 1940
Sewell	<i>Works</i> , ed. George Sewell, 1725
Signet	<i>Complete Shakespeare</i> , general editor S. Barnet, 1972
Smith	see Riverside (poetry section, ed. H. Smith)
Steevens	see Malone
Wells–Taylor	<i>Complete Works</i> , ed. S. Wells and G. Taylor, 1986, with a separate <i>Textual Companion</i> (1987)
White	<i>Works</i> , ed. R. G. White, 1865
Wyndham	<i>Poems</i> , ed. George Wyndham, 1898

## 3. Other works, periodicals, general references

Abbott	E. A. Abbott, <i>A Shakespearian Grammar</i> , 1869
<i>Aen.</i>	The <i>Aeneid</i> of Virgil in <i>Virgil</i> , 2 vols. (Loeb), trans. H. R. Fairchild, 1935
Akrigg	G. P. V. Akrigg, <i>Shakespeare and the Earl of Southampton</i> , 1968
Alciati	Andrea Alciati, <i>Emblemata cum Commentariis</i> , 1531, Padua 1621 (facsimile rpt, 1967)
Alexander	<i>Elizabethan Narrative Verse</i> , ed. Nigel Alexander, 1967
<i>Apology</i>	Sir Philip Sidney, <i>An Apology for Poetry</i> , ed. G. Shepherd, 1965
Arber	Edward Arber (ed.), <i>A Transcript of the Registers of the Company of Stationers of London, 1554–1640 A. D.</i> , 5 vols., 1875–94
<i>Art of Poetry</i>	<i>Horace: Satires, Epistles, and Ars Poetica</i> (Loeb), trans. H. R. Fairclough, 1929
<i>AS</i>	Sir Philip Sidney, <i>Astrophil and Stella</i> , (see Ringler)
<i>AV</i>	The Authorised Version of the King James Bible (1611)
Bradbrook	M. C. Bradbrook, <i>Shakespeare and Elizabethan Poetry</i> , 1965
<i>Breton</i>	<i>The Works in Verse and Prose of Nicholas Breton</i> , 2 vols., ed. A. B. Grosart, 1879
Brooke	<i>The Works of Christopher Marlowe</i> , ed. C. F. Tucker Brooke, 1910
Bullough	<i>Narrative and Dramatic Sources of Shakespeare</i> , ed. Geoffrey Bullough, vol. 1, 1957
Bush	Douglas Bush, <i>Mythology and the Renaissance Tradition in English Poetry</i> , 1932
Campion	<i>Complete Poems of Thomas Campion</i> , ed. W. R. Davis, 1967

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- Capell MS Manuscript corrections made by Edward Capell to his copy of Lintott's edition (Trinity College Library, Cambridge)
- Carleton Brown *Poems by Sir John Salusbury and Robert Chester*, ed. Carleton Brown, 1914
- Castiglione Baldassare Castiglione, *The Book of the Courtier*, trans. Sir Thomas Hoby (1561), ed. J. H. Whitfield, 1928
- Cercignani F. Cercignani, *Shakespeare's Works and Elizabethan Pronunciation*, 1981
- Chambers E. K. Chambers, *William Shakespeare. A Study of Facts and Problems*, 2 vols., 1930
- Chambers<sup>2</sup> *The Oxford Book of Sixteenth Century Verse*, ed. E. K. Chambers, 1932
- Chaucer *Works*, ed. F. N. Robinson, second edn, 1957
- City of God* *Augustine concerning the City of God against the Pagans*, tr. H. Bettenson, 1972
- Coleridge Samuel T. Coleridge, *Biographia Literaria*, 2 vols., ed. J. Shawcross, 1954
- Comes Natalis Comes, *Mythologiae*, 1551, Venice, 1567 (facsimile rpt, 1976)
- conj. conjecture
- CR *Centennial Review*
- CT *Canterbury Tales* (see Chaucer)
- Daniel Samuel Daniel, *Poems and a Defence of Rhyme*, ed. A. Colby Sprague, 1930
- De Amore* *Andreas Capellani Regii Francorum De Amore*, ed. E. Trojel, Copenhagen, 1892
- Deloney *Works of Thomas Deloney*, ed. F. O. Mann, 1912
- De Luna see *Willobie his Avis*
- Dent R. W. Dent, *Shakespeare's Proverbial Language: An Index*, 1981
- Donne *Poems of John Donne*, 2 vols., ed. Sir Herbert Grierson, 1912
- Dyer T. F. T. Dyer, *Folk Lore of Shakespeare*, 1884
- edn edition
- EH *Englands Helicon* (1600)
- ELH *English Literary History*
- Eliz. Sonnets* *Elizabethan Sonnets*, ed. Sir Sidney Lee, 2 vols, 1904
- Elyot Sir Thomas Elyot, *The Boke Named the Governour* (1531), ed. S. E. Lehmborg, 1962
- Enc. Brit.* *Encyclopaedia Britannica*
- Ewig Wilhelm Ewig, 'Shakespeares Lucrece. Eine literarhistorische Untersuchung', *Anglia* 22 (1899), 1 – 32, 343 – 63, 393 – 455

