

Originally published in 1986, *The Oxford Shakespeare: The Complete Works* is an entirely fresh edition of Shakespeare in which the original documents have been re-examined in every detail and edited according to the most up-to-date findings of textual scholarship.

There are many original features. The works are given in a newly considered chronological order, original titles are restored, and the canon has been re-thought, permitting the inclusion of *The Two Noble Kinsmen* and some unfamiliar short poems. Also included are both *King Lear* as Shakespeare originally wrote it and as he revised it some years later. Other plays, too, are based on what new research identifies as Shakespeare's revised, more theatrical text. Stage directions have been reconsidered in the light of the plays' original staging, and new directions for essential action added. Spelling and punctuation are modernized from the original texts on freshly thought principles. There is an informative General Introduction and a glossary, along with a brief introduction to each work, providing essential background.

The second edition has been expanded to include *The Reign of King Edward the Third* and the full text of *Sir Thomas More*. Introductions have been revised and there is a new essay on Shakespeare's language by David Crystal along with a User's Guide and a selected list of Further Reading compiled by Susan Brock.

The Oxford Complete Shakespeare brings the modern reader closer to Shakespeare's plays as they were first acted than has ever before been possible.

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