

SHAKESPEARE AND THE ADMIRAL'S MEN

For most of the 1590s, the Admiral's Men were the main competitors of Shakespeare's company in the London theatres. Not only did they stage old plays by dramatists such as Christopher Marlowe and Thomas Kyd; their playwrights invented the genres of humours comedy (with *An Humorous Day's Mirth*) and city comedy (with *Englishmen for My Money*), while other new plays such as *A Knack to Know an Honest Man* and *The Downfall of Robert, Earl of Huntingdon* were important influences on Shakespeare. This is the first book to read the Admiral's repertory against Shakespeare's plays of the 1590s, showing both how Shakespeare drew on their innovations and how his plays influenced Admiral's dramatists in turn. Shedding new light on well-known plays and offering detailed analysis of less familiar ones, it offers a fresh perspective on the dramatic culture of the 1590s.

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THE ADMIRAL'S MEN

*Reading Across Repertories on the London
Stage, 1594–1600*

TOM RUTTER

University of Sheffield



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Note on Dating

In some texts cited in this book, dates are given using the old-style dating system, in which the new year began on Lady Day (25 March). For example, Philip Henslowe records a performance of *1 Tamburlaine* on '30 of desemb[er] 1594', followed by a performance of *2 Tamburlaine* on 'j of Jenewary 1594'. (Except where indicated, all references to Henslowe are to R. A. Foakes's 2002 updating of his and R. T. Rickert's 1961 edition of *Henslowe's Diary* for Cambridge University Press. The text above appears on p. 26.) When referring to such instances, I use the form '1 January 1594–5' in order to acknowledge the way the date appears in the source while making clear that the reference is to the modern calendar year 1595. Direct quotations from Henslowe retain his wording.