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978-0-521-88641-3 - The Language of Space in Court Performance, 1400-1625

Janette Dillon

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THE LANGUAGE OF SPACE IN COURT PERFORMANCE, 1400–1625

Where was the chair of Mary Queen of Scots placed for her trial? How was Smithfield set up for public executions? How many paces did the King walk forward to meet a visiting ambassador in the Presence Chamber at Greenwich? How were spectators arranged at tournaments? And why did any of this matter? Janette Dillon adds a new dimension to work on space and theatricality by providing a comparative analysis of a range of spectacular historical events. She investigates in detail the claim that early modern court culture was always inherently performative, demonstrating how every kind of performance was shaped by its own space and place. Using a range of evidence, visual as well as verbal, and illustrating the text with some unfamiliar as well as better-known images, Dillon leads the reader to general principles and conclusions through a set of minutely observed case studies.

JANETTE DILLON is Professor of Drama at the University of Nottingham. Her books include *Language and Stage in Medieval and Renaissance England* (1998), *Theatre, Court and City 1595–1610* (2000), *Performance and Spectacle in Hall's Chronicle* (2002), *The Cambridge Introduction to Early English Theatre* (2006) and *The Cambridge Introduction to Shakespeare's Tragedies* (2007). She has also revised the Penguin editions of *Much Ado About Nothing* and *All's Well That Ends Well* and has published a wide range of articles on Shakespeare and early drama, as well as work on non-dramatic literature.

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JANETTE DILLON

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Preface

I am grateful to many friends and colleagues for help and advice on this project. Julie Sanders urged me to write it, and Katherine Duncan-Jones, Andrew Gurr and Ron Carter supported me from the earliest germ of the idea. Greg Walker, Simon Shepherd, Jim Moran and Maire ní Flathúin have read and commented on draft chapters and have greatly enriched the book with their suggestions. Simon Adams, J. G. Bellamy, Silvia Bordoni, Richard K. Morris, Daria Perocco, Christine Reynolds, Simon Thurley and Laura Tosi have kindly discussed queries with me or supplied information or advice. Brean Hammond has read the whole thing, discussed it with me more times than he may care to remember and believed in it when I was less than sure. Without these conversations it would have been far less fun to write.

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I have retained original spelling for all unedited quotations from medieval and early modern sources, whether print or manuscript, but have modernized typography (including capitalization), expanded abbreviations and very occasionally adjusted punctuation. I have also applied this minimal modernization to quotations from edited texts.

Abbreviations

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| <i>Acts and Monuments</i> | <i>Foxe's Book of Martyrs</i> , Variorum Edition Online |
| <i>CSP Scotland</i> | <i>Calendar of State Papers Relating to Scotland and Mary Queen of Scots, 1547–1603</i> , ed. J. Bain <i>et al.</i> (Edinburgh: HMSO, 1898–1969) |
| <i>CSPS</i> | <i>Calendar of State Papers, Spanish</i> , ed. G. A. Bergenroth <i>et al.</i> (London: Longman, 1862–1954) |
| <i>CSPV</i> | <i>Calendar of State Papers, Venetian</i> , ed. Rawdon Brown <i>et al.</i> (London: Longman, 1864–1947) |
| EETS | Early English Text Society |
| <i>Excerpta</i> | Samuel Bentley, <i>Excerpta Historica</i> (London: Richard Bentley, 1883) |
| Gascoigne | <i>The Princely Pleasures at the Courte of Kenelwoorth</i> , in Nichols |
| <i>Journal</i> | André Hurault, <i>A Journal of all that was accomplished by Monsieur de Maisse . . .</i> , trans. and ed. G. B. Harrison (London: Nonesuch Press, 1931) |
| <i>Letter</i> | R. J. P. Kuin (ed.), <i>A Letter by Robert Laneham</i> (Leiden: Brill, 1983) |
| <i>LP</i> | <i>Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, of the Reign of Henry VIII, 1509–47</i> , ed. J. S. Brewer, James Gairdner and R. H. Brodie (London: HMSO, 1862–1910; 1920) |
| <i>Memoirs</i> | <i>Memoirs of Sir James Melville of Halhill, 1535–1617</i> , ed. Francis Steuart (London: Routledge, 1929) |

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| ODNB | <i>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i> www.oxforddnb.com |
| OED | <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> www.oed.com |
| <i>Performance and Spectacle</i> | Janette Dillon, <i>Performance and Spectacle in Hall's Chronicle</i> (London: Society for Theatre Research, 2002) |
| <i>Trial</i> | <i>The Trial of Mary Queen of Scots: A Brief History with Documents</i> , ed. Jayne Elizabeth Lewis (Boston and New York: Bedford/St Martins, 1999) |