Contents

Acknowledgements
Note on texts
List of abbreviations

Introduction
Approaching the monarch
From Scotland to England: the accession of a writer-king

PART I JAMES, JONSON AND THE JACOBEAN COURT 57
1 ‘Best of kings’ and ‘best of poets’?: James, Jonson
and constructing the role of court poet 59
2 The ‘abortive and extemporal din’: James, Jonson
and the discussion of state affairs 96

PART II JAMES, DONNE AND THE POLITICS OF
RELIGION IN JACOBEAN ENGLAND 135
3 ‘A conversation with your subjects’: power, language
and kingship in Donne’s early Jacobean works 137
4 ‘We are in Deed and in name too, Men of Orders’: Donne
and the politics of preaching for the King 169

PART III JAMES, SHAKESPEARE AND THE JACOBEAN
THEATRE 207
5 ‘Let him but be testimony in his own bringings-forth’:
Shakespeare, James and constructing the King 209
Contents

vi

Coda: appropriating the royal word in the 1620s and beyond 250

Select bibliography 260

Index 270