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## SHAKESPEARE, MALONE AND THE PROBLEMS OF CHRONOLOGY

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CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-009-22472-7 — Shakespeare, Malone and the Problems of Chronology  
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Frontmatter  
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Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009224727](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009224727)

DOI: 10.1017/9781009224710

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First published 2023

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

ISBN 978-1-009-22472-7 Paperback  
ISSN 2754-4257 (online)  
ISSN 2754-4249 (print)

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# Shakespeare, Malone and the Problems of Chronology

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DOI: 10.1017/9781009224710  
First published online: March 2023

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**ABSTRACT:** In 1778, Edmond Malone published his first contribution to Shakespeare scholarship, *An Attempt to Ascertain the Order in Which the Plays Attributed to Shakspeare Were Written*. He revised and republished it in 1790 and began a further revision of it which was printed posthumously in 1821. This Element is about the three versions of Malone's *Attempt* and the way they created, shaped, focused, directed and misdirected our idea of the chronology and sequence of Shakespeare's plays. By showing Malone's impressive, fallible choices, adopted or adapted by later editors, it reveals how current Shakespeare editions are, in good and bad ways, Malonian at heart.

This Element also has a video abstract: [www.cambridge.org/stern](http://www.cambridge.org/stern)  
**KEYWORDS:** Malone, chronology, Shakespeare, Shakespeare's sequence, eighteenth-century editing

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ISBNs: 9781009224727 (PB), 9781009224710 (OC)  
ISSNs: 2754-4257 (online), 2754-4249 (print)

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