

Contents

	Preface	page vii
1	Shakespeare and the Italian concept of 'art'	I
2	Is <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> a problem play?	19
3	Falstaff and the life of shadows	32
4	The design of <i>Twelfth Night</i>	53
5	Shakespeare and the ventriloquists	78
6	Romance in <i>King Lear</i>	91
7	<i>King Lear</i> , Montaigne and Harsnett	107
8	'Wit' in Jacobean comedy	140
9	Comic form in Ben Jonson: Volpone and the philosopher's stone	153
10	Farce and fashion in <i>The Silent Woman</i>	175
11	Crowd and public in <i>Bartholomew Fair</i>	189
12	<i>The Revenger's Tragedy</i> and the Morality tradition	206
13	<i>The Changeling</i> and the drama of domestic life	222
14	<i>Don Quixote</i> as a prose epic	236
	Notes	255
	Bibliographical note	285
	Index	287