Macmillan's Handbook of
Elizabethan and Stuart Literature

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HANDBOOK
OF
*Elizabethan
& Stuart*
LITERATURE

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For Deanie, Matt, and Amy

Preface

It is hoped that this book will serve the dual purpose of providing an informative introduction to the English Renaissance for general readers and a useful reference work for students and teachers of the period. The authors, works, and literary genres, movements, and terms described in these pages pertain to the Elizabethan, Jacobean, Stuart, and Commonwealth eras, the period 1558-1660, from the accession of Elizabeth I to the Restoration. These time limits are, of course, approximate rather than exact demarcations. Sir Thomas More is included although he occupies a place outside the periphery, and John Dryden is omitted in spite of the technicality that he composed in 1658 his "Heroic Stanzas" on the death of Oliver Cromwell. Milton's *Paradise Lost*, *Paradise Regained*, and *Sampson Agonistes* receive considerable attention even though they were published after 1660. No doubt such whimsical distinctions can be justified by recourse to some arcane literary logic, but they are in fact the results of my own arbitrary and intuitive judgments about which authors and works on the historical borders conspired to produce the complex and wondrous phenomenon described in these pages as the English Renaissance. Looking back over this work, I can see that in spite of its

sheen of alphabetized objectivity, it might well be called "*one* man's view of the English Renaissance" in its essentially subjective emphases and selectivity. Confronted by this deplorable necessity, I can only hope that the view presented here is, in spite of its inevitable limitations, comprehensive, coherent, and lucid.

A principal aim of this book—and, hopefully, its unique value—is to give information about authors and works not to be found in one place elsewhere, and to accomplish this end within the confines of a single volume, I have dealt with titans such as Spenser, Shakespeare, and Milton more concisely and less expansively than their intrinsic greatness might otherwise deserve. The reader should not be surprised to discover that *The Spanish Tragedy* receives as much emphasis as *Hamlet*, or that Beaumont and Fletcher are treated as fully as Spenser. In this book I attempt to present other English Renaissance writers in a way comparable to the treatment of the major authors in H. S. V. Jones, *A Spenser Handbook* (1930); James Holly Hanford, *A Milton Handbook* (1926; rev. ed., 1933); and *The Reader's Encyclopedia of Shakespeare*, ed. by Oscar James Campbell and Edward G. Quinn (1966).

For the sake of accuracy and uniformity,

I have based publication dates on *The Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature*, ed. by F. W. Bateson, 4 vols. (1940), and its *Supplement*, ed. by G. Watson (1957), except in rare instances in which this bibliography errs. In presenting titles, I have tried to avoid the lengthy Elizabethan "puff titles" often cited in the *CBEL* and followed, instead, the most familiar forms for titles as they appear in a standard work such as *A Literary History of England*, ed. by Albert C. Baugh (1948).

In providing dates of composition for dramatic works, I have followed E. K. Chambers, *The Medieval Stage*, 2 vols. (1903) for plays written before 1558; E. K. Chambers, *The Elizabethan Stage*, 4 vols. (1923) for plays written 1558-1603; G. E. Bentley, *The Jacobean and Caroline Stage*, 7 vols. (1941-67) for plays written 1603-1660. In dating Shakespeare's plays I have relied upon E. K. Chambers, *William Shakespeare: A Study of Facts and Problems* (1930) as corrected by James G. McManaway in "Recent Studies in Shakespeare's Chronology," *Shakespeare Survey* 3 (1950). All such dates of composition must therefore be assumed to be approximate and tentative—merely an arbitrary means of avoiding lengthy and tedious discussions of dating in the drama entries.

In each instance a date in parenthesis after a title indicates first publication unless other-

wise noted. The following abbreviations are used with dates: c.—around, approximately; perf.—performed; rev.—revised; wr.—written. Question marks with dates denote great uncertainty regarding an author's birth, death, or dating of a work.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the indefatigable editors who helped make this book possible. Mr. Patrick Barrett did more than offer good advice; he drove the work forward from beginning to end with unflagging diligence and infallible judgment. Mrs. Dorothy Duffy caught a thousand contradictions and errors, suggested many new titles for the bibliographies, and made highly creative suggestions that improved the manuscript immeasurably.

I am much indebted, also, to Miss Wendy Hill for her help in preparing the manuscript. Several of my friends and colleagues at The City College of New York read various entries and offered comments and corrections—Professors Thomas King, Philip Miller, Samuel I. Mintz, and Edward G. Quinn. I am equally grateful for the generous assistance of Professor Allan Chester, University of Pennsylvania; Professor Tetsumaro Hayashi, Ball State University; and Professor James Mirollo, Columbia University.

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Abbreviations of Periodicals

CL	Comparative Literature
CritQ	Critical Quarterly
DUJ	Durham University Journal
EA	Etudes Anglaises
E&S	Essays and Studies by Members of the English Association
EHR	English Historical Review
EIC	Essays in Criticism (Oxford)
ELH	Journal of English Literary History
ES	English Studies
ETJ	Educational Theatre Journal
HLQ	Huntington Library Quarterly
HudR	Hudson Review
JEGP	Journal of English and Germanic Philology
Library	The Library
MLN	Modern Language Notes
MLQ	Modern Language Quarterly
MLR	Modern Language Review
MP	Modern Philology
N&Q	Notes and Queries
PMLA	Publications of the Mod. Lang. Assn. of America
PQ	Philological Quarterly (Iowa City)
RenD	Renaissance Drama (Northwestern U.)
RenP	Renaissance Papers
RES	Review of English Studies
SB	Studies in Bibliography; Papers of the Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia

SEL	Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900
ShakS	Shakespeare Studies (U. of Cincinnati)
ShS	Shakespeare Survey
SJW	Shakespeare-Jahrbuch (Weimar)
SoR	Southern Review (Louisiana State U.)
SP	Studies in Philology
SQ	Shakespeare Quarterly
SR	Sewanee Review
SRen	Studies in the Renaissance
SSF	Studies in Short Fiction (Newberry Coll., S.C.)
TDR	The Drama Review [formerly Tulane Drama Review]
TLS	[London] Times Literary Supplement
TSE	Tulane Studies in English
TSL	Tennessee Studies in Literature
UR	University Review (Kansas City, Mo.)
UTQ	University of Toronto Quarterly
VQR	Virginia Quarterly Review
YR	Yale Review
YSE	Yale Studies in English

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