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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

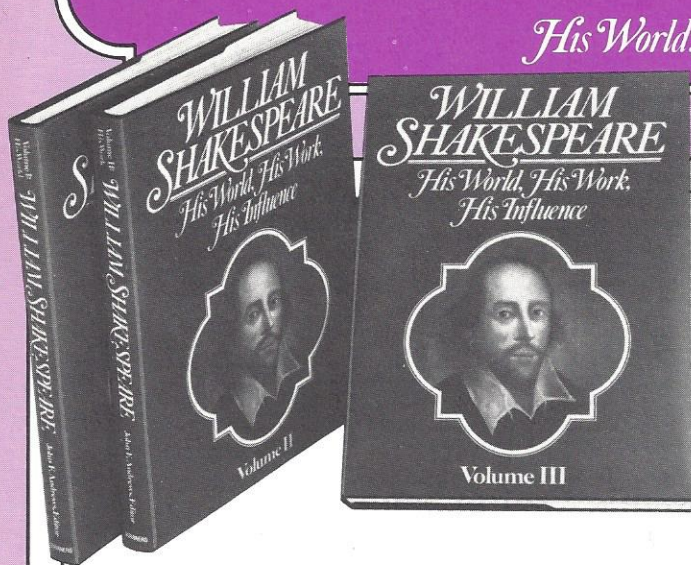
His World, His Work, His Influence



John F. Andrews, Editor

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

His World, His Work, His Influence



A labor of love by sixty renowned Shakespeare scholars, actors, directors, and critics, this stunning set treats all facets of the world's greatest writer.

For the first time, readers can turn to one current, integrated, fully indexed source for Shakespeare studies. The set not only provides a wide variety of critical commentaries (Arthur Kirsch on the tragedies, Hallet Smith on the poems, Brian Vickers on the prose, to name a few), but it also relates Shakespeare's work to the times in which he wrote and to his continuing influence today.

The essays in Volume I create a backdrop for Shakespeare's age—the government under Elizabeth and James, the church, economic life, manners and dress, education—even medicine and sanitation. Both history and English students will profit from these essays. Volume II is devoted to critical interpretations of Shakespeare's work—the tragedies, comedies, histories, sonnets, and poems. A particularly elucidating piece on Shakespeare's poetic techniques by George T. Wright will make his language come alive to the twentieth-century ear. Shakespeare's influence today on music, painting, teaching, literature, psychology, and, of course, acting and directing, is the subject of the third and final volume. Illustrations from such great institutions as the Folger Shakespeare Library and the British Museum appear throughout the set, but are concentrated in this volume.

Each article concludes with a select bibliography of readily available titles, and a comprehensive index, key to the set, is included in Volume III. The index allows the reader to research Hamlet, for example, through each of the volumes—in "Shakespeare and Foreigners" and "Science, Magic, and Folklore" in Volume I; in "Shakespeare's Tragedies" and "Ethical and Theological Questions" in Volume II; and in "Shakespeare and the Humanities" and "Shakespeare on Film and Television" in Volume III.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

John F. Andrews, formerly editor of Shakespeare Quarterly and Director of Academic Programs at the Folger Shakespeare Library, is a principal adviser for the new PBS series "The Shakespeare Hour." He now helps administer the Division of Education Programs at the National Endowment for the Humanities and lectures widely on Shakespeare.

The sixty original essays are written for a broad range of readers—high school students and their teachers, advanced scholars, and the general reader who seeks background information after seeing a performance or reading a puzzling sonnet.

Beautifully and lovingly produced, and highly readable, this unique reference work will encourage new appreciation for the man, his work, and his influence. Shakespeare lives!

"Not of an age, but for all time."

—Ben Jonson

Praise from BOOKLIST, March 1, 1986:

"The reference value of this beautifully produced set derives not only from the authority of its contributors, hence from its contents, but also from the presence of bibliography and analytic indexing....High school libraries will want to consider this set, as will all but the smallest public libraries; academic libraries will find it an essential purchase and will want to acquire, if their budgets permit, both reference and circulating copies....One of its strengths, from the collection development viewpoint, is that it can be read with pleasure and profit at several levels: high school students and undergraduates will particularly value its discussion of works, both categorically and individually, and advanced students will welcome its presentation of trends in appreciation and criticism. Scribner's is to be congratulated upon this addition to a long list of monumental compilations."

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