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## BEN JONSON IN CONTEXT

Bringing together a group of established and emergent Jonson scholars, this volume reacts to major new advances in thinking about the writer and his canon of works. The study is divided into two distinct parts: the first considers the Jonsonian career and output from biographical, critical and performance-based angles; the second looks at cultural and historical contexts, building on rich interdisciplinary work. Social historians work alongside literary critics to provide a diverse and varied account of Jonson. These are less standard surveys of the field than vibrant interventions into current critical debates. The short-essay format of the collection seeks less to harmonize and homogenize than to raise awareness of new avenues of research on Jonson, including studies informed by book history, cultural geography, the law and legal discourse, the history of science and interests in material culture.

JULIE SANDERS is Professor of English Literature and Drama at the University of Nottingham. She is the author of *Ben Jonson's Theatrical Republics* (1998) and has recently edited *The New Inn* for The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson.

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Portrait of Benjamin Jonson, by Abraham van Blyenberch

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# BEN JONSON IN CONTEXT

EDITED BY  
JULIE SANDERS



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*To the venture tripartite – David Bevington, Martin Butler  
and Ian Donaldson – with respect and thanks*

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## *Illustrations*

For kind permission to reproduce the images and for supplying photographs, the Editor would like to thank the following libraries and museums: The Bridgeman Art Library; The British Library; Chatsworth House; the Courtauld Gallery; English Heritage; and the National Portrait Gallery, London; as well as the Royal Bank of Scotland Group, Sophie Baker Photography and John Higham for additional images, plus Cambridge University Press for the permission to reproduce the map which appears as Figure 12.1. Every effort has been made to secure necessary permissions to reproduce copyright material in this work. If any omissions are brought to our notice, we will be happy to include appropriate acknowledgements in any subsequent edition.

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The volume was commissioned by Sarah Stanton at Cambridge University Press, and she has remained wholly engaged in the process from start to finish. I am deeply grateful for her insight and support at all times. It is something of an honour that these chapters will appear in print in close proximity to the monumental new Cambridge University Press edition of Jonson's works. It is a project on which I consider myself as having served a remarkable apprenticeship, and I am glad to have the opportunity to thank the three general editors, David Bevington, Martin Butler and Ian Donaldson, here by means of the dedication not only for their work on that project but also for their support and encouragement at numerous stages of my career in the considerable shadow of Ben Jonson.

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### *Note on editions used*

The edition of Jonson referred to throughout, unless otherwise indicated, is *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson*, general editors David Bevington, Martin Butler and Ian Donaldson. The edition is due to be published by Cambridge University Press in 2011, and I am grateful to the editors and the Press for advance access to the edition at proof stage.

## *Chronology*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Jonson's life and works</b>	<b>Events</b>
1572	Ben Jonson born.	
1587		Rose Theatre built.
1588		Defeat of Spanish Armada.
1589		James VI travels to Denmark to marry Princess Anna of Denmark.
1595		Swan Theatre built.
1596		Second Blackfriars Theatre built.
1597	<i>The Case is Altered</i> performed. <i>The Isle of Dogs</i> [lost play] performed.	<i>Isle of Dogs</i> controversy.
1598	<i>Every Man In His Humour</i> performed. Jonson imprisoned over death of actor Gabriel Spencer in a duel. Narrowly escapes hanging. Branded with T for Tyburn.	Material from The Theatre transported for reconstruction as Globe Theatre.
1599	<i>Every Man Out of His Humour</i> performed.	
1600	<i>Cynthia's Revels</i> ( <i>The Fountain of Self-Love</i> ) performed?	Fortune Theatre built. Second Blackfriars Theatre first used.
1601	<i>Poetaster, or The Arraignment</i> performed. <i>Every Man In His Humour</i> Quarto published.	Essex rebellion (fails).

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1602	Additions to <i>The Spanish Tragedy</i> written?	
1603	<i>A Particular Entertainment at Althorp</i> . <i>Sejanus His Fall</i> performed?	Death of Elizabeth I. Accession of James VI of Scotland as James I of England.
1604		James VI adopts title 'King of Great Britain, France and Ireland'.
1605	<i>The Masque of Blackness</i> performed. <i>Eastward Ho!</i> performed.	Gunpowder Plot.
1606	<i>Hymenaei</i> performed. <i>Volpone</i> performed.	?Whitefriars Theatre built (not in use until 1609).
1607	<i>An Entertainment at Theobalds</i> performed.	John Smith settles Jamestown, Virginia.
1608	<i>The Masque of Beauty</i> performed. <i>The Haddington Masque</i> performed.	
1609	<i>The Masque of Queens</i> performed. <i>The Entertainment at Britain's Burse</i> performed. <i>Epicene, or The Silent Woman</i> performed.	
1610	<i>The Alchemist</i> performed.	
1611	<i>Oberon, The Fairy Prince</i> performed. <i>Love Freed From Ignorance and Folly</i> performed. <i>Catiline His Conspiracy</i> performed.	
1612	'To Penshurst' written.	Death of Henry, Prince of Wales.
1614	<i>Bartholomew Fair</i> performed.	
1615	<i>Mercury Vindicated from the Alchemists at Court</i> performed.	Inigo Jones appointed Surveyor of the King's Works.
1616	<i>The Golden Age Restored</i> performed. <i>Every Man In His Humour</i> folio published.	Death of Shakespeare.

## Chronology

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- Epigrams* published.  
*The Forest* published.  
*The Devil is an Ass* performed.  
*Christmas His Masque* performed.
- 1617 *The Vision of Delight* performed. James VI and I visits  
*Lovers Made Men* performed. Scotland.
- 1618 *Pleasure Reconciled to Virtue*  
 performed.  
*For the Honour of Wales* performed.  
 Jonson's walk to Scotland.
- 1619 *Informations to William* Death of Queen Anna.  
*Drummond* (published 1711).
- 1620 *News From the New World*  
*Discovered in the Moon*  
 performed.  
*The Cavendish Christening*  
*Entertainment* performed.
- 1621 *Pan's Anniversary, or The*  
*Shepherd's Holiday* performed.  
*The Gypsies Metamorphosed*  
 performed.
- 1622 *The Masque of Augurs* performed.
- 1623 *Time Vindicated to Himself and to*  
*His Honours* performed.
- 1624 *Neptune's Triumph for the*  
*Return of Albion* planned but  
 unperformed.
- 1625 *The Fortunate Isles and Their*  
*Union* performed. Death of James VI and I;  
 accession of Charles I.  
 Charles I marries  
 Henrietta Maria.
- 1626 *The Staple of News* performed.
- 1629 *The New Inn* performed. Charles dissolves  
 parliament: beginning  
 of eleven-year period of  
 'personal rule' without  
 parliament.
- 1631 *Love's Triumph through Callipolis*  
 performed.  
*Chloridia* performed.

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| 1632 | <i>The Magnetic Lady</i> performed.   |   |
| 1633 | <i>A Tale of a Tub</i> performed.<br><i>The King's Entertainment at Welbeck</i> performed.  | Charles I visits Scotland for his coronation. |
| 1634 | <i>Love's Welcome at Bolsover</i> performed.  |   |
| 1637 | <i>The Sad Shepherd</i> written (unfinished at time of death).<br>Ben Jonson dies.<br>( <i>The Underwood</i> and <i>Timber, or Discoveries</i> published in 1640–41.) |   |