



The Oxford Shakespeare: Hamlet (Oxford World's Classics)

By William Shakespeare

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This *Oxford Shakespeare* edition of *Hamlet* represents a radically new text of the best known and most widely discussed of all Shakespearean tragedies. Arguing that the text currently accepted is not, in fact, the most authoritative version of the play, this new edition turns to the First Folio of 1623--Shakespeare's "fair copy"--that has been preserved for us in the Second Quarto. Introducing fresh theatrical momentum, this revision provides, as Shakespeare intended, a better, more practical acting script.

Professor Hibbard's illuminating and original introduction explains the process by which variant texts were fused in the eighteenth century to create the most commonly used text of today. Drawing on both critical and theatrical history, he shows how this fusion makes *Hamlet* seem a much more 'problematic' play than it was when it originally appeared in the First Folio of 1623.

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'it is bound in general to have considerable impact on our thinking about Hamlet (the text and the play) and deserves wide attention' Notes and Queries

'level-headed, perspicuous treatment of the textual problems...It may be commended to students...Of the three recent Hamlets, this edition is the one I shall require students to buy.' T. H. Howard-Hill, Review English Studies

About the Author

G. R. Hibbard is dead

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