

The *Complete Works: Critical Reference Edition* collects the same versions of the works found in the *Modern Critical Edition*, keyed to the same line-numbering. But the *Critical Reference Edition* emphasizes book history and the documentary origins of each text. An essay on error surveys kinds of error characteristic of these early text technologies. It is followed by a general introduction to the music of Shakespeare's plays. Introductions to individual works focus on early modern manuscripts and print culture, setting each text within the material circumstances of its production, transmission, and early reception. Original music notation is provided for the songs (where available). Because the plays were written and copied within the framework of theatrical requirements, casting charts identify the length and type of each role, discuss potential doubling possibilities, and note essential props.

The *New Oxford Shakespeare* consists of four interconnected publications: the *Modern Critical Edition* (with modern spelling), the *Critical Reference Edition* (with original spelling), a companion volume on authorship, and an online version integrating all of this material on OUP's high-powered scholarly editions platform. Together, they provide the perfect resource for the future of Shakespeare studies.

The *New Oxford Shakespeare* presents an entirely new consideration of all of Shakespeare's works, edited from first principles from the base-texts themselves, and drawing on the latest textual and theatrical scholarship. It consists of four interconnected publications: the *Modern Critical Edition*, a *Critical Reference Edition* and *Authorship Companion* for scholarly research, and an Online Edition combining all three print publications. Intellectually ambitious in both scope and detail, it will define Shakespeare for our age—the way we think about him, perform him, study him, and interpret him.

The New Oxford Shakespeare: Critical Reference Edition

The *Critical Reference Edition* is created to facilitate scholarly research, with a particular emphasis on book history and the documentary origins of each text.

A two-volume *Complete Works* with original spelling, punctuation, capitalization, abbreviations, typographical contrasts, ambiguities, and inconsistencies

Substantial introductory essays on the mechanics of error, on musical texts, and on the 1623 First Folio relate editorial problems to early text technologies and the book trade

Textual introductions to individual works analyze the production of the primary documents, but also contextualize each work within Shakespeare's reading of English and continental printed books, manuscript circulation, theatrical performances, and oral culture

Textual notes identify error and discuss its emendation

Marginal notes record press variants and key variants in supplementary documents

Songs are presented with the original musical notation, when this is available

Cast lists identify the length and type of each role, discuss potential doubling possibilities, and note essential props

The works are arranged in the chronological order of the surviving texts: the first volume covers documents made in Shakespeare's lifetime, and the second covers documents made after his death.