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## List of abbreviations and conventions

Fairchild	A. H. R. Fairchild, <i>Shakespeare and the Arts of Design</i> , 1937
Fairchild <sup>2</sup>	A. H. R. Fairchild, 'The Phoenix and the Turtle', <i>Englische Studien</i> 33 (1904), 337–84
<i>Fasti</i>	Ovid, <i>Fasti</i> (see Bullough)
Feuillerat <sup>2</sup>	A. Feuillerat, <i>The Prose Works of Sir Philip Sidney</i> , 4 vols., 1912
Ficino	Marsilio Ficino, <i>Commentary on Plato's Symposium on Love</i> , trans. Sears Jayne, 1985
Florio	John Florio, <i>Italian Dictionary</i> (1598)
FO	Folger
<i>FQ</i>	Edmund Spenser, <i>The Faerie Queene</i> (1596), ed. J. C. Smith, 2 vols., 1912
Fr.	French
Franz	Wilhelm Franz. <i>Die Sprache Shakespeares</i> , 1939 (fourth edn of <i>Shakespeare-Grammatik</i> )
Fraunce	Abraham Fraunce, <i>The Third Part of the Countess of Pembrokes Iyrychurch, entitled Amintas Dale</i> , ed. Gerald Snare, 1975
<i>Genetics</i>	T. W. Baldwin, <i>On the Literary Genetics of Shakespeare's Poems and Sonnets</i> , 1950
Geneva	Geneva translation of the Bible (1560)
Golding	Arthur Golding, <i>The .xv. bookes of P. Ovidius Naso, entytuled Metamorphosis</i> (1567), ed. W. H. D. Rouse, 1904
Gombrich	E. H. Gombrich, <i>Art and Illusion</i> , fourth edn, 1972
Gow	A. F. S. Gow, <i>The Greek Bucolic Poets</i> , 1952
Greene	<i>The Life and Complete Works in Prose and Verse of Robert Greene</i> , ed. A. B. Grosart, 15 vols. 1881–6
Grierson	see Donne
Griffin	Bartholomew Griffin, <i>Fidessa, more chaste than kind</i> (1596) (see <i>Eliz. Sonnets</i> )
Grosart	<i>The Poems of Robert Chester (1601–11). With verse contributions by Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, George Chapman, John Marston, etc.</i> , ed. Rev. A. B. Grosart, 1878
Gurr	Andrew Gurr, <i>The Shakespearean Stage, 1574–1642</i> , second edn, 1980
HAR	Harleian
Heninger	S. K. Heninger, Jr, <i>Touches of Sweet Harmony</i> , 1974
<i>Heroides</i>	Ovid, <i>Heroides and Amores</i> , trans. Grant Showerman, 1914
<i>HL</i>	<i>Hero and Leander</i> (see Brooke)
<i>Homilies</i>	<i>The seconde tome of homelyes</i> (1563)
Ital.	Italian

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- Jonson Ben Jonson, *Works*, ed. C. Herford and P. Simpson, 11 vols., 1925–52
- Kinncar *Cruces Shakespearianae*, by B. G. Kinncar, 1883
- Kökeritz H. Kökeritz, *Shakespearian Pronunciation*, 1953
- Lat. Latin
- LGW *Legend of Good Women* (see Chaucer)
- Livy Titus Livius, *Ab Urbe Condita*, in *Livy*, trans. B. O. Foster (Loeb), 14 vols., 1919–59
- Lodge Thomas Lodge, *Phyllis Honoured with Pastorall Sonnets, Elegies, and amorous delights* (1593)
- Lodge<sup>2</sup> Thomas Lodge, *Complete Works*, 4 vols., 1883 (rpt. 1966)
- Mackail J. W. Mackail, 'A Lover's Complaint', *Essays and Studies* 3 (1912), 51–70
- McKerrow R. B. McKerrow, *Printers' and Publishers' Devices in England and Scotland 1485–1640*, 1949
- Marlowe see Brooke
- ME Middle English
- Metam. Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (Loeb), trans. F. J. Miller, 1916 (see Golding)
- MLR *Modern Language Review*
- Muir Kenneth Muir, *Shakespeare the Professional and Related Studies*, 1973
- Murry John Middleton Murry, *Discoveries*, 1930
- NA *New Arcadia* (see Feuillerat and Skretkowicz)
- Nares Robert Nares, *A Glossary; or, Collection of Words*, 1822
- Nashe *The Works of Thomas Nashe*, ed. R. B. McKerrow, 5 vols., rev. F. P. Wilson, 1958
- Neilson W. A. Neilson, *The Origins and Sources of the Court of Love*, 1899
- NM *New Mermaids* texts of Elizabethan and Jacobean playwrights
- N&Q *Notes and Queries*
- NPT *Nun's Priest's Tale*
- ODEP *Oxford Dictionary of English Proverbs*, ed. F. P. Wilson, third edn, 1970
- Odes *Horace: the Odes and the Epodes* (Loeb), trans. C. E. Bennet, rev. 1927
- OE Old English
- OED *Oxford English Dictionary*
- O. Fr. Old French

