

SHAKESPEARE AS LITERARY DRAMATIST

Now in a new edition, Lukas Erne's groundbreaking study argues that Shakespeare, apart from being a playwright who wrote theatrical texts for the stage, was also a literary dramatist who produced reading texts for the page. Examining the evidence from early published playbooks, Erne argues that Shakespeare wrote many of his plays with a readership in mind and that these "literary" texts would have been abridged for the stage because they were too long for performance. The variant early texts of *Romeo and Juliet*, *Henry V*, and *Hamlet* are shown to reveal important insights into the different media for which Shakespeare designed his plays. This revised and updated edition includes a new and substantial preface that reviews and intervenes in the controversy the study has triggered, and lists reviews, articles, and books which respond to or build on the first edition.

LUKAS ERNE is Professor of English at the University of Geneva. He has been the Fowler Hamilton Research Fellow at Christ Church, University of Oxford, and the recipient of research fellowships at the Folger Shakespeare Library and the Huntington Library. Lukas Erne's other publications include this book's sequel *Shakespeare and the Book Trade* (2013), *Shakespeare's Modern Collaborators* (2008), and *Beyond "The Spanish Tragedy": A Study of the Works of Thomas Kyd* (2001). He is also the editor, with Guillemette Bolens, of *Medieval and Early Modern Authorship* (2011), of *The First Quarto of Romeo and Juliet* (2007), and, with M. J. Kidnie, of *Textual Performances: The Modern Reproduction of Shakespeare's Drama* (2004). The first edition of *Shakespeare as Literary Dramatist* was published in 2003 and was named a "book of the year" in the *Times Literary Supplement*.

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SECOND EDITION

LUKAS ERNE

University of Geneva



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For Katrin

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