THE NEW CAMBRIDGE SHAKESPEARE

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From the publication of the first volumes in 1984 the General Editor of the New Cambridge Shakespeare was Philip Brockbank and the Associate General Editors were Brian Gibbons and Robin Hood. From 1990 to 1994 the General Editor was Brian Gibbons and the Associate General Editors were A. R. Braunmuller and Robin Hood.

OTHELLO

This third edition of Othello offers a completely new Introduction by Christina Luckyj, providing readers with a nuanced understanding of early modern theatre and culture, and demonstrating how careful attention to Shakespeare’s language, staging and dramaturgy can open up fresh interpretations of the play. Tracing critical and performance trends up to the present day, Luckyj shows how the drama taps into contemporary cultural paradoxes surrounding blackness, marriage and politics to create a powerful double perspective, illuminating the creative and destructive power of stories and of human love itself. Supplemented by an updated Reading List and extensive illustrations, the edition also features revised commentary notes, offering the very best in contemporary criticism of this great tragedy.
THE NEW CAMBRIDGE SHAKESPEARE

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OTHELLO

Third Edition

Edited by
NORMAN SANDERS

Revised with a new Introduction by
CHRISTINA LUCKYJ
Dalhousie University
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO FIRST EDITION

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N.S.

Knoxville, Tennessee
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO THIRD EDITION

My deepest gratitude goes to Brian Gibbons for giving me the opportunity to work on this rich and complex play and for guiding me graciously and tactfully throughout. My thanks go too to Sarah Stanton and Emily Hockley of Cambridge University Press for their support. Edward Pechter gave me encouragement (and a copy of his updated Norton edition) when I needed it. Closer to home, my colleague John Baxter read and commented on my introduction with his habitual rigour and generosity. At home, Keith Lawson – my ‘soul’s joy’ – lifted me up every day. I dedicate this to my son Stefan, so ‘great of heart’.

Christina Luckyj

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ABBREVIATIONS AND CONVENTIONS

1. Shakespeare's Plays

The abbreviated titles of Shakespeare's plays have been modified from those used in the Harvard Concordance to Shakespeare. All quotations and line references to plays other than Othello are to G. Blakemore Evans (ed.), The Riverside Shakespeare, 1974, on which the Concordance is based.

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<td>Tit.</td>
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List of Abbreviations and Conventions

TN  Twelfth Night
TNK  The Two Noble Kinsmen
Tro.  Troilus and Cressida
Wiv.  The Merry Wives of Windsor
WT  The Winter’s Tale

2. Editions

Capell  Mr William Shakespeare his Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies, ed. Edward Capell, 1768
Delius  Shakesperes Werke, ed. Nicolaus Delius, 1872
F  Mr William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies, 1623 (First Folio)
F2  Mr William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies, 1632
(Second Folio)
F3  Mr William Shakespeare Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies, 1664 (Third Folio)
F4  Mr William Shakespeare Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies, 1685
( Fourth Folio)
Hanmer  The Works of Shakespeare, ed. Thomas Hanmer, 1744
Hart  Othello, ed. H. C. Hart, 1928 (Arden)
Johnson  The Plays of William Shakespeare, ed. Samuel Johnson, 1765
Keightley  The Plays of William Shakespeare, ed. Thomas Keightley, 1864
Knight  The Pictorial Edition of the Works of Shakespeare, ed. Charles Knight, 1841
NS  Othello, ed. Alice Walker and J. Dover Wilson, 1957 (New Shakespeare)
Pope  The Works of Shakespeare, ed. Alexander Pope, 1723
Q1  The Tragedy of Othello, The Moore of Venice . . . , 1622 (First Quarto)
Q2  The Tragedy of Othello, The Moore of Venice . . . , 1630 (Second Quarto)
Ridley  Othello, ed. M. R. Ridley, 1958 (Arden)
Rowe  The Works of Mr William Shakespeare, ed. Nicholas Rowe, 1709
Steevens  The Plays of William Shakespeare, ed. Samuel Johnson and George Steevens, 1773
Steevens²  The Plays of William Shakespeare, ed. Samuel Johnson and George Steevens, 2nd edn, 1778
Steevens³  The Plays of William Shakespeare, ed. Samuel Johnson and George Steevens, 4th edn, 1793
Theobald  The Works of Shakespeare, ed. Lewis Theobald, 1733
Warburton  The Works of Shakespeare, ed. William Warburton, 1747
List of Abbreviations and Conventions

3. Other Works, Periodicals, General References

Abbott E. A. Abbott, A Shakespearian Grammar, 1869 (references are to numbered paragraphs)
Bailey Samuel Bailey, On the Received Text of Shakespeare’s Dramatic Writings and its Improvement, 2 vols., 1862–6
Bullough Geoffrey Bullough (ed.), Narrative and Dramatic Sources of Shakespeare, 8 vols., 1957–75
Cinthio Giraldi Cinthio, Hecatommithi (1566), Third Decade, Seventh Story; English translation in Bullough, vii, 239–52
conj. conjecture
CQ The Critical Quarterly
ELH ELH: A Journal of English Literary History
ELR English Literary Renaissance
Heath Benjamin Heath, Revision of Shakespeare’s Text, 1765
Hulme H. M. Hulme, Explorations in Shakespeare’s Language, 1962
J. Dover Wilson see NS
Jourdain M. Jourdain, in Transactions of the Philological Society, 1860, p. 139
lit. literally
N&Q Notes and Queries
Nicholson Originator of textual conj. in Cam.
OED Oxford English Dictionary
Onions C. T. Onions, A Shakespeare Glossary, 1911; rev. edn, 1953
Partridge Eric Partridge, Shakespeare’s Bawdy, 1948
Pliny Pliny, Naturalis Historia, trans. Philemon Holland (1601)
PMLA Publications of the Modern Language Association of America
RSC Royal Shakespeare Company
SB Studies in Bibliography
Schmidt Alexander Schmidt, Shakespeare-Lexicon, 2 vols., 1874–5
SD stage direction
SEL Studies in English Literature
SH speech heading
SQ Shakespeare Quarterly
S.St. Shakespeare Studies
S.Sur. Shakespeare Survey
subst. substantively
Tilley M. P. Tilley, A Dictionary of the Proverbs in England in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries, 1950 (references are to numbered proverbs)
TLS The Times Literary Supplement
Tollet Originator of textual conj. in Furness
Upton John Upton, Critical Observations on Shakespeare, 1746
Walker see NS

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