

BEN JONSON AND POSTERITY

Bringing together leading Jonson scholars, *Ben Jonson and Posterity* provides new insights into this remarkable writer's reception and legacy over four centuries. Jonson was recognized as the outstanding English writer of his day and has had a powerful influence on later generations, yet his reputation is one of the most multifaceted and conflicted for any writer of the early modern period. The volume brings together multiple critical perspectives, addressing book history, the practice of reading, theatrical influence and adaptation, the history of performance, and cultural representation in portraiture, film, fiction, and anecdotes, to interrogate Jonson's 'myth'. The collection will be of great interest to all Jonson scholars, as well as having a wider appeal among early modern literary scholars, theatre historians, and scholars interested in intertextuality and reception from the Renaissance to the present day.

MARTIN BUTLER is Professor of English Renaissance Drama at the University of Leeds. He is one of the general editors of *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson*, 7 vols. (Cambridge University Press, 2012). His publications include *The Stuart Court Masque and Political Culture* (Cambridge University Press, 2008).

JANE RICKARD is Associate Professor in Seventeenth-Century English Literature at the University of Leeds. She is the author of *Writing the Monarch in Jacobean England: Jonson, Donne, Shakespeare and the Works of King James* (Cambridge University Press, 2015).

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-84268-6 — Ben Jonson and Posterity
Edited by Martin Butler , Jane Rickard
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-84268-6 — Ben Jonson and Posterity
Edited by Martin Butler, Jane Rickard
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

BEN JONSON AND POSTERITY

Reception, Reputation, Legacy

EDITED BY
MARTIN BUTLER
University of Leeds
JANE RICKARD
University of Leeds



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-84268-6 — Ben Jonson and Posterity
 Edited by Martin Butler, Jane Rickard
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
 New Delhi – 110025, India
 79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108842686

DOI: 10.1017/9781108903967

© Martin Butler and Jane Rickard 2020

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2020

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Butler, Martin, 1956– editor. | Rickard, Jane, editor.

TITLE: Ben Jonson and posterity : reception, reputation, legacy / edited by Martin Butler, Jane Rickard.

DESCRIPTION: New York : Cambridge University Press, 2020. | Includes index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2020023988 (print) | LCCN 2020023989 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108842686 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108903967 (ebook)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Jonson, Ben, 1573?–1637 – Criticism and interpretation. | Jonson, Ben, 1573?–1637 – Influence.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC PR2631 .B46 2020 (print) | LCC PR2631 (ebook) | DDC 822/.3–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020023988>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020023989>

ISBN 978-1-108-84268-6 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-84268-6 — Ben Jonson and Posterity
Edited by Martin Butler , Jane Rickard
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

In memory of Ian Donaldson
1935–2020

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-84268-6 — Ben Jonson and Posterity
Edited by Martin Butler , Jane Rickard
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	page ix
<i>List of Contributors</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xiv
<i>List of Citations and Abbreviations</i>	xv
Introduction: Immortal Ben Jonson <i>Martin Butler and Jane Rickard</i>	I
PART I CONCEPTUALIZING JONSON	23
1 Popular Jonson <i>James Loxley</i>	25
2 Pedantic Jonson <i>Adam Zucker</i>	44
3 Corporeal Jonson <i>Jean E. Howard</i>	63
PART II JONSON'S EARLY RECEPTION	83
4 Seventeenth-Century Readers of Jonson's 1616 <i>Works</i> <i>Jane Rickard</i>	85
5 Jonson's Ghost and the Restoration Stage <i>Jennie Challinor</i>	105
6 Jonson and the Friends of Liberty <i>Tom Lockwood</i>	125

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
	PART III JONSONIAN AFTERLIVES	147
7	Anecdotal Jonson <i>Paul Menzer</i>	149
8	Jonson in the Shadows <i>Stephen Orgel</i>	167
9	Adapting Jonson: Three Twentieth-Century <i>Volpones</i> <i>Richard O'Brien</i>	193
10	Jonson and Modern Memory <i>Martin Butler</i>	214
	Afterword: Re-Making Jonson in the Digital World; or, Jonson, Our Contemporary? <i>Julie Sanders</i>	241
	<i>Index</i>	251

