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0521830958 - Textual Performances: The Modern Reproduction of Shakespeare's Drama

Edited by Lukas Erne and Margaret Jane Kidnie

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TEXTUAL PERFORMANCES

This important collection brings together leading scholars to examine crucial questions regarding the theory and practice of editing Shakespeare's plays. In particular the essays look at how best to engage editorially with evidence provided by historical research into the playhouse, author's study, and printing house. How are editors of playscripts to mediate history, in its many forms, for modern users? Considering our knowledge of the past is partial (in the senses both of incomplete and ideological), where are we to draw the line between legitimate editorial assistance and unwarranted interference? In what innovative ways might current controversies surrounding the mediation of Shakespeare's drama shape future editorial practice? Focusing on the key points of debate and controversy of the present moment, this collection makes a vital contribution to a better understanding of how editorial practice (on the page and in cyberspace) might develop in the twenty-first century.

LUKAS ERNE, Professor of English Literature at the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, is the author of *Shakespeare as Literary Dramatist* (Cambridge, 2003) and *Beyond 'The Spanish Tragedy': A Study of the Works of Thomas Kyd* (2001).

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Preface

Textual Performances grows out of a prolonged electronic correspondence between the volume's editors in the second half of 2001 which allowed us to identify and discuss what we thought of as vital questions about the modern reproduction of Shakespeare's drama. As the collection that proposes to explore these questions took shape, we received precious help from a number of friends and colleagues, especially Jeremy Ehrlich, James Purkis, and Stanley Wells. At Cambridge University Press, we wish to thank Sarah Stanton for her generous support, Emma Baxter, Margaret Berrill, Laura Hemming, and Jackie Warren for all their work on this book, and the Press's anonymous readers for their incisive comments.

Unless otherwise indicated, all quotations from and references to Shakespeare's plays and poems are keyed to the New Cambridge Shakespeare single-volume editions. Quotations from the First Folio are cited by Through Line Number (TLN) from Charlton Hinman's *The Norton Facsimile: The First Folio of Shakespeare*, 2nd edn, with an introduction by Peter W. M. Blayney (New York: Norton, 1996). *OED* refers to the second edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary* of 1989, while *STC* refers to *A Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, and Ireland and of English Books Printed Abroad, 1475–1640*, by Alfred W. Pollard, G. R. Redgrave, W. A. Jackson, F. S. Ferguson, and Katharine F. Pantzer, 2nd edn, 3 vols. (London: The Bibliographical Society, 1976–91).

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Appropriations (University of Pennsylvania, 1998), *The End Crowns All: Closure and Contradiction in Shakespeare's History* (Princeton University Press, 1991), *Henry IV, Part 2* in the Shakespeare in Performance series (Manchester University Press, 1996), and *The First Part of King Henry the Fourth: Texts and Contexts* (Bedford–St Martin's, 1997). She is presently editing the Arden3 *Taming of the Shrew*.

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