

J.M.S. COLLEGE, MUNGER
(A Constituent Unit under Munger University, Munger)
Department of English
B.A. Part-I, English (Hons.), Paper-I

SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

1580 - 1590

- **The Taming of the Shrew** Considered to be one of Shakespeare's earliest works, the play is generally believed to have been written before **1592**

1590 - 1600

- **Henry VI Part II** Believed to have been written in **1591** and Shakespeare's first play based on English history
- **Henry VI Part III** Written immediately after Part II, a short version of the play was published in Octavo form in **1595**
- **The Two Gentlemen of Verona** Known to be written around the **1590s** as it was mentioned by Francis Meres in his list of Shakespeare's plays in 1598, no firm evidence for a particular year
- **Titus Andronicus** Written in **1591/92**, with its first performance possibly in January 1594
- **Henry VI Part I** Generally assumed to be the 'Henry the VI' performed at the Rose Theatre in **1592**
- **Richard III** Could have been written in **1592**, shortly before the plague struck, or in 1594 when the theatres reopened post-plague
- **The Comedy of Errors** Was possibly written for Gray's Inn Christmas festivities for the legal profession in December **1594**
- **Love's Labour's Lost** An edition of the play in 1598 refers to it being 'presented before her Highness [Queen Elizabeth] this last Christmas', and most scholars date it to **1595-96**
- **A Midsummer Night's Dream** Often dated to **1595-96**. Reference in Act 1 Scene 2 to courtiers being afraid of a strange lion may allude to an incident in Scotland in 1594
- **Romeo and Juliet** Astrological allusions and earthquake reference may suggest composition in **1595-96**
- **Richard II** Typically dated **1595-96**. Described in 1601 as 'old and long out of use'

- **King John** Written between **1595** and **1597**; an anonymous two-part *King John* was published in 1591 but Shakespeare's version is stylistically close to later histories
- **The Merchant of Venice** Registered for publication in 1598, reference to a ship *Andrew* suggests late **1596** or early **1597** as a Spanish ship of the name was captured around that time
- **Henry IV Part I** Probably written and first performed **1596-97**, registered for publication in 1598
- **Henry IV Part II** Written around **1597-98** and registered for publication in 1600, both parts are based on Holinshed's *Chronicles*
- **Much Ado About Nothing** Late **1598**, not mentioned in Francis Meres's 1598 list of Shakespeare's plays but included the role Dogberry for Will Kemp, a comic actor who left the company in early 1599
- **Henry V** Written in **1599**, mentions a 'general... from Ireland coming', could be referring to the Earl of Essex's Irish expedition in 1599
- **As You Like It** Typically dated late **1599**. Not mentioned in Francis Meres's 1598 list of Shakespeare's plays, unless originally called *Love's Labour's Won*
- **Julius Caesar** **1599**. Not mentioned in Meres's 1598 list of plays, seen at the Globe by Swiss visitor Thomas Platter in 1599

1600 – 1610

- **Hamlet** Dated around **1600**, registered for publication in summer 1602. There are allusions to *Julius Caesar*, which was written in 1599
- **The Merry Wives of Windsor** Estimated **1597 - 1601**, though an allusion to the Order of the Garter might indicate that it was performed at the Garter Feast in 1597
- **Twelfth Night** **1601**. Not mentioned in Meres's 1598 list of plays and alludes to a map first published in 1599
- **Troilus and Cressida** Dated **1601-02**, registered for publication early 1603 and alludes to the play *Thomas Lord Cromwell*, which was registered for publication in 1602
- **Othello** Dated **1604** though some argue for a slightly earlier date. It is recorded to have been performed in court in November 1604
- **Measure for Measure** Performed at court for Christmas **1604**, probably written earlier the same year
- **All's Well That Ends Well** No strong evidence for date written or first performed, but it is usually dated **1603-06** on stylistic grounds
- **Timon of Athens** Estimated **1604-06** based on stylistic similarity to *King Lear*
- **King Lear** Dated **1605-06**. Performed at court December 1606 and seems to refer to eclipses of September and October 1605

- **Macbeth 1606.** Certainly more Jacobean than Elizabethan based on the play's several compliments to King James
- **Antony and Cleopatra** Dated **1606-07**, registered for publication in 1608 and perhaps performed at court in 1606 or 1607
- **Coriolanus** Perhaps written in **1608**. Allusion to 'coal of fire upon ice' in Act 1 could refer to the great frost of winter in 1607/08
- **Pericles 1608.** Registered for publication in 1608; Wilkin's novel *The Painful Adventures of Pericles*, cashing in on the success of the play, was published in 1608
- **Cymbeline 1610.** A performance in 1611 is recorded. Theatres were reopened in spring 1610 after a long closure due to the plague.

AFTER 1610

- **The Winter's Tale 1611.** Performed at the Globe May 1611; dance of satyrs apparently borrows from a court entertainment of January 1611
- **The Tempest 1611.** Performed at court in November 1611; uses source material not available before autumn 1610
- **Henry VIII 1613.** The first Globe theatre burnt down in a fire that started during a performance of the play on 29 June 1613
- **The Two Noble Kinsmen 1613-14;** 'our loss' in the Prologue probably refers to the Globe fire of 1613

Of these, the plays from *Pericles* to *King Henry VIII* are often termed the 'Late Plays'.

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