Figures

2.1	<i>Oberon, The Fairy Prince</i> , from <i>The Works of Benjamin Jonson</i> , 1616, sig. 4N2v.	page 55
4.1	<i>Sejanus</i> , in <i>The Works of Benjamin Jonson</i> , 1616, sig. 2Hir (Henry E. Huntington Library RB499968).	93
4.2	<i>Poetaster</i> , in <i>The Works of Benjamin Jonson</i> , 1616, sig. 2A2r (Henry E. Huntington Library RB606578).	97
6.1	Charles Lamb's annotations to <i>Sejanus</i> , in <i>The Works of Ben Jonson</i> , 1692 (Princeton University Library, Robert H. Taylor collection).	139
7.1a and 7.1b	Flyleaves of <i>The Works of Benjamin Jonson</i> , 1640. Reprinted by kind permission of the Martha Stackhouse Grafton Library, Staunton, Virginia.	156
8.1	Michael van der Gucht, general frontispiece to <i>The Works of Mr. William Shakespeare</i> , ed. Nicholas Rowe, 1709.	170
8.2a and 8.2b	Frontispieces to <i>Hamlet</i> in Nicholas Rowe's <i>Shakespeare</i> : (a) by Elisha Kirkall, 1709; (b) by Louis du Guernier, 1714.	171
8.3	George Vertue, Ben Jonson, added frontispiece to <i>The Works of Ben Johnson</i> , 1716–1717.	172
8.4	Louis du Guernier, frontispiece to <i>Cynthia's Revels</i> in <i>The Works of Ben Johnson</i> , 1716–1717.	175
8.5	Louis du Guernier, frontispiece to <i>Epicoene</i> in <i>The Works of Ben Johnson</i> , 1716–1717.	176
8.6	Frontispiece to John Benson's <i>Poems: written by Wil. Shake-speare, Gent.</i> , 1640. © The British Library, London.	179
8.7	Abraham van Blyenberch, portrait of Ben Jonson, c. 1621. © National Portrait Gallery, London.	180

List of Figures

8.8	Robert Vaughan, portrait of Ben Jonson, before 1627, used as the frontispiece to <i>The Works of Benjamin Jonson</i> , 1640.	181
8.9	William Elder after Robert Vaughan, frontispiece to <i>The Works of Ben Jonson</i> , 1692.	183
8.10	Jacobus Houbraken, <i>Ben Jonson</i> , 1738.	184
8.11	David Garrick as Abel Drugger. Unknown artist, c. 1750–1775. © National Portrait Gallery, London.	188
8.12	Aubrey Beardsley, frontispiece to <i>Volpone</i> , 1898.	191
9.1	Poster for Lionel Bart's <i>Wally Pone, King of Soho</i> , 1958. Reproduced by kind permission of the Lionel Bart estate.	198
10.1	<i>Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes</i> , British postcard, 1910.	219
10.2	<i>Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes</i> , American postcard, c. 1900.	220
10.3	Cigarette advertisement, <i>The Illustrated London News</i> , 1923.	225
10.4	Advertisement for Johnnie Walker whisky, <i>Punch</i> , 1924.	226
10.5	Advertisement for Pall Mall cigarettes, <i>The Sunday News</i> , 1937.	227
10.6	Advertising card for the Ben Jonson Restaurant, San Francisco, c. 1970.	228
10.7	George Morrow, cartoon from <i>Punch</i> , 1946.	228
10.8	Angus McBride, 'Ben Jonson', from <i>Look and Learn</i> , 1973. © <i>Look and Learn</i> .	229
10.9	Stephen Collins, cartoon from <i>The Guardian</i> , 2016. © Guardian News and Media Ltd 2020.	234

Contributors

MARTIN BUTLER is Professor of English Renaissance Drama at the University of Leeds. With David Bevington and Ian Donaldson, he is a general editor of *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson*, 7 vols. (Cambridge University Press, 2012). His publications include *The Stuart Court Masque and Political Culture* (Cambridge University Press, 2008). He is currently co-general editor of the *Oxford Edition of the Works of John Marston*.

JENNIE CHALLINOR is a Teaching Fellow in Early Modern Literature at the University of Birmingham. She completed her thesis on Restoration drama, 'Staging the Court: the Theatrical Season of 1670–71' in 2016, and has since published articles on late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century manuscript miscellanies. She is currently editing the *The Counterfeit Bridegroom* and *The Revenge* for the *Cambridge Edition of the Works of Aphra Behn* (forthcoming 2020–2022).

JEAN E. HOWARD is George Delacorte Professor in the Humanities at Columbia University where she teaches early modern literature, Shakespeare, feminist studies, and theatre history. She is author of several books, including *The Stage and Social Struggle in Early Modern England* (Routledge, 1994); *Engendering a Nation: A Feminist Account of Shakespeare's English Histories* (Routledge, 1997), co-written with Phyllis Rackin; and *Theater of a City: The Places of London Comedy 1598–1642* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007). She is also a co-editor of *The Norton Shakespeare* and general editor of the Bedford contextual editions of Shakespeare and is completing a new book on the history play in twentieth- and twentieth-first-century American and English theatre.

TOM LOCKWOOD is Professor of English Literature at the University of Birmingham. His book publications include *Ben Jonson in the Romantic Age* (Oxford University Press, 2005) and *Chaplains in Early Modern*

England: Literature, Patronage and Religion, co-edited with Hugh Adlington and Gillian Wright (Manchester University Press, 2013).

JAMES LOXLEY is Professor of Early Modern Literature at the University of Edinburgh. Among his book publications are *Ben Jonson's Walk to Scotland: An Annotated Edition of the 'Foot Voyage'*, co-edited with Anna Groundwater and Julie Sanders (Cambridge University Press, 2015), *Shakespeare, Jonson and the Claims of the Performative*, co-authored with Mark Robson (Routledge, 2013), and *The Complete Critical Guide to Ben Jonson* (Routledge, 2001).

