

# CHAKESPEARE **UARTERLY**

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### Winter 1978

| FROM THE EDITOR  | 3   |
|--|-----|
| ARTICLES   |     |
| The Theatrical Consistency of Richard II LEONARD BARKAN  | 5   |
| The Uniqueness of Trailus and Cressida   | 20  |
| The Wooing of Lady Anne: A Psychological Inquiry DONALD B SHITE  | 28  |
| The Dynamics of Power in King Lear:  An Adlerian Interpretation John J. McLaughlin   | 37  |
| The Figure of Rosalind in As You Like It   | 44  |
| Orsino and the Spirit of Love:   | 44  |
| Text, Syntax, and Sense in Twelfth Night, I. i. 1-15 BARRY B. ADAMS  | 52  |
| Ben Jonson's Black Comedy:   | 22  |
| A Connection Between Othello and Volpone BRIAN F. TYSON  | 60  |
| NOTES  |     |
| The Folger 1560 View of London KENT CARTWRIGHT   | 67  |
| Finding Shakespeare's "Lost Years"   | 77  |
| Bottom's Name and His Epiphany THOMAS B. STROUP  | 79  |
| Hamlet: Scourge and Minister   | 82  |
| "This Fell Sergeant, Death" Once More s. viswanathan   | 84  |
| Malvolio's Fall  | 85  |
| BOOK REVIEWS   | 05  |
| Shakespeare's English Kings: History, Chronicle, and Drama (by Peter Saccio):  |     |
| The First Tetralogy: Shakespeare's Scrutiny of the Tudor Myth (by David L. Frey);  |     |
| Historical Drama: The Relation of Literature and Reality   |     |
| (by Herbert Lindenberger)  | 91  |
| The Drama of Power: Studies in Shakespeare's History Plays   |     |
| (by Moody E. Prior)  | 94  |
| (by Moody E. Prior)  |     |
| The Origins of Shakespeare (by Emrys Jones) FUGENE M WAITH   | 96  |
| Shakespeare and the Revolution of the Times (by Harry Levin)   | 100 |
| Tragic Alphabet: Shakespeare's Drama of Language (by Lawrence Danson)  |     |
| The Motives of Eloquence: Literary Rhetoric in the Renaissance   |     |
| (by Richard A. Lanham) ANNE BARTON   | 104 |
| The Dramaturgy of Shakespeare's Romances (by Barbara A. Mowat) JOAN HARTWIG  | 106 |
| Shakespeare's Dramatic Challenge (by G. Wilson Knight) ROBERT ORNSTEIN   | 108 |
| Trope and Allegory (by Francis Fergusson)  | 109 |
| Shakespeare and the Nature of Women (by Juliet Dusinberre) JANIS BUTLER HOLM   | 110 |
| A Biographical Dictionary of Actors, Actresses, Musicians, Dancers, Managers & Other Stage Personnel in London, 1660-1800 (by Phillip H. Highfill, Kalman A. |     |
| Burnim, and Edward A. Langhans) HARRY WILLIAM PEDICORD   |     |
| Elizabethan Erotic Narratives: Irony and Pathos in the Ovidian Poetry of Shakespeare,  | 112 |
| Marlowe, and Their Contemporaries (by William Keach) HALLETT SMITH   |     |
| As You Like It, The Arden Edition (edited by Agnes Latham)   | 114 |
| GEORGE WALTON WILLIAMS   | 116 |
| Meaning in Comedy: Studies in Elizabethan Romantic Comedy  | 110 |
| (by John S. Weld)  | 119 |
| The Unnatural Scene: A Study in Shakespearean Tragedy (by Michael Long);   | 119 |
| Christian Ritual and the World of Shakespeare's Tragedies (by Herbert R.   |     |
| Coursen, Jr.); Shakespeare's Talking Animals: Language and Drama in Society  |     |
| (by Terence Hawkes)  | 122 |
| William Shakespeare: A Compact Documentary Life (by S. Schoenbaum)   |     |
| KENNETH MUIR   | 126 |
|  |     |

Cover illustration: Ada Rehan as Rosalind in As You Like It., III. i, as depicted in 1889 by Albert E. Sterner (1863-1946) from the Folger Art File (Extra Illustrated Daly Theatre Collection, As You Like It. Vol. II, p. 25).

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### From the Editor

#### Bullish on Shakespeare

Ours are times when—to echo a Merrill Lynch message currently much in evidence on commercial American television—it seems appropriate to be "bullish" on Shakespeare. Shakespeare continues to hold his posi-

speare.

Shakespeare continues to hold his position as the most frequently-performed and universally-admired playwright, not only in Great Britain, Canada, and the United States (a point fully substantiated in the Spring 1977 issue of Shakespeare Quarterly), but in a wide variety of other nations as well (a point to be amply illustrated in the augmented Theatre Reviews section of the upcoming Spring 1978 issue). Meanwhile, of course, Shakespeare continues to occupy a central niche in the curricula of our schools, colleges, and universities. And Shakespeare's influence on other cultural phenomenamentom the words and phrase embedded in much of our everyday discourse to the works of art, music, and literature that continue to enrich our lives—is just as profound today as at any time in the past. After nearly four as a tiving presence, a formidable and formative source of insight and inspiration.

But what is true in 1978 is likely to be even more true in the years immediately ahead. For, beginning in 1979, millions of viewers in every part of the world will be offered unprecedented opportunities to witness Shakespeare in performance. The rnimary impetus.

in every part of the world will be offered un-precedented opportunities to witness Shake-speare in performance. The primary impetus, but by no means the only one, will come from the British Broadcasting Corporation, which has announced an ambitious six-year plan to film all thirty-seven of Shakespeare's plays. The BBC Shakespeare series alone will have an enormous positive impact on what has been called, with justification, "the Shakespeare industry." But there is no rea-son to assume that this huge undertaking will completely corner the market. On the contrary, it seems all but inevitable that the BBC series will foster spinoffs in a number of directions—some integrally related to the series, others tangential to and even com-petitive with it. We can anticipate more dis-

cussion of Shakespeare than ever before, more books, articles, and other publications, more new editions, more new editions, more of a Shakespeare courses and Shakespeare clubs, more Shakespeare courses and Shakespeare clubs, more Shakespeare-lated exhibitions and gift items and novelties—in short, more of a Shakespearean presence than ever before in virtually every aspect of our social and cultural life.

For most of us, this surging Shakespeare economy is a prospect that can only be welcomed. It is certain to open up new possibilities for "professional Shakespeareas" of all kinds (for teachers, scholars, and critics as well as for publishers, performers, and directors), and there is every incentive for us to take advantage of those possibilities. At the same time, however, we should not neglect to remind ourselves that our professional status imposes certain responsibilities—among them the obligation to do everything within our means to assure that increased updiarization of Shakespeare. All of us can play a part in discharging this collective obligation, and as many of us as possible should do so.

But what about Shakespeare Quarterly? How should this journal respond to the opportunities and challenges of the 1980s? Have we now reached the time when it would be fitting for SQ to broaden its scope, to add new features and introduce a new scheme of organization compatible with an expanded table of contents? To keep abreast of a more ample Shakespearean agenda, should we now consider an enlarged format and a more frequent schedule of publication? To exercise our professional influence and ulfill our professional objectives more effectively, should we now seek to design a Shakespearean periodical with wider appeal and direct it to a larger audience?

These are big questions, and my SQ colleagues and I would appreciate every reader's thoughts and suggestions as we address them in months to come.