

Browne's stepfather, "the impressively scurrilous Sir Thomas Dutton" (xxxi), before acknowledging that Browne seems to have had "little connection, emotional or otherwise, with his mother and stepfamily in Ireland" (xxxiv). Embarrassingly, the footnote to Reid Barbour's biography credits the work to Reid Barbow (xxx). The introduction features other typos and dropped words as well, including an obvious mistake in the quotation in the book's opening sentence. Seven more errors appear in the subsequent quotations from G.K. Chesterton, all on the first page: the editor has not been well served by his proofreaders, and the errors here do not inspire confidence in the quotations in the footnotes. The index is usefully full, but also features errors: e.g., two of three references under "Hermes (Greek god)" refer in fact to Hermes Trismegistus.

Nonetheless, this volume is a fine, thoughtful, useful edition by a leading expert on this author. Would I recommend a softcover version to a student interested in Browne's work? Maybe, though I suspect I would nudge them instead toward the half-century-old Endicott for its broader range of texts and for its textual apparatus. And for a certain kind of general reader I lean still toward Keynes' *Selected Writings*: sufficiently confident in his target readership to do without annotations (though he does include textual notes), Keynes offers a finely judged selection in a well-designed book that is a pleasure both to handle and to read. Keynes remains my own choice for experiencing what Kevin Killeen so well describes as the symphonic "surge-force" (xli) of the writings of Sir Thomas Browne.

J. R. Mulryne. *The Guild and Guild Buildings of Shakespeare's Stratford: Society: Religion, Education and Stage*. Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2012. xiv + 270 pp. \$119.95. Review by SCOTT K. OLDENBURG, TULANE UNIVERSITY.

This book brings into conversation historical, literary, and archaeological studies of Stratford-upon-Avon's Guild of the Holy Cross and its buildings in the pre- and early modern period. Although the topic may seem narrow, it leads to a multidisciplinary examination of religious controversy, politics, education, and theater in the market

town from the thirteenth through the seventeenth century. As the title suggests the book provides a deepening of one's knowledge of the world of a young William Shakespeare, but it also offers a case study of one English town's adaptability and resilience during a time of economic expansion and religious change.

The Guild of the Holy Cross in Stratford-upon-Avon was established in 1269 as a hospital but soon took on the role of chantry, addressing the spiritual needs of the community. At the same time, the Guildhall, built in the fifteenth century, expanded its role beyond immediately religious matters. When the guild was dissolved in 1547, the building was quickly refashioned as the town's corporation, reclaiming some of its lost revenue and expanding its role in civic governance. With membership extending as far away as London, it fostered important business relationships. The Guildhall housed Stratford's school and was the site of at least some theatrical performances. A history of the guild's buildings, then, is at once also a religious, economic, and social history of the town itself.

The first two chapters cover the founding of the Guild of the Holy Order through the aftermath of its dissolution in the Reformation fervor of the 1520s. Mairi Macdonald's essay lays the groundwork for subsequent chapters, examining the Guild's membership, leadership, functions, and buildings and how the Guild was maintained even in a period of economic decline. Sylvia Gill's chapter focuses on the Guild's response to Reformation. What emerges here is a view of this central institution as constantly adapting to the needs of the local community and the demands of the state.

Gill also offers a chapter on the school housed by the guild. This along with Ian Green's study of Humanist learning at the Edward VI Grammar School provide the reader with a microcosm of educational initiatives throughout England as well as some of the specific problems faced by Stratford's community.

The dissolution of the guild represented a significant loss and led naturally to the community's largely successful attempts at retaining some of its functions through the establishment of the Corporation. Robert Bearman charts this development revealing a politically savvy if at times divided leadership in the community. This is supplemented by M. A. Webster's fascinating account of the court system in Stratford.

A central point of the collection is the study of the actual architecture of the Guildhall and its surrounds. Kate Giles and Jonathan Clark provide an archaeological study of the building, revealing the ways in which the buildings were not only important to the religious identity of the town but also a focal point for cultural and social lives of its residents.

The final section of the book is devoted to the theater, a topic of special interest since, as the title of the book implies, this is “Shakespeare’s Stratford,” but the authors exercise restraint in speculation about what a young Shakespeare may have seen or done in his hometown. Dovetailing nicely with the previous chapters’ study of religious controversy in the town, J. R. Mulryne reads the records of bans on performance in the Guildhall and violation of those bans as a reflection on the rise of Puritanism in the area. Drawing on the forthcoming REED volume on Warwickshire, Mulryne theorizes about the various possible sites of performance for plays and other entertainments.

Building on the earlier essays on the architecture of the Guildhall, Oliver Jones attempts to piece together the possible staging of a play by the Queen’s Men’s during one of their several visits to Stratford-upon-Avon. Along similar lines, Margaret Shewring examines the travelling companies that performed in and around Stratford. The variety of entertainments and players passing through the area is made clear as Shewring establishes the repertoire of several of the professional companies.

The Guild and Guild Buildings of Shakespeare’s Stratford should be of interest to historians and literary scholars alike. In addition to the floor plans and many photographs, the book provides useful bibliographies and appendices transcribing documents or otherwise compiling information relevant to the study of drama in the market town. Despite the diversity of disciplines practiced by its authors, the book is remarkably coherent, clustering around the very buildings that provided solace and a sense of community to early modern inhabitants of Stratford-upon-Avon.