

# SHAKSPEARE'S PREDECESSORS

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Method of Inquiry.—Chronological Limits.—Order of the Subject.—I. Three Stages in Evolution of the Drama.—Stage of Paganism and Transition.—Classed by Madoxes.—Stage of partially developed Stage.—Character of Shakespeare's Art.—Drama and Paganism.—Stage of Classical Drama.—III. The Case of National Evolution.—Literature from Middle Ages.—Architecture, Greek Drama, Middle Ages.—IV. The Problem for Criticism.—In Geography.—In History.—Shakespeare's position in English Drama in his Country.—Criticism: How to handle.—How to do.—V. Chronology is scarcely helpful.—Complexity of the Subject.—Representations of our Drama as a work of Art.—Advantages of Shakespeare for Study.—VI. Three Stages.—VII. Evolution of our Dramatic Literature.—VIII. Shakespeare's Position in the Age.—IX. In England.—In his Country.—X. Double Evolution of English Literary Art.—Drama, History, Poetry, Prose.—Points of view.—XI. Evolutionary Epoch.—XII. The Evolutionary Movement in the Drama in the Age of Charles I.—Dramatists of the Restoration.—How to do.—XIII. Stage of Evolution in the Victorian Age.

### I

In attempting a survey of one of the great periods of literary history, the critic is met with a problem, upon his conceptions and solution of which will depend both method and distribution of material. This initial difficulty may be stated in the form of questions. What central point of view can be adopted? How shall the order of inquiry be determined? Do the phenomena to be considered suggest some natural classification; or must the combination of a system be introduced by means of artificial manipulation?

# Shaksperes Predecessors In The English

**John Churton Collins**



## **Shakespeare's Predecessors In The English:**

**Shakespeare's Predecessors in the English Drama** John Addington Symonds, 1924  
**the English Drama** John Addington Symonds, 1908  
*Shakespeare's Predecessors in the English Drama* John Addington Symonds, 1920  
*Shakespeare's Predecessors in the English Drama* HardPress, Symonds John Addington 1840-1893, 2013-01  
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**Shakespeare's Predecessors in the English Drama (Classic Reprint)** John Churton Collins, 2016-11-28  
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**Shakespeare and the Versification of English Drama, 1561-1642** Marina Tarlinskaja, 2016-12-05 Surveying the development and varieties of blank verse in the English playhouses this book is a natural history of iambic pentameter in English The main aim of the book is to analyze the evolution of Renaissance dramatic poetry Shakespeare is the central figure of the research but his predecessors contemporaries and followers are also important Shakespeare the author argues can be fully understood and appreciated only against the background of the whole period Tarlinskaja surveys English plays by Elizabethan Jacobean and Caroline playwrights from Norton and Sackville's *Gorboduc* to Sirley's *The Cardinal* Her analysis takes in such topics as what poets treated as a syllable in the 16th 17th century metrical verse the particulars of stressing in iambic pentameter texts word boundary and syntactic segmentation of verse lines their morphological and syntactic composition syllabic accentual and syntactic features of line endings and the way Elizabethan poets learned to use verse form to enhance meaning She uses statistics to explore the attribution of questionable Elizabethan and Jacobean plays and to examine several still enigmatic texts and collaborations Among these are the poem *A Lover's Complaint* the anonymous tragedy *Arden of Faversham* the challenging *Sir Thomas More* the later Jacobean comedy *The Spanish Gypsy* as well as a number of Shakespeare's co-authored plays Her analysis of versification offers new ways to think about the dating of plays attribution of anonymous texts and how collaborators divided their task in co-authored dramas *Readings from the Old English Dramatists: Miracle to masque. Predecessors of Shakespeare. Minor Elizabethan dramatists*, 1895

**Outlines of English and American Literature** William Joseph Long, 1917

**A Short History of the English Drama** Benjamin Brawley, 1921

**English Literature, Its History and Its Signi the English-Speaking World** William J. Long, 2016-09-05 This book which presents the whole splendid history of English literature from Anglo Saxon times to the close of the Victorian Era has three specific aims The first is to create or to encourage in every student the desire to read the best books and to know literature itself rather than what has been written about literature The second is to interpret literature both personally and historically that is to show how a great book generally reflects not only the author's life and thought but also the spirit of the age and the ideals of the nation's history The third aim is to show by a study of each successive period how our literature has steadily developed from its first simple songs and stories to its present complexity in prose and poetry To carry out these aims we have introduced the following features 1 A brief accurate summary of historical events and social conditions in each period and a consideration of the ideals which stirred the whole nation as in the days of Elizabeth before they found expression in literature 2 A study of the various literary

epochs in turn showing what each gained from the epoch preceding and how each aided in the development of a national literature 3 A readable biography of every important writer showing how he lived and worked how he met success or failure how he influenced his age and how his age influenced him 4 A study and analysis of every author's best works and of many of the books required for college entrance examinations 5 Selections enough especially from earlier writers and from writers not likely to be found in the home or school library to indicate the spirit of each author's work and directions as to the best works to read and where such works may be found in inexpensive editions 6 A frank untechnical discussion of each great writer's work as a whole and a critical estimate of his relative place and influence in our literature

*A New Variorum Edition of Shakespeare: The life and death of King John.* 1919 William Shakespeare, 1919 V 23 The second part of Henry the Fourth 1940 v 24 25 The sonnets 1924 v 26 Troilus and Cressida 1953 v 27 The life and death of King Richard the Second 1955

**The High School Course in English** Willard Grosvenor Bleyer, 1911      **An Introduction to English Literature** Henry Spackman Pancoast, 1917 Based upon the author's Representative English literature of

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