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978-0-521-88178-4 - The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare's Last Plays

Edited by Catherine M. S. Alexander

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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
SHAKESPEARE'S LAST PLAYS

Which plays are included under the heading 'Shakespeare's last plays', and when does Shakespeare's 'last' period begin? What is meant by a 'late play', and what are the benefits in defining plays in this way? Reflecting the recent growth of interest in late studies, and recognising the gaps in accessible scholarship in this area, leading international Shakespeare scholars address these and many other questions. The essays locate Shakespeare's last plays – single and co-authored – in the period of their composition, consider the significant characteristics of their Jacobean context, and explore the rich afterlives, on stage, in print and other media of *The Winter's Tale*, *Cymbeline*, *The Tempest*, *Pericles*, *The Two Noble Kinsmen* and *Henry VIII*. The volume opens with a historical timeline that places the plays in the contexts of contemporary political events, theatrical events, other cultural milestones, Shakespeare's life and that of his playing company, the King's Men.

CATHERINE M. S. ALEXANDER is a Fellow of the Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham.

A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book

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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

CATHERINE M. S. ALEXANDER is a Fellow of the Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham, and researches and writes on eighteenth-century Shakespeare. For CUP she has edited *Shakespeare and Politics* and *Shakespeare and Language* and, with Stanley Wells, *Shakespeare and Race* and *Shakespeare and Sexuality*. She has recently completed *Henry VIII* for Penguin and the illustrated and documented *Shakespeare: The Life, The Works, The Treasures* for Andre Deutsch and the RSC.

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SUZANNE GOSSETT is Professor of English at Loyola University Chicago. She is General Editor of Arden Early Modern Drama, for whom she is completing an edition of Beaumont and Fletcher's *Philaster*. She writes on issues of editing, feminism, and collaboration, and is the editor of many early modern plays, including Shakespeare's *Pericles* for Arden Three (2004), Middleton and Rowley's *A Fair Quarrel* (*Collected Middleton*, 2007), and Chapman, Jonson and Marston's *Eastward Ho!* for the *Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson* (forthcoming).

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RUSS McDONALD is the author of *Shakespeare's Late Style* (Cambridge 2006) and a variety of books and articles on Shakespeare and Renaissance Culture. Having taught in several American universities, including the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he was North Carolina Professor of the Year in 2003, he is currently Professor of English Literature at Goldsmiths, University of London.

GORDON MCMULLAN is Professor of English at King's College London and a general editor of Arden Early Modern Drama. His most recent books are a monograph, *Shakespeare and the Idea of Late Writing: Authorship in the Proximity of Death*, and a collection of essays, *Reading the Medieval in Early Modern England*, co-edited with David Matthews (both Cambridge, 2007). He has edited *Henry VIII* for Arden Shakespeare (2000) and *1 Henry IV* for Norton Critical Editions (2003).

CHARLES MOSELEY was for many years Programme Director of the University of Cambridge International Shakespeare Summer School. He is Fellow and Tutor of Hughes Hall, Cambridge, and Affiliated Lecturer in the Faculty of English. Recent publications include an edition of *The Travels of Sir John Mandeville* (2005), *English Renaissance Drama: A Very Brief Introduction* (Humanities E-books, 2007) and studies of *King Henry IV* (2007), *Richard III* (2007) and *The Tempest* (2007). He is a Fellow of the English Association and of The Society of Antiquaries.

CLARE SMOUT spent many years as a director and dramaturg. She is currently studying for a D.Phil. at Magdalen College, Oxford, and teaches for the universities of Birmingham, Oxford and Cambridge. Forthcoming publications include a chapter on Mariah Gale for Routledge's *Actors' Shakespeare* plus RSC performance histories for Jonathan Bate's editions of *The Winter's Tale*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Timon of Athens*. She reviews regularly for *Cahiers Elisabethains* and *Shakespeare*.

