WRITING THE MONARCH IN JACOBEEAN ENGLAND

King James VI and I’s extensive publications and the responses they met played a key role in the literary culture of Jacobean England. This book is the first sustained study of how James’s subjects commented upon, appropriated and reworked these royal writings. Jane Rickard highlights the vitality of such responses across genres – including poetry, court masque, sermon, polemic and drama – and in the different media of performance, manuscript and print. The book focuses in particular on Jonson, Donne and Shakespeare, arguing that these major authors responded in illuminatingly contrasting ways to James’s claims as an author-king, made especially creative use of the opportunities that his publications afforded and helped to inspire some of what the King in turn wrote. Their literary responses reveal that royal writing enabled a significant reimagining of the relationship between ruler and ruled. This volume will interest researchers and advanced students of Renaissance literature and history.

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WRITING THE MONARCH IN JACOBEAN ENGLAND

Jonson, Donne, Shakespeare and the Works of King James

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Note on texts

As this book is concerned with the publication history, material form and reception of early modern works, texts that were printed at the time are quoted directly from the first editions, collated with modern critical editions as appropriate. Works that were not printed until later, or that present particular textual or bibliographical difficulties, are quoted from modern editions. An exception is made for Shakespeare’s plays: given the appearance of some of those discussed only in the First Folio and the wish to aid readers in finding passages cited, Shakespeare’s plays are all quoted from modern editions (single editions as indicated in the text and The Norton Shakespeare where not otherwise specified).

The prose works James wrote in Scotland were reprinted in London in 1603. In these cases quotations are from the first English editions unless otherwise specified. Most of his writings are now available in modern critical editions and these are listed in the bibliography. Significant omissions remain, however: four of his five scriptural exegeses do not appear in any modern edition. All biblical quotations are from the King James Bible. Dates are given according to our dating system. In citing texts in old-spelling, I have silently modernised u/v and i/j.
Abbreviations


ESTC  English Short Title Catalogue

ODNB  Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

OED  Oxford English Dictionary