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## List of abbreviations and conventions

- Onions C. T. Onions, *A Shakespeare Glossary*, 1911; rev. by Robert D. Eagleson
- Ovid's Elegies* see Brooke
- Painter William Painter, *The Pallace of Pleasure* (1566) (see Bullough)
- Partridge A. C. Partridge, *A Substantive Grammar of Shakespeare's Nondramatic Texts*, 1976
- Partridge, Eric Eric Partridge, *Shakespeare's Bawdy*, 1971
- Partridge, *Orthography* A. C. Partridge, *Orthography in Shakespeare and Elizabethan Drama*, 1964
- Perrow E. C. Perrow, 'The last will and testament as a form of literature', *Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters*, 1913
- Petrarch, *Letters* Petrarch, *Selected Letters*, trans. Morris Bishop, 1966
- Plutarch *The Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romanes*, trans. Sir Thomas North, 1579
- PQ* *Philological Quarterly*
- Prose* *Francesco Petrarca: Prose*, ed. G. Martellotti and others, Milan-Naples, 1955
- Puttenham George Puttenham, *The Arte of English Poetry*, ed. G. D. Willcock and A. Walker, 1936
- Raleigh *The Poetry of Sir Walter Raleigh*, ed. Agnes M. C. Latham (Muses Library), 1951
- Ren & ModS* *Renaissance and Modern Studies*
- RES* *Review of English Studies*
- rime* Petrarch, *rime sparse*, trans. as *Petrarch's Lyric Poems* by R. M. Durling, 1976
- Ringler *The Poems of Sir Philip Sidney*, ed. W. A. Ringler, 1962
- Robertson J. M. Robertson, *Shakespeare and Chapman*, 1917
- Salzman Paul Salzman, *An Anthology of Elizabethan Prose Fiction*, 1987
- SB* *Studies in Bibliography*
- Sarrazin G. Sarrazin, *William Shakespeares Lehrjahre*, 1897
- sc.* *scilicet*
- Schmidt Alexander Schmidt, *Shakespeare-Lexicon*, 2 vols., 1874–75
- Schoenbaum S. Schoenbaum, *William Shakespeare: A Compact Documentary Life*, 1977
- SEL* *Studies in English Literature*
- Shakespeare's England* *Shakespeare's England*, ed. Sir Sidney Lee and C. T. Onions, 2 vols., 1916
- Simpson P. Simpson, *Shakespearian Punctuation*, 1911
- Sisson C. J. Sisson, *New Readings in Shakespeare*, 2 vols., 1965

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- Slater Eliot Slater, 'Shakespeare: word links between poems and plays', *N&Q* 220 (1975), 157–63
- Small Latine* T. W. Baldwin, *William Shakspeare's Small Latine & Lesse Greeke*, 2 vols., 1944
- SMP* Edmund Spenser, *The Minor Poems*, ed. E. de Selincourt, 1910
- Sp. Spanish
- Sprague *see* Daniel
- SpS* *Spenser Studies*
- Spurgeon Caroline Spurgeon, *Shakespeare's Imagery and What It Tells Us*, 1935
- SQ* *Shakespeare Quarterly*
- S. St.* *Shakespeare Studies*
- S. Sur.* *Shakespeare Survey*
- Staunton Howard Staunton, 'Unsuspected corruptions of Shakespeare's text', *Athenaeum*, 14 March 1874
- subst. substantively
- Surrey *Poems of Henry Howard Earl of Surrey*, ed. Emrys Jones, 1964
- TC* *Troilus and Criseyde (see Chaucer)*
- Tilley M. P. Tilley, *A Dictionary of the Proverbs in England in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*, 1950 (references are to numbered paragraphs)
- TLS* *Times Literary Supplement*
- TSE* *Texas Studies in English*
- Walker W. S. Walker, *A Critical Examination of the Text of Shakespeare*, ed. W. N. Lettsom, 3 vols., 1860
- Weelkes Thomas Weelkes *Madrigals To 3. 4. 5. and 6. voyces* (1597), in E. H. Fellowes, *English Madrigal Verse*, 1920
- Whitney Geoffrey Whitney, *A Choice of Emblemes*, Leiden, 1586 (ed. H. Green, 1866; reissued 1967)
- Willobie his Avisia* *The Queen Declined, An interpretation of Willobie his Avisia, with the Text of the Original Edition*, by B. N. De Luna, 1970
- Willoughby Edwin E. Willoughby, *A Printer of Shakespeare*, 1934
- Wyatt *The Complete Poems of Sir Thomas Wyatt* (Muses Library), ed. K. Muir, 1949