

The Upstart Crow: A Shakespeare Journal (1978-2013)

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SHAKESPEARE'S FEMALE ICONS

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“There is an upstart crow beautified with our feathers that, with his ‘tiger’s heart wrapped in a player’s hide,’ supposes he is as well able to bombast out a blank verse as the best of you; being an absolute Johannes Factotum, in his conceit the only shake-scene in a country.”

— Robert Greene, *Groatsworth of Wit* (1592)



For those institutions and persons who have become subscribers over the years, I want to extend my personal thanks for your support. I know I speak for the journal’s editors, staff, and advisory board. Your help made a great difference as the Center for Electronic and Digital Publishing (CEDP) strove to maintain high standards and to do new things with this publication for Clemson University Digital Press (CUDP) since becoming the journal’s publisher with Volume XIX. Outwardly, the annual generated a new appearance—starting with volume XXI (2001). Inwardly, its organization, policies, and operating procedures were also amended to comply with the charter of the CUDP. In memory of Jim Andreas, late editor and co-founder (in 1990) of the Clemson Shakespeare Festival, we decided to change the cover and include a special section each year to match the theme of the festival. Although the Clemson festival had its last season in spring 2008, we stuck to that format for the journal, when editor Elizabeth Rivlin began introducing themes, announced in advance, and enlisted guest editors for featured sections. Sadly, the present volume, on the theme of “Shakespeare’s Female Icons,” will be the last one and the end of a history that began with William Bennett at the University of Tennessee at Martin, in 1978, on a shoe-string and somewhat sporadically. After a good run at Clemson University, the impact of the Great Recession has been too great to ignore, especially in the steady decline of the journal’s subscriptions and increased overhead costs in that time. We congratulate ourselves for ending with so rich a sampling of current Shakespeare scholarship as one finds in this excellent volume.

Besides the consolation that “all’s well that ends well,” I am pleased to say that, from our *Upstart Crow* inventory, CUDP will soon be able to offer discounted volumes by direct order from an online marketplace currently under construction but expected in spring 2013. We are digitizing content for the journal’s archive, which will be available for inspection on an open-access basis on our website. The exact launch date is unclear though the two projects are correspondent. The advent of e-commerce and direct online transactions from the CUDP store will be advantageous for research scholars and for students, who will visit us as perhaps never before. Watch the Shakespeare library grow at <http://www.clemson.edu/cedp/cudp/crow/>.

Wayne K. Chapman

CEDP Director / CUDP Executive Editor