

# Contents



List of Plates	vii
Note on Calendar Discrepancies and Dating	viii
Foreword	ix
Preface	xiv
Publisher's Acknowledgments	xvii
Family Trees	xviii
<i>Chapter 1</i> The Shakespeare Authorship Question	1
<i>Chapter 2</i> The Real Shakespeare	43
<i>Chapter 3</i> The Neville Heritage	59
<i>Chapter 4</i> Becoming William Shakespeare, 1582–94	83
<i>Chapter 5</i> The Road to the Top, 1595–99	105
<i>Chapter 6</i> Ambassador to France, 1599–1600	123
<i>Chapter 7</i> The Catastrophe, 1601–3	137
<i>Chapter 8</i> Freedom and Disappointment, 1603–8	161
<i>Chapter 9</i> Towards Closure: The Last Plays, the Sonnets and the Parliamentary 'Undertaker', 1609–15	178

<i>Chapter 10</i>	Life after Death: The First Folio and the Apotheosis of Shakespeare	202
<i>Chapter 11</i>	Documentary Evidence: Analyses and Shakespearean Parallels	218
	Afterword	253
<i>Appendix 1</i>	Commendatory Verses and the Three Suns	265
<i>Appendix 2</i>	Sir Henry Neville and the Essex Rebellion	275
<i>Appendix 3</i>	Sir Henry Neville's Voyage to France, and Its Double	292
<i>Appendix 4</i>	A Review of <i>Shakespeare and the Founders of Liberty in America</i>	305
<i>Appendix 5</i>	Genealogical Notes	315
<i>Appendix 6</i>	The Chronology of Shakespeare's Works	317
	Notes	319
	Index	357