PATRICIA TATSPAUGH who has held academic and administrative posts in the USA and directed a study-abroad programme and lectured in the UK, has published *The Winter's Tale* in the series Shakespeare at Stratford (general editor Robert Smallwood, Arden Shakespeare, 2002) and contributed a performance history of *The Winter's Tale* for the New Variorum edition (eds. Robert Kean Turner and Virginia Westling Haas, Modern Language Association, 2005), essays on Shakespeare in performance and on film, and reviews of performances in *Shakespeare Bulletin* and *Shakespeare Quarterly*.

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Early print and performance history

- Pericles* written 1607–8; seen by the Venetian and French Ambassadors at the Globe in 1607/8; performed by touring actors in a Catholic context in Yorkshire in 1609–10; presented at court in 1619; printed in quarto in 1609 (twice), 1611 and 1619, but excluded from the 1623 Folio, and finally included in Shakespeare's complete works in a supplement to the second issue of the Third Folio, 1664.
- The Winter's Tale* written 1609–10; seen by Simon Forman at the Globe in 1611; performed at court in 1611, 1618, possibly 1619, and 1624, as well as during the 1612–13 betrothal celebrations for Princess Elizabeth; first printed in the 1623 Folio.
- Cymbeline* written 1610–11; seen by Simon Forman at an unspecified venue in 1611; first printed in the 1623 Folio.
- The Tempest* written 1610–11; recorded performances at court in 1611 and again during the 1612–13 betrothal celebrations for Princess Elizabeth; first printed in the 1623 Folio.
- Cardenio* written 1612–13; two recorded performances at court in 1613; entered in the Stationers' Register in 1653 but apparently not published at that point; no copy survives.
- Henry VIII* written 1613; recorded performance at the Globe in 1613; first printed in the 1623 Folio.

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The Two Noble Kinsmen written 1613–14; recorded performance at court in 1619; first published in 1634, in quarto, attributed to Fletcher and Shakespeare; not included in Shakespeare's collected works until the mid-nineteenth century.

Date	Political events	Shakespeare and the King's Men	Other theatrical events	Cultural context
1603	Death of Elizabeth I Accession of James I Surrender of Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone and leader of the Irish Plague closes London theatres from May until April 1604	Chamberlain's Men become the King's Men Jonson: <i>Sejanus</i> Shakespeare: <i>Measure for Measure</i> Shakespeare: <i>A Lover's Complaint</i> Shakespeare: additions to Munday's <i>Sir Thomas More</i>	Heywood: <i>A Woman Killed with Kindness</i> Middleton: <i>The Phoenix</i>	Gibbons becomes a musician of the Chapel Royal
1604	Peace concluded with Spain Hampton Court Conference between Anglican clergy and Puritan leaders Tax on tobacco introduced	King's Men march in livery in King James's coronation procession Shakespeare: <i>Othello</i> King's Men acquire Marston's <i>Malcontent</i>	Daniel: <i>Philotas</i> Marston: <i>The Fawn</i> Middleton: <i>Michaelmas Term</i>	Dowland: <i>Lachrimae</i>
1605	Gunpowder Plot	Munday: <i>The Triumphs of Britannia</i> Shakespeare: <i>King Lear</i>	First collaboration between Jonson and Jones: <i>Masque of Blackness</i>	Bacon: <i>The Advancement of Learning</i> Byrd: <i>Gradualia</i> , Book One

