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978-1-107-12066-2 - Writing the Monarch in Jacobean England: Jonson, Donne, Shakespeare and the Works of King James

Jane Rickard

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WRITING THE MONARCH IN JACOBEAN 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.

JANE RICKARD is a Senior Lecturer in Seventeenth-Century English Literature at the University of Leeds. She is the author of *Authorship and Authority: The Writings of James VI and I* (2007) and co-editor of *Shakespeare's Book: Essays in Reading, Writing and Reception* (2008).

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*Jonson, Donne, Shakespeare and the Works
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JANE RICKARD

University of Leeds



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Some of the material in Chapter 4 appears in an earlier version in ‘Mover and Author: King James VI and I and the Political Use of the Bible’, in Kevin Killeen et al. (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of the Bible in Early Modern England, c. 1530–1700* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015), pp. 371–83.

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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.

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Abbreviations

- CSP* *Calendar of State Papers, Venetian*, ed. Rawdon Brown et al. (vols. XIII to XVIII for 1613–25, ed. Allen B. Hinds), 38 vols. (London, 1864–1947)
- CWBJ* David Bevington, Martin Butler, and Ian Donaldson (gen. eds.), *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson*, 7 vols. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012)
- ESTC* *English Short Title Catalogue*
- ODNB* *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*
- OED* *Oxford English Dictionary*