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978-1-107-11758-7 - The Drama of Memory in Shakespeare's History Plays

Isabel Karremann

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The Drama of Memory in Shakespeare's History Plays

This book analyses the drama of memory in Shakespeare's history plays. Situating the plays in relation to the extradramatic contexts of early modern print culture, the Reformation and an emergent sense of nationhood, it examines the dramatic devices the theatre developed to engage with the memory crisis triggered by these historical developments. Against the established view that the theatre was a cultural site that served primarily to salvage memories, Isabel Karremann also considers the uses and functions of forgetting on the Shakespearean stage and in early modern culture. Drawing on recent developments in memory studies, historical formalism and performance studies, the volume develops a vocabulary and methodology for analysing Shakespeare's mnemonic dramaturgy in terms of the performance of memory that results in innovative readings of the English history plays. Karremann's book is of interest to researchers and upper-level students of Shakespeare studies, early modern drama and memory studies.

ISABEL KARREMANN is professor of English Literature at Würzburg University, Germany. She is the co-editor of *Forgetting Faith? Negotiating Confessional Conflict in Early Modern Europe* (with Cornel Zwielerlein and Inga Mai Groote, 2012), *Shakespeare in Cold War Europe: Conflict, Commemoration, Celebration* (with Erica Sheen, forthcoming, 2015) and *Forms of Faith: Literary Form and Religious Conflict in Early Modern England* (with Jonathan Baldo, forthcoming, 2016).

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- 1 Johann Philipp Abelin, *Theatrum Europaeum*, vol. II. *Historische Chronick oder Warhaffste Beschreibung aller vornehmen und denckwürdigen Geschichten: so sich hin und wider in der Welt von Anno Christi 1629 biß auff das Jahr 1633 zugetragen* (Franckfurt am Mayn: Merian, 1633), title engraving. Universitätsbibliothek der LMU München, Sig. 0900/ NN 1300 M561-2 Magazin.

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Eds. Stephen Greenblatt, Walter Cohen, Jean E. Howard,
Katharine Eisaman Maus. New York: W.W. Norton, 1997.

Quotations from Shakespeare's plays are references according to this edition, with act, scene and line numbers given in parentheses in the text.

All other references are given in the Bibliography section at the end.