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		Shakespeare and Middleton: <i>Timon of Athens</i>	Playwrights of <i>Eastward Ho!</i> imprisoned for anti-Scottish portrayals Red Bull Theatre opens Rose Theatre closes	Cervantes: <i>Don Quixote</i> Caravaggio: <i>Ecce Homo</i>
1606	London and Plymouth Companies given charters to colonise Virginia The first Union Flag introduced Theatres closed due to plague, June to December	Fletcher: <i>The Noble Gentleman</i> Jonson: <i>Volpone</i> Middleton: <i>The Revenger's Tragedy</i> Shakespeare: <i>Macbeth</i> Shakespeare: <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> Wilkins: <i>The Miseries of Enforced Marriage</i>	Parliament passes <i>Act to Restrain Abuses of Players</i> prohibiting blasphemy onstage Boy actors from Children of the Queen's Revels imprisoned for involvement in <i>The Isle of Gulls</i> Death of Lyly Birth of Davenant	Birth of Rembrandt
1607	The 'Midlands Rising' against the practice of enclosures Jamestown founded, the first successful British colony in North America Theatres closed all year due to plague, except for one week in April	Shakespeare: <i>All's Well That Ends Well</i> Shakespeare and Wilkins: <i>Pericles</i> Amateur performances of <i>Hamlet</i> and <i>Richard II</i> aboard an East India Company ship off Africa Marriage of Shakespeare's daughter	Beaumont: <i>The Knight of the Burning Pestle</i>	Halley's Comet observed by Kepler Jones: <i>First Set of Madrigals</i> Monteverdi: <i>L'Orfeo</i>

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		Susanna to John Hall		
		Death of Shakespeare's actor brother Edmund and his son		
1608	Theatres reopen in April, close again due to plague in late July.	King's Men start performing at the Blackfriars, though also continuing to use the Globe in summer	Whitefriars Theatre opened Fletcher: <i>The Faithful Shepherdess</i>	Birth of Milton Wilkins: <i>The Painful Adventures of Pericles, Prince of Tyre</i> (prose narrative)
		Shakespeare: <i>Coriolanus</i>		
		Birth of Shakespeare's granddaughter Elizabeth		
		Death of Shakespeare's mother		
1609	<i>The Sea Venture</i> wrecked in the Bermudas (source for <i>The Tempest</i>) The Moors expelled from Spain Theatres remain closed due to plague	Beaumont and Fletcher: <i>Philaster</i> Shakespeare: <i>The Winter's Tale</i> Shakespeare's <i>Sonnets</i> printed, probably without permission	Jonson: <i>Epicene</i> Jonson: <i>The Masque of Queens</i>	Galileo demonstrates the telescope Death of Dr Dee
1610	Theatres reopen in January Prince Henry created Prince of Wales Henri IV of France murdered; Louis XIII succeeds	Shakespeare: <i>Cymbeline</i> Shakespeare: <i>King Lear</i> reworked	Daniel and Jones: <i>Tethys' Festival</i> Buc replaces Tilney as Master of the Revels	Death of Caravaggio Galileo discovers Jupiter's four largest moons Herriot is first to observe sunspots

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- Guy leads expedition to colonise Newfoundland
- 1611 Plantation of Ulster begins
Roe explores 300 miles up the Amazon River
- 1612 Death of Prince Henry (aged eighteen)
Execution of the Lancashire Witches
- 1613 Marriage of Princess Elizabeth to the Elector Palatine
- Fletcher: *The Tamer Tamed*
Jonson: *The Alchemist*
Shakespeare: *The Tempest*
Tourneur: *The Atheist's Tragedy*
Shakespeare and Fletcher: *Cardenio*
Death of Shakespeare's brother Gilbert
- Shakespeare and Fletcher: *Henry VIII*
Globe Theatre burns down during a performance of *Henry VIII*
- Heywood: *The Brazen Age*
Heywood: *The Silver Age*
Middleton: *The Roaring Girl*
Webster: *The White Devil*
Heywood: *An Apology for Actors*
Beaumont: *Masque of the Inner Temple and Gray's Inn* (source of the morris dance in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*)
Middleton: *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside*
- King James Bible published
Byrd: *Psalmes, Songs, and Sonnets*
Cervantes's *Don Quixote* published in English (source of *Cardenio*)
Drayton: *Poly-Olbion*
Gibbons: *The First Set Of Madrigals and Motetts*
Dowland appointed lutenist to James I
Death of Gabrieli

