

## A MIRROR FOR MAGISTRATES IN CONTEXT

This is the first essay collection on *A Mirror for Magistrates*, the most popular work of English literature in the age of Shakespeare. The *Mirror* is analysed here by major scholars who discuss its meaning and significance, and assess the extent of its influence as a series of tragic stories showing powerful princes and governors brought low by fate and enemy action. Scholars debate the challenging and radical nature of the *Mirror's* politics; its significance as a work of material culture; its relationship to oral culture as print was becoming ever more important; and the complicated evolution of its diverse texts. Other chapters discuss the importance of the book as the first major work that represented Roman history for a literary audience, the sly humour contained in the tragedies, and their influence on major writers such as Spenser and Shakespeare.

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*A MIRROR FOR  
MAGISTRATES IN  
CONTEXT*

*Literature, History, and Politics in  
Early Modern England*

EDITED BY  
HARRIET ARCHER and  
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## *Abbreviations*

<i>ANQ</i>	<i>American Notes and Queries</i>
<i>EHR</i>	<i>English Historical Review</i>
<i>ELH</i>	<i>English Literary History</i>
<i>ELR</i>	<i>English Literary Renaissance</i>
<i>EMS</i>	<i>English Manuscript Studies</i>
<i>HLB</i>	<i>Huntington Library Bulletin</i>
<i>HLQ</i>	<i>Huntington Library Quarterly</i>
<i>JBA</i>	<i>Journal of the British Academy</i>
<i>JNR</i>	<i>Journal of the Northern Renaissance</i>
<i>JWCI</i>	<i>Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes</i>
<i>LC</i>	<i>Literature Compass</i>
<i>MLQ</i>	<i>Modern Language Quarterly</i>
<i>MLR</i>	<i>Modern Language Review</i>
<i>MP</i>	<i>Modern Philology</i>
<i>NQ</i>	<i>Notes and Queries</i>
<i>ODNB</i>	<i>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i>
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
<i>P. &amp; P.</i>	<i>Past and Present</i>
<i>PQ</i>	<i>Philological Quarterly</i>
<i>RD</i>	<i>Renaissance Drama</i>
<i>RES</i>	<i>Review of English Studies</i>
<i>RQ</i>	<i>Renaissance Quarterly</i>
<i>RS</i>	<i>Renaissance Studies</i>
<i>SAQ</i>	<i>South Atlantic Quarterly</i>
<i>SEL</i>	<i>Studies in English Literature, 1500–1900</i>
<i>SP</i>	<i>Studies in Philology</i>
<i>SQ</i>	<i>Shakespeare Quarterly</i>
<i>SS</i>	<i>Spenser Studies</i>

<i>STC</i>	<i>Short Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, &amp; Ireland and of English Books Printed Abroad</i> , ed. A. W. Pollard et al., 3 vols. (London: Bibliographical Society, 1976–91).
<i>TAPA</i>	<i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i>
<i>TC</i>	<i>Textual Cultures</i>
<i>TL</i>	<i>Translation and Literature</i>
<i>TLS</i>	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>
<i>TRHS</i>	<i>Transactions of the Royal Historical Society</i>