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978-0-521-77539-7 - The Cambridge Companion to: Shakespeare's History Plays

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The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare's History Plays

Shakespeare's history plays have been performed more in recent years than ever before, in Britain, North America, and in Europe. This volume provides an accessible, wide-ranging, and informed introduction to Shakespeare's history and Roman plays. It is attentive throughout to the plays as they have been performed over the centuries since they were written. The first part offers accounts of the genre of the history play, of Renaissance historiography, of pageants and masques, and of women's roles, as well as comparisons with history plays in Spain and the Netherlands. Chapters in the second part look at individual plays as well as other Shakespearean texts which are closely related to the histories. The *Companion* offers a full bibliography, genealogical tables, and a list of principal and recurrent characters. It is a comprehensive guide for students, researchers, and theatre-goers alike.

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ABBREVIATIONS

References to Shakespeare's plays when using the abbreviation alone are to volumes in the *New Cambridge Shakespeare*, published under the general editorship of Brian Gibbons and A. R. Braunmuller. Other editions are included in the following list.

Abbreviated titles are as follows:

- Ado* *Much Ado about Nothing*
Ant. *Antony and Cleopatra*, 1990, ed. David Bevington, New Cambridge Shakespeare.
AWW *All's Well that Ends Well*
AYLI *As You Like It*
Cor. *Coriolanus*, 1976, ed. Philip Brockbank, Arden Shakespeare; 1994, ed. R. B. Parker, Oxford Shakespeare; 2000, ed. Lee Bliss, New Cambridge Shakespeare.
Cym. *Cymbeline*
E3 *King Edward III*, 1998, ed. Giorgio Melchiori, New Cambridge Shakespeare.
Err. *The Comedy of Errors*
Ham. *Hamlet*
1H4 *King Henry IV, Part I*, 1960, ed. A. R. Humphreys, Arden Shakespeare; *The First Part of King Henry IV*, 1997, ed. Herbert Weil and Judith Weil, New Cambridge Shakespeare.
2H4 *The Second Part of King Henry the Fourth*, 1977, ed. Peter Davison, Penguin Shakespeare; *The Second Part of King Henry IV*, 1989, ed. Giorgio Melchiori, New Cambridge Shakespeare; *Henry IV, Part 2*, 1998, ed. Rene Weis, Oxford Shakespeare.
H5 *Henry V*, 1954, ed. J. H. Walter, Arden Shakespeare; 1968, ed. A. R. Humphreys, Penguin Shakespeare; 1982, ed. Gary Taylor, Oxford Shakespeare.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- 1H6 *The First Part of King Henry VI*, 1990, ed. Michael Hattaway, New Cambridge Shakespeare.
- 2H6 *The Second Part of King Henry VI*, 1991, ed. Michael Hattaway, New Cambridge Shakespeare.
- 3H6 *The Third Part of King Henry VI*, 1993, ed. Michael Hattaway, New Cambridge Shakespeare.
- H8 *King Henry the VIII*, 1964, ed. R. A. Foakes, New Arden Shakespeare; 1990, ed. John Margeson, New Cambridge Shakespeare; *King Henry VIII or All is True*, 2000, ed. Gordon McMullon, Arden Shakespeare.
- JC *Julius Caesar*, 1984, ed. Arthur Humphreys, Oxford Shakespeare; 1988, ed. Marvin Spevack, New Cambridge Shakespeare.
- John *King John*, 1990, ed. L. A. Beaurline, New Cambridge Shakespeare.
- LLL *Love's Labour's Lost*
- Lear *King Lear*, 1997, ed. R. A. Foakes, Arden Shakespeare.
- Mac. *Macbeth*, 1997, ed. A. R. Braunmuller, New Cambridge Shakespeare.
- MM *Measure for Measure*
- MND *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- MV *The Merchant of Venice*
- Oth. *Othello*
- Per. *Pericles*
- R2 *King Richard II*, 1984, ed. Andrew Gurr, New Cambridge Shakespeare.
- R3 *King Richard III*, 1981, ed. Antony Hammond, New Arden Shakespeare; *Richard III*, 1981, ed. Julie Hankey, Plays in Performance; *King Richard III*, 1999, ed. Janis Lull, New Cambridge Shakespeare.
- Rom. *Romeo and Juliet*
- Shr. *The Taming of the Shrew*
- STM *Sir Thomas More*
- Temp. *The Tempest*
- TGV *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*
- Tim. *Timon of Athens*
- Tit. *Titus Andronicus*, 1994, ed. Alan Hughes, New Cambridge Shakespeare; 1995, ed. Jonathan Bate, Arden Shakespeare.
- TN *Twelfth Night*

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- TNK *The Two Noble Kinsmen*
Tro. *Troilus and Cressida*, 1998, ed. David Bevington, Arden
Shakespeare.
Wiv. *The Merry Wives of Windsor*
WT *The Winter's Tale*

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Dates given for plays (some of which are as much tragedies or romances as histories) are of first performance unless otherwise specified; many of these dates are approximate.