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1614	'Addled Parliament' summoned but dissolved having passed no legislation	Native American Pocohontas marries Englishman Rolfe in Virginia	Shakespeare and Fletcher: <i>The Two Noble Kinsmen</i> Webster: <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> Rebuilt Globe Theatre opens	Jonson: <i>Bartholomew Fair</i> Hope Theatre opens	Death of El Greco
1615			Death of Armin	Representatives of four leading theatre companies including King's Men summoned before Privy Council for performing in Lent	Rubens: <i>The Death of Seneca</i> Donne ordained
1616	Prince Charles created Prince of Wales Rolfe and Pocohontas visit London	Marriage of Shakespeare's daughter Judith to Thomas Quiney Death of Shakespeare Jonson: <i>The Devil is an Ass</i> Middleton: <i>The Witch</i>		Jonson's <i>Workes</i> printed in folio Cockpit Theatre opens Death of Henslowe Death of Beaumont	Chapman: <i>Whole Works of Homer</i> Rubens: <i>Hippopotamus and Crocodile Hunt</i> Hals: <i>Banquet of the Officers of the St George Militia Company</i> Galileo argues in support of Copernicus's theory of the solar system Copernicus's <i>De Revolutionibus</i> banned by the

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				Catholic Church
				Death of Cervantes
1617			Jonson becomes Poet Laureate	Death of Breugel
			Cockpit Theatre destroyed in apprentice riots and rebuilt as the Phoenix	
1618	Bacon appointed Lord Chancellor			Harvey lectures on the circulation of blood
	Raleigh executed			
	Start of the Thirty Years War			
1619	Death of Queen Anne	Death of Burbage	Alleyn founds Dulwich College	Whitehall Banqueting House designed by Inigo Jones
		King's Men block an attempt by Pavier and Jaggard to print a collection of ten of Shakespeare's plays (including <i>Pericles</i>)		Schütz: <i>Psalms of David</i>
1620	The <i>Mayflower</i> takes settlers from Plymouth to Cape Cod	Middleton: <i>Hengist, King of Kent</i>	Middleton appointed Chronologer of the City of London	Bacon: <i>Novum Organum</i>
				Artemisia
				Gentileschi: <i>Judith Decapitating Holofernes</i>
1621		Dekker, Ford, Rowley: <i>The Witch of Edmonton</i>	Fortune Theatre burnt down	Burton: <i>Anatomy of Melancholy</i>
		Fletcher: <i>The Island Princess</i>		Wroth: <i>Countess of Montgomery's Urania</i>
		Middleton: <i>Women Beware Women</i>		

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1622	Ignatius Loyola canonised		Middleton and Rowley: <i>The Changeling</i>	Birth of Molière
1623		Shakespeare: First Folio printed Fletcher: <i>The Sea Voyage</i> Death of Shakespeare's wife, Anne	Herbert appointed Master of the Revels	Velázquez: <i>The Investiture Of St Ildefonso With The Chasuble</i> Death of Byrd
1624	Pope orders Luther's German translation of the Bible to be burned Cardinal Richelieu appointed adviser to Louis XIII	Massinger: <i>The Parliament of Love</i> Middleton: <i>A Game at Chess</i> has continuous nine day run before being banned		
1625	Death of James I; Accession of Charles I Dutch settlement in Manhattan	Death of Fletcher Massinger becomes principal playwright for the King's Men		Death of Gibbons

Dates of composition of Shakespeare's plays have been taken from *William Shakespeare: The Complete Works*, ed. Stanley Wells *et al.*, 2nd edn (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005); dates of Middleton's plays taken from *Thomas Middleton: The Complete Works*, ed. Gary Taylor and John Lavagnino (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2007); all other play dates taken from *Annals of English Drama, 975–1700*, ed. Alfred Harbage, revised by S. Schoenbaum and Sylvia Stoler Wagonheim, 3rd edn (London and New York: Routledge, 1989).