

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-88632-1 - The New Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare

Edited by Margreta De Grazia and Stanley Wells

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THE NEW CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
SHAKESPEARE

Written by a team of leading international scholars, this *Companion* is designed to illuminate Shakespeare's works through discussion of the key topics of Shakespeare studies. Twenty-one brand new essays provide lively and authoritative approaches to recent scholarship and criticism for readers keen to expand their knowledge and appreciation of Shakespeare. The book contains stimulating chapters on traditional topics such as Shakespeare's biography and the transmission of his texts. Individual readings of the plays are given in the context of genre as well as through the cultural and historical perspectives of race, sexuality and gender, and politics and religion. Essays on performance survey the latest digital media as well as stage and film. Throughout the volume, contributors discuss Shakespeare's long and constantly mutating history of reception and performance in both national and global contexts.

MARGRETA DE GRAZIA is the Sheli Z. and Burt X. Rosenberg Chair in the Humanities and Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of *Shakespeare Verbatim* (1991) and *'Hamlet' without Hamlet* (2007). She has also co-edited *Subject and Object in Renaissance Culture* (1996) with Maureen Quilligan and Peter Sallibrass.

STANLEY WELLS is Chairman of the Trustees of Shakespeare's Birthplace, Emeritus Professor of Shakespeare Studies of the University of Birmingham and Honorary Emeritus Governor of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. He was for nearly twenty years the editor of the annual *Shakespeare Survey*, is General Editor of the Oxford and Penguin editions of Shakespeare, and writes for the *New York Review of Books* and many other publications. His most recent books include *Shakespeare: For All Time* (2002); *Looking for Sex in Shakespeare* (2004); *Shakespeare and Co.* (2006); *Is It True What They Say About Shakespeare?* (2007); and *Shakespeare, Sex and Love* (2010).

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

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EDITED BY

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University of Pennsylvania

STANLEY WELLS

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust



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CONTRIBUTORS

- ANSTON BOSMAN, Amherst College
- COLIN BURROW, All Souls College, Oxford
- ANTHONY DAWSON, University of British Columbia
- ANDREW DICKSON, *The Guardian*
- JANETTE DILLON, University of Nottingham
- JEFF DOLVEN, Princeton University
- STEPHEN GREENBLATT, Harvard University
- JONATHAN GIL HARRIS, George Washington University
- TON HOENSELAARS, Utrecht University
- JONATHAN HOPE, University of Strathclyde
- HEATHER JAMES, University of Southern California
- SEAN KEILEN, College of William and Mary
- CLAIRE MCEACHERN, University of California, Los Angeles
- ANDREW MURPHY, University of St Andrews
- MICHAEL NEILL, University of Auckland

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LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

- STEPHEN ORGEL, Stanford University
PAUL PRESCOTT, University of Warwick
KATHERINE ROWE, Bryn Mawr College
EMMA SMITH, Hertford College, Oxford
TIFFANY STERN, University College, Oxford
STANLEY WELLS, The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust
H. R. WOULDHUYSEN, University College London

PREFACE

Shakespeare was the first author to receive a Cambridge Companion. He is also the author to have received the most Companions. This volume of twenty-one newly commissioned essays constitutes the fifth, following the Companions of 1934, 1971, 1986 and 2001.

Shakespeare may indeed be for all time, but as the times change, so also do our ways of experiencing his poems and plays. The chapters of this volume bear witness to those changes on the page, stage and screen. Written by an international group of Shakespearians (from Britain, the United States, Canada, Holland, New Zealand and South Africa), they offer a distillation of recent scholarship and criticism for readers keen to expand their knowledge and appreciation of Shakespeare.

The chapters cover the traditional categories of Shakespeare study – his life, times and work – often with an innovative twist. The facts of Shakespeare's life are provided, but with an awareness of how the biographer's imagination is needed to transform those scant facts into a smooth narrative. Shakespeare's times, his historical and cultural context, are discussed with an eye to both the continuities and differences between his past and our present. Six chapters, organized by genre, focus on the works, reflecting a turn back to literary form and value as well as a heightened sense of their embeddedness in historical discourse. Chapters on Shakespeare's reading habits and writing techniques help account for his singular genius and skill; those on the playhouse and printing house explore the practices by which his works were produced in his own lifetime.

During the four centuries since then, Shakespeare's works have retained their force and vitality, as is apparent in the chapters on the transmission of his texts, on the traditions of theatrical performance, on the critical reception of his works and on the appropriations of popular culture. The volume closes with three chapters designed to steer readers through the dynamic developments of the present: an account of Shakespeare's globalization, an overview of today's transformative new technologies and a guide through

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PREFACE

the vast welter of recent multi-faceted materials, published and online, by which interest in Shakespeare continues to be informed and stimulated.