Other history plays, extant or lost, performed in universities, at court, or the Inns of Court, or written in Latin, can be traced in Alfred Harbage (ed.), *Annals of English Drama 975–1700*, 3rd edn (London, 1989).

1509	Accession of Henry VIII
c.1521	Skelton, <i>Magnificence</i>
1547	Accession of Edward VI
1553	Accession of Mary Tudor
1558	Accession of Elizabeth I
1562	Norton and Sackville, <i>Gorboduc</i>
1564	Shakespeare born in Stratford-upon-Avon
1566	Red Lion playhouse opens
1576	The Theatre opens
1577	Curtain playhouse opens
1582	Shakespeare marries Anne Hathaway; the license is issued on 27 November and the first child (Susanna) is born six months later
1585	Shakespeare's twin son and daughter, Hamnet and Judith, born
c.1586	Shakespeare leaves Stratford; nothing is known for certain of his life between this date and 1592, by which time he is in London; Anon., <i>The Famous Victories of Henry V</i>
1587	Rose playhouse opens
c.1587	Marlowe, 1 <i>Tamburlaine</i>
c.1588	Marlowe, 2 <i>Tamburlaine</i> ; Lodge, <i>The Wounds of Civil War</i>
1589	Peele, <i>The Battle of Alcazar</i>

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- c.1590 Shakespeare, *Edward III*, 1–3 *Henry VI*; Anon., *King Leir*;
Anon., *The Troublesome Reign of John, King of England*
- c.1591 Peele, *Edward I*; Shakespeare, *Titus Andronicus*; Anon.,
The True Tragedy of Richard III; Anon., *Jack Straw*
- 1592 Marlowe, *Edward II*; Shakespeare, *Richard III*
- c.1593 Anon., *Thomas of Woodstock*; Anon., *Edmund Ironside*
- 1593 Daniel, *Cleopatra*; Marlowe, *The Massacre at Paris*
- 1595 Munday etc., *Sir Thomas More*; Anon., *Caesar and Pompey*;
Shakespeare, *Richard II*
- c.1596 Shakespeare, *King John*; Greville, *Mustapha*; Anon., *Captain
Thomas Stukeley*
- c.1597 Shakespeare, 1–2 *Henry IV*
- 1598 Chettle and Munday, *The Death of Robert, Earl of
Huntingdon, The Downfall of Robert, Earl of Huntingdon
(2 and 1 Robin Hood)*; Anon., *Look about You*
- c.1599 Globe playhouse opens; Drayton etc., 1 *Sir John Oldcastle*;
Heywood etc., 1 and 2 *Edward IV*; Shakespeare, *Henry V*,
Julius Caesar
- 1600 Greville, *Alaham*; Anon., *Lust's Dominion*; Anon., *Thomas
Lord Cromwell*
- 1602 Chettle, *Hoffman*; Dekker and Webster, *Sir Thomas Wyatt*;
Shakespeare, *Troilus and Cressida*
- 1603 Accession of James I, who takes the acting companies under
royal patronage; Shakespeare's company, the Chamberlain's
Men, becomes the King's Men; Jonson, *Sejanus*
- 1604 Cary, *Miriam*; Daniel, *Philotas*; Rowley, *When You See
Me You Know Me (Henry VIII)*
- 1605 Chapman, *Caesar and Pompey*; Shakespeare, *King Lear*;
Heywood, *If You Know not Me You Know Nobody*
- 1606 Shakespeare, *Macbeth, Antony and Cleopatra*
- 1607 Alexander, *Julius Caesar*; Anon., *Claudius Tiberius Nero*
- 1608 Shakespeare, *Coriolanus*
- 1611 Jonson, *Catiline his Conspiracy*
- c.1612 Chapman, *Chabot, Admiral of France*; 'R.A.', *The Valiant
Welshman*
- 1613 Shakespeare and Fletcher, *Henry VIII*
- 1616 Shakespeare dies in Stratford
- c.1618 Middleton, *Hengist, King of Kent*
- 1619 Fletcher and Massinger, *Sir John van Olden Barnavelte*;
Anon., *Nero*
- c.1622 Markham and Sampson, *Herod and Antipater*

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- 1623 Publication of the First Folio, the first collected edition of Shakespeare's plays; in it are published for the first time among others, *King John*, *1 Henry VI*, *Henry VIII*, *Coriolanus*, *Julius Caesar*, *Macbeth*, and *Antony and Cleopatra*
- 1624 Drue, *The Duchess of Suffolk*
- 1625 Accession of Charles I
- 1626 May, *Cleopatra*, *Queen of Egypt*
- c.1628 Davenport, *King John and Matilda*; May, *Julia Agrippina, Empress of Rome*; Anon., *Philander, King of Thrace*
- c.1633 Ford, *Perkin Warbeck*
- c.1637 Johnson, *Mortimer his Fall*