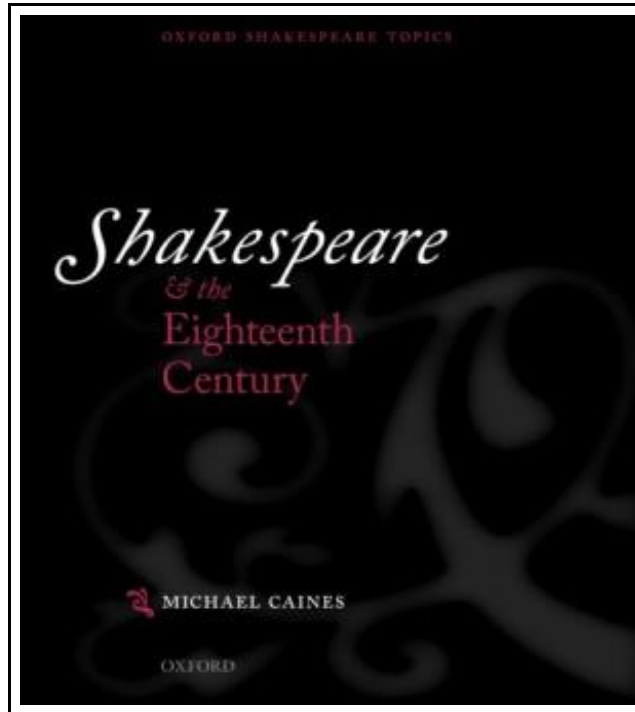


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SHAKESPEARE AND THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY



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Oxford University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Shakespeare and the Eighteenth Century, Michael Caines, OXFORD SHAKESPEARE TOPICS General Editors: Peter Holland and Stanley Wells Oxford Shakespeare Topics provide students and teachers with short books on important aspects of Shakespeare criticism and scholarship. Each book is written by an authority in its field, and combines accessible style with original discussion of its subject. This book considers the impact and influence of Shakespeare on writing of the eighteenth century, and also how eighteenth-century Shakespeare scholarship influenced how we read Shakespeare today. The most influential English actor of the eighteenth century, David Garrick, could hail Shakespeare as 'the god of our idolatry', yet perform an adaptation of King Lear with a happy ending, add a dying speech to Macbeth, and remove the puns from Romeo and Juliet. Garrick's friend Samuel Johnson thought of Shakespeare as 'above all writers, at least above all modern writers, the poet of nature'. Voltaire thought he was a sublime genius without taste. The Bluestocking Elizabeth Montagu, meanwhile, could be found arguing with Johnson's biographer James Boswell over whether Shakespeare or Milton was the greater poet. Shakespeare and the Eighteenth Century traces the course of a many-faceted metamorphosis. Drawing on fresh research as well as the most recent scholarship in the field, it argues that the story of Shakespeare in the eighteenth century has become a significant 'subplot' in later scholarship, made up of great debates about how to read Shakespeare and how to rank him among the great English writers, how to perform his plays and how to edit the texts of those plays. This book surveys the critical and creative responses of actors and audiences, literary critics and textual editors, painters and philosophes to Shakespeare's works, while also suggesting how the Shakespeare of the theatre...



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