PAUL MENZER is Professor of Shakespeare and Performance and English at Mary Baldwin University. He is the author of *Shakespeare in the Theatre: The American Shakespeare Center* (Bloomsbury, 2017), *Anecdotal Shakespeare: A New Performance History* (Bloomsbury, 2015), and *The Hamlets: Cues, Q's, and Remembered Texts* (University of Delaware Press, 2008), and editor of *Romeo and Juliet* (Bloomsbury, 2017) and *Doctor Faustus* (Methuen, 2018).

RICHARD O'BRIEN is a Lecturer in Creative Writing at Northumbria University. He is a widely published poet and a specialist in early modern theatre and the development of verse drama from Shakespeare to the present day. His work on the creative afterlives of the early modern has appeared in *Literature Compass*, *Shakespeare Bulletin*, *Connotations*, and Paul Edmondson and Ewan Fernie (eds.), *New Places: Shakespeare and Civic Creativity* (The Arden Shakespeare, 2018). He is currently Birmingham Poet Laureate 2018–2020.

STEPHEN ORGEL is the Jackson Eli Reynolds Professor Emeritus in Humanities at Stanford University. Among his many books are *The Reader in the Book: A Study of Spaces and Traces* (Oxford University Press, 2015), *Spectacular Performances: Essays on Theatre, Imagery, Books and Selves in Early Modern England* (Manchester University Press, 2011), and *Imagining Shakespeare: A History of Texts and Visions* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2003).

JANE RICKARD is Associate Professor in Seventeenth-Century English Literature at the University of Leeds. She is the author of *Writing the Monarch in Jacobean England: Jonson, Donne, Shakespeare and the Works of King James* (Cambridge University Press, 2015) and *Authorship and Authority: the Writings of James VI and I* (Manchester University Press, 2007), and co-edited *Shakespeare's Book: Essays in Reading, Writing and*

List of Contributors

xiii

Reception with Richard Meek and Richard Wilson (Manchester University Press, 2008).

JULIE SANDERS is Professor of English Literature and Drama and Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Newcastle University. Her recent works include *Adaptation and Appropriation* (Routledge, 2015), *Ben Jonson's Walk to Scotland: An Annotated Edition of the 'Foot Voyage'*, co-edited with Anna Groundwater and James Loxley (Cambridge University Press, 2015), and *The Cultural Geography of Early Modern Drama, 1620–1650* (Cambridge University Press, 2011).

ADAM ZUCKER is Associate Professor in the English Department at the University of Massachusetts. He is the author of *The Places of Wit in Early Modern English Comedy* (Cambridge University Press, 2011), and the co-editor of *Historical Affects and Early Modern Theater* (Routledge, 2015).

Acknowledgements

The editors wish to thank the Henry E. Huntington Library for hosting and funding the conference ‘Ben Jonson, 1616–2016’ (16–17 September 2016) at which the ideas for this collection were first explored. We are grateful to all who were involved in that event, especially Jennifer Brady, Michael Cordner, Lori-Anne Ferrell, Suzanne Gossett, Heidi Brayman Hackel, Jean Howard, Heather James, Rebecca Lemon, Tom Lockwood, James Loxley, Paul Menzer, Lucy Munro, Stephen Orgel, Helen Ostovich, Tony Parr, Bruce Smith, and Adam Zucker. We particularly express our thanks to the Library’s Research Director, Steve Hindle, for his enthusiastic support of the project. We are indebted to Brett Greatley-Hirsch for technical help with the images, and to the School of English, University of Leeds, for assistance towards the costs of their reproduction. Some of the material in James Loxley’s chapter has previously appeared in ‘“Public feasts”: Ben Jonson as literary celebrity’, *Celebrity Studies*, vol. 7 no. 4 (2016), 561–74, and is reprinted here by permission of the publisher, Taylor & Francis Ltd.

The editors dedicate the collection to the memory of Ian Donaldson, whose work on Jonson, and especially on Jonson’s afterlife, has been seminal for all the volume’s contributors.

Citations and Abbreviations

All quotations and references to Jonson are cited from *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson*.

CWBJ	<i>The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson</i> , gen. eds. David Bevington, Martin Butler, and Ian Donaldson, 7 vols. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012)
CWBJ Online	<i>The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson Online</i> , eds. David Bevington, Martin Butler, Ian Donaldson, and David Gants, second release 2015 < https://universitypublishingonline.org/cambridge/benjonson/ >
Craig, <i>Jonson: Critical Heritage</i>	D. H. Craig (ed.), <i>Ben Jonson: The Critical Heritage 1599–1798</i> (London: Routledge, 1990)
Donaldson, <i>Ben Jonson: A Life</i>	Ian Donaldson, <i>Ben Jonson: A Life</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)
Donaldson, <i>Jonson's Magic Houses</i>	Ian Donaldson, <i>Jonson's Magic Houses: Essays in Interpretation</i> (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997)
Lockwood, <i>Jonson in the Romantic Age</i>	Tom Lockwood, <i>Ben Jonson in the Romantic Age</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005)
Noyes, <i>Jonson on the English Stage</i>	R. G. Noyes, <i>Ben Jonson on the English Stage</i> (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1935)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-84268-6 — Ben Jonson and Posterity
Edited by Martin Butler , Jane Rickard
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)