A selective reading list appears after each chapter. Readers wishing to continue to keep abreast of current developments in Shakespearian studies may do so through the review articles in *Shakespeare Survey*, published annually by Cambridge University Press. Quotations from Shakespeare in this volume are from the Oxford *Complete Works* (1986 etc.), General Editors Stanley Wells and Gary Taylor; act, scene and line references are to the reprint of that text in the *Norton Shakespeare* (1998, etc.), General Editor Stephen Greenblatt. Quotations from the works of Shakespeare's contemporaries are normally modernized. Thanks to Sarah Stanton for her keen attention to the volume at all stages of production, to Bronwyn Wallace for her timely help with preparing the manuscript, and to Rebecca Jones and Elizabeth Davey for overseeing the final labours.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: A PARTIAL CHRONOLOGY

Dates of composition below do not in all cases correspond with dates of publication given in individual chapters.

26 April 1564	baptized in Stratford-upon-Avon
28 November 1582	marriage licence issued for William Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway
26 May 1583	baptism of Susanna, their daughter
2 February 1585	baptism of Hamnet and Judith, their twin son and daughter
1592	Robert Greene refers to Shakespeare as an 'upstart crow'
1593	publication of <i>Venus and Adonis</i>
1594	publication of <i>The Rape of Lucrece</i>
15 March 1595	Shakespeare named as joint payee of the Lord Chamberlain's Men, founded in 1594
11 August 1596	burial of Hamnet Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon
October 1596	draft of the grants of arms to John, Shakespeare's father
4 May 1597	Shakespeare buys New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon
1598	Shakespeare listed as one of the 'principal comedians' in Jonson's <i>Every Man in his Humour</i>
1598	mention of Shakespeare in Francis Meres' <i>Palladis Tamia</i>
1599	building of the Globe
8 September 1601	burial of John Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon
2 February 1602	John Manningham notes performance of <i>Twelfth Night</i> at the Middle Temple
1 May 1602	Shakespeare pays £320 for land in Old Stratford

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: A PARTIAL CHRONOLOGY

1603	Shakespeare named among the ‘principal tragedians’ in Jonson’s <i>Sejanus</i>
May 1603	Shakespeare named in documents conferring the title of the King’s Men on their company
24 July 1605	Shakespeare pays £440 for an interest on the tithes in Stratford
5 June 1607 1608	Susanna Shakespeare marries John Hall the King’s Men take over the indoor Blackfriars theatre
9 September 1608 1609 1612	burial of Mary, Shakespeare’s mother, in Stratford publication of the Sonnets Shakespeare testifies in the Belott–Mountjoy case
10 March 1613 1613	Shakespeare buys the Blackfriars Gatehouse Globe burns down during a performance of <i>All is True</i> (<i>Henry VIII</i>)
September 1614	Shakespeare involved in enclosure disputes in Stratford
10 February 1616 25 March 1616 25 April 1616	Judith Shakespeare marries Thomas Quiney Shakespeare’s will drawn up in Stratford Shakespeare buried in Stratford (the monument records that he died on 23 April)
8 August 1623 1623	burial of Anne Shakespeare in Stratford publication of the First Folio
16 July 1649	burial of Susanna Hall in Stratford
9 February 1662 1670	burial of Judith Quiney in Stratford death of Shakespeare’s last direct descendant, his grand-daughter Elizabeth, who married Thomas Nash in 1626 and John (later Sir John) Bernard in 1649

A CONJECTURAL CHRONOLOGY OF
 SHAKESPEARE'S WORKS

It is particularly difficult to establish the dates of composition and the relative chronology of the early works, up to those named by Francis Meres in his *Palladis Tamia* of 1598. The following table is based on the 'Canon and Chronology' section in *William Shakespeare: A Textual Companion*, by Stanley Wells and Gary Taylor, with John Jowett and William Montgomery (1987), where more detailed information and discussion may be found.

<i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>	1590–1
<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>	1590–1
<i>The First Part of the Contention</i> (2 Henry VI)	1591
<i>Richard Duke of York</i> (3 Henry VI)	1591
1 Henry VI	1592
<i>Titus Andronicus</i>	1592
<i>Richard III</i>	1592–3
<i>Venus and Adonis</i>	1592–3
<i>The Rape of Lucrece</i>	1593–4
<i>The Comedy of Errors</i>	1594
<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>	1594–5
<i>Richard II</i>	1595
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	1595
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	1595
<i>King John</i>	1596
<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	1596–7
1 Henry IV	1596–7
<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i>	1597–8
2 Henry IV	1597–8
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	1598
<i>Henry V</i>	1598–9
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	1599
<i>As You Like It</i>	1599–1600

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A CONJECTURAL CHRONOLOGY OF SHAKESPEARE'S WORKS

<i>Hamlet</i>	1600–1
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	1600–1
<i>Troilus and Cressida</i>	1602
The Sonnets	1593–1603
<i>Measure for Measure</i>	1603
<i>A Lover's Complaint</i>	1603–4
<i>Sir Thomas More</i>	1603–4
<i>Othello</i>	1603–4
<i>All's Well that Ends Well</i>	1604–5
<i>Timon of Athens</i>	1605
<i>King Lear</i>	1605–6
<i>Macbeth</i>	1606
<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>	1606
<i>Pericles</i>	1607
<i>Coriolanus</i>	1608
<i>The Winter's Tale</i>	1609
<i>Cymbeline</i>	1610
<i>The Tempest</i>	1611
<i>Henry VIII (All is True)</i>	1613
<i>The Two Noble Kinsmen</i>	1613–14