Contents

Acknowledgements [page vii]

Introduction [1]

All the Sonnets of Shakespeare? [1]

When Did Shakespeare Start Writing Sonnets? [2]

Writing Sonnets in the Plays [8]

The Originality of Shakespeare's Sonnets: Never before Imprinted

(1609) [14]

Setting Forth Shakespeare's Sonnets [21]

'Among His Private Friends' [26]

His Name Is Will [32]

About This Volume

How Have We Decided What to Include? [38]

The Layout of this Volume [42]

A Note on the Text [43]

A Note on Abbreviations and Abstract Nouns [44]

Some Suggestions for Further Reading [44]

All the Sonnets of Shakespeare (All dates are conjectural.) [45]

Early Sonnets

Sonnets 154 and 153 (pre-1582) [47] Sonnet 145 (1582) [49]

1589–1595

from The Two Gentlemen of Verona (1589–1591) [50] Sonnets about Venus and Adonis (1590–1593) [51] from Edward III (1592) [54] Sonnets 127–144 (1590–1595) [55] Sonnets 146–152 (1590–1595) [75]

1594-1595

from The Comedy of Errors (1594) [82] from Love's Labour's Lost (1594–1595) [88] from Romeo and Juliet (1594–1595) [89] Sonnets 61–77 (1594–1595) [92] Sonnets 87–103 (1594–1595) [109]

1595-1597

Sonnets 1–60 (1595–1597) [126] from A Midsummer Night's Dream (1596) [187]

1598-1600

from Much Ado About Nothing (1598) [188]

Sonnets 78–86 (1598–1600) [189]

from Henry V (1599) [198]

from As You Like It (1599) [199]

1600–1609

Sonnets 104–126 (1600–1604) [200] from Troilus and Cressida (1602) [223] from All's Well That Ends Well (1605) [224] from Pericles (1608) [226]

1610-1613

from Cymbeline (1610) [228] from All Is True, or Henry VIII (1613) [230]

Textual Notes [231]
All the Sonnets of Shakespeare: Literal Paraphrases [233]
Numerical Index of Shakespeare's Sonnets (1609) [291]
Index of First Lines [295]