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978-0-521-81322-8 - Staged Properties in Early Modern English Drama

Jonathan Gil Harris and Natasha Korda

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## STAGED PROPERTIES IN EARLY MODERN ENGLISH DRAMA

This collection of essays studies the material, economic, and dramatic roles played by stage properties in early modern English drama. The received wisdom about the commercial stage in Shakespeare's time is that it was a bare one, uncluttered by objects. *Staged Properties* offers a timely critique of this view. In a series of provocative essays, the volume's contributors offer valuable evidence and insight into the modes of production, circulation and exchange that brought such diverse properties as sacred garments, household furnishings, pawned objects and even false beards onto the stage. Departing from previous scholarship, which has focused solely on the symbolic or iconographic aspects of props, these essays explore their material dimensions, and in particular, their status as a special form of property. In the process, the volume reflects upon what the material history of stage props may tell us about the changing demographics, modes of production and consumption, and notions of property that contributed to the rise of the commercial theatre in London.

JONATHAN GIL HARRIS is Robert Ryan Professor of the Humanities and Associate Professor of English at Ithaca College. He is the author of *Foreign Bodies and the Body Politic: Discourses of Social Pathology in Early Modern England* (1998), as well as numerous articles on Renaissance drama and culture.

NATASHA KORDA is author of *Shakespeare's Domestic Economies: Gender and Property in Early Modern England* (2002), and numerous essays on early modern drama and stage history. She is Associate Professor of English and Women's Studies at Wesleyan University.

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JONATHAN GIL HARRIS

*Ithaca College*

AND

NATASHA KORDA

*Wesleyan University*



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