



## THE EARLY MARLOVIAN AND SHAKESPEAREAN WORKS



any of Marlowe's early works were published anonymously, did not make it into print, or are lost to posterity. The following list includes the writings generally attributed to Kit by biographers, historians, and critics, along with probable dates of composition, earliest publication, and other comments, especially connections with the early Shakespearean writings.

*"Quod me nutrit me destruit,"* the Latin inscription on the putative 1585 portrait of Marlowe at Cambridge University. The motto, "Consum'd with that which it was nourish'd by" also appears in Shakespeare's Sonnet 73.

*The True History of George Scanderbeg.* Reputedly Kit's earliest play, now lost, about an abducted Christian prince brought up by Mohammadans.

*The Passionate Shepherd to His Love.* A short elegy whose opening, "Come live with me and be my love," is Marlowe's signature line and echoed in the Marlovian and Shakespearean plays. First published in 1599 and attributed to Shakespeare in *The Passionate Pilgrim*.

*Ovid's Elegies.* A translation of the *Amores*, a selection of love poems in Latin by a Roman poet. Probably written in the early 1580s, first published in the Netherlands in 1597, and burned by Archbishop Whitgift in 1599.

*Dido Queen of Carthage.* The story of the Carthaginian queen and her tragic love for Aeneas, the Trojan survivor who left her to found Rome. Also an early work from the 1580s, published in 1594 under the names of Marlowe and Thomas Nash, and revived on stage several years later.

*Tamburlaine the Great, Parts I and II.* The play and its sequel that introduced "the mighty line," making iambic pentameter the standard on the Elizabethan stage. Performed in 1587 by the Lord Admiral's Men at the Rose theatre and published in 1590.

*Colluthus's Helenae Raptus.* A verse translation of a Greek poet's *Rape of*

*Helen*, reputedly published in 1587 and now lost. Marlowe's friend Tom Watson reportedly paraphrased it the previous year in a Latin edition.

*Dr. Faustus*. The morality tale of the scholar who sold his soul to the devil for worldly knowledge, power, and beauty. Written in the late 1580s or early 1590s, performed at the Rose (and possibly censored and closed down by Archbishop Whitgift), it was not published until 1604 when it was printed by Valentine Simmes, who printed the First Quarto of *Hamlet*.

*The Jew of Malta*. Parable of a rich merchant whose Machiavellian policy causes him to lose his wealth, daughter, and life. Performed in 1594 at the Rose, registered for publication in the same year (by Nicholas Ling, who later published *Hamlet*), it was not brought out until 1633. Its prologue points to Kit's heretical beliefs, "death," and exile "beyond the Alps."

*The Massacre at Paris*. A dramatic account of the St. Bartholemew's Day attack on Protestants masterminded by the Duke of Guise and Catherine De Medici. Performed shortly before Kit's "death" in 1593 and later published under his name without a date.

*Edward II*. A history of the English monarch who was opposed by the barons because of the love for his favourite, Gaveston. One of the earliest English history plays, it was performed in the early 1590s and first published in 1593 under Marlowe's name.

*Elegy for Roger Manwood*. Brief 1592 Latin inscription for the judge who exonerated Kit and Thomas Watson following a swordfight.

*Amintae Gaudia*. A heartfelt dedication in Latin to Mary Sidney, the Countess of Pembroke by Marlowe prefacing the poems of his friend Thomas Watson. Published shortly after Watson's death in November 1592.

*Lucan's First Book*. A translation from the Latin of the first part of the *Pharsalia*, a history of the civil war between republican and imperial forces by a Roman poet. Uncertain date of composition. Published in 1600 by Edward Blount, who went on to publish Shakespeare's First Folio, and dedicated by Thomas Thorpe, who went on to publish *Shake-speares Sonnets*.

*Hero and Leander*. A narrative poem about the forbidden love between the beautiful priestess of Venus and a young man who drowns swimming the Hellespont. Kit was evidently working on this poet at the time of the Deptford affair. Published in 1598 by Blount and completed by John Chapman in another edition published the same year.

In addition to these writings, there are a number of anonymous works that some critics attribute to Marlowe. These include early versions of some of the Shakespearean plays to which Will may have contributed.

*Edward III*. An historical play that was probably composed shortly after England defeated the Spanish Armada in 1588. Probably performed by the

Lord Admiral's Men, it appeared in print in 1595 and has recently been accepted into the Shakespearean canon.

*The Marprelate Tracts.* Scathing satires of Archbishop Whitgift and the Church of England published anonymously in 1588–1589 by Martin Marprelate. Martin was never apprehended, though one of his printers, Valentine Simmes, who went on to print *Hamlet* and several other Shakespearean plays, was tortured. Critics find Martin's irrepressible spirit in many of the Shakespeare plays and believe that only a master dramatist could have written the original tracts.

*Ur-Hamlet.* The original Elizabethan version, attributed to Thomas Kyd, but likely composed by Marlowe or later revised and edited when he and Kyd shared a room together in 1591. Performed by the Lord Admiral's Men and the Lord Chamberlain's Men in 1594 and believed to form the core of the later Shakespearean versions. Subsequently lost, but may survive partially in *Der Bestrafte Brudermord*, the German version of *Hamlet*.

*Arden of Faversham.* Anonymous play published in 1592, set in the hometown of John Marlowe, Kit's father.

*Harey the vj.* Early version of Shakespeare's *1 Henry VI* performed in the early 1590s.

*The Contention Betwixt the two famous Houses of Yorke and Lancaster.* Early version of Shakespeare's *2 Henry VI* published anonymously in 1594.

*The true Tragedy of Richard Duke of Yorke.* Early version of Shakespeare's *3 Henry VI* published anonymously in 1595.

*Sir Thomas More.* A collaborative effort by Anthony Munday, Thomas Heywood, Henry Chettle, Thomas Dekker, Thomas Kyd, and presumably Shakespeare. Censored and not published during the lifetime of the authors.

*Richard III.* Composed in the early 1590s, published anonymously in 1597, and attributed to Shakespeare in the First Folio.

*The Famous Victories of Henry V.* Enacted by the Queen's Men, published anonymously in 1598, and a source for *1* and *2 Henry IV* and *Henry V*.

*Venus and Adonis.* Narrative poem published in June 1593, two weeks after Marlowe's "death." The first work attributed to Shakespeare, whose name appears on the dedication page to Southampton. Shares many similarities in style, imagery, and language with Marlowe's *Hero and Leander*.

*Sonnets.* Possibly dating from the early 1590s, including many of suffering, exile, and loss of name and identity. Brought out as *Shake-speares Sonnets* on May 20, 1609 by Thomas Thorpe, one of Marlowe's publishers, on the anniversary of his arrest in connection with the heresy investigation.

For further information on the background to these early works, please see Volume 2 of this edition of *Hamlet*.