

Languages and literature

Reference Reviews
13/5 [1999] 19-29

RR 99/258
An Index of Characters in Early Modern English Drama: Printed Plays 1500-1660 (revised edition)

Thomas L. Berger, William C. Bradford and Sidney L. Sondergard
Cambridge University Press
Cambridge
1998

iv + 170 pp.
ISBN 0 521 62149 6
£40.00 (\$59.95)

Keywords Dramatisation, England, Literature, Theatre

Thomas L. Berger and Sidney L. Sondergard explain in the introduction to the revised edition of a work first published in microcard format in 1975 that the new edition "includes all of the characters who appear in the English printed drama of the Tudor, Elizabethan, Jacobean, Caroline, and Commonwealth 'periods': in short, Early Modern English printed drama". Their primary sources are the listings of Latin and English drama in W.W. Greg's seminal *Bibliography of the English Printed Drama to the Restoration* (4 vols., 1939-1957). At the conclusion of the opening of the Introduction Berger and Sondergard "hope this index will continue to have a variety of uses far broader than the ones that gave it birth". These uses range from the wants of a student who "might want to trace the development of the allegorical figure Fame as that figure appears in plays spanning a century and a half." A historian might be interested in exploring English perceptions of Norway as reflected on the stage by stage Norwegian(s). Social historians might desire to find out "views about various occupations - be they tailor(s), carpenter(s), or barber(s)". Further, a student of literary history "may discover a name in the drama of the period which might lead to an undiscovered source or analogue for a work written in the eighteenth, nineteenth, or twentieth centuries".

The Index has four main components. The character index is alphabetically arranged starting with "A 1,2" and concluding with "Zweno 113". The first reference "A 1, 2" refers to the Greg numbers 1 and 2 in the finding list. The Greg numbers refer to the play "1 Fulgens and Lucrece," and to "2 Fulgens and Lucrece", plays by Henry Medwall with a Greg date of about 1512-16, and the revised versions of *Annals of English Drama, 975-1700*, date of 1497, and to the revised *A Short Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and of English Books Printed Abroad 1475-1640*,

reference STC 17778. Thus "Zweno 113" refers in the finding list to a character in the play *Fair Em* possibly by R. Wilson (?), dating from around ?1593, with an *Annals* date of 1590 and STC 7675. So the finding list contains six components: the Greg identifying number; the title as in Greg; the author or authors as given in the *Annals*, the first publication date as in Greg, the date of first production as given in the *Annals*; and the Short Title Catalogue number.

The last two listings are an author index followed by "An alphabetical list of English printed drama, Latin, printed drama, and lost plays". This is followed by an alphabetically arranged enumerative bibliography arranged by "Bibliographical source texts", and "Critical studies". *An Index of Characters in Early Modern English Drama* is typeset in Lexicon 9.5/13pt (from the Enschede Font Foundry), in QuarkXpress. The character index has triple columns on a page; the finding list has six columns.

Berger, Bradford and Sondergard have compiled an interesting work of scholarship although not an indispensable one. *An Index of Characters in Early Modern English Drama Printed Plays, 1500-1660* is recommended for libraries with comprehensive collections in English literature and drama. Other libraries might be well advised to spend their precious limited budgets elsewhere: by purchasing, for instance, the latest edition of a Shakespeare play.

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RR 99/259
Fiction Sequels for Readers 10 to 16: An Annotated Bibliography of Books in Succession (2nd edition)

Edited by Vicki Anderson
McFarland & Company
Jefferson, North Carolina and London
176 pp.

ISBN 0 7864 0185 0 (paperback)
£26.95

Keywords Bibliographies, Books, Sequencing, Serials

Vicky Anderson's bibliographical work in the field of children's literature is well-known and well-established. The first edition of this work appeared in 1990 and, reflecting the growing popularity of sequels and the usefulness of knowing what follows what in reading fiction, this new second edition has appeared. This one is for readers from ten to 16 ("the interest age is children over ten"), and the