

Contents



List of plates	vii
Notes on calendar discrepancies and dating	viii
Foreword	ix
Preface	xiv
Publisher's acknowledgements	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, 1601–03	137
<i>Chapter 8</i> Freedom and disappointment, 1603–08	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
<i>Appendix 1</i>	Commendatory verses and the three suns	253
<i>Appendix 2</i>	Sir Henry Neville and the Essex rebellion	263
<i>Appendix 3</i>	Sir Henry Neville's voyage to France, and its double	280
<i>Appendix 4</i>	A review of <i>Shakespeare and the Founders of Liberty in America</i>	293
<i>Appendix 5</i>	Genealogical notes	303
<i>Appendix 6</i>	The chronology of Shakespeare's works	305
	Notes	307
	Index	345