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## Front Matter

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**Selected Papers of the  
Ohio Valley Shakespeare  
Conference**

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**Selected Papers of the  
Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference**

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## From the Editor

The fortieth annual meeting of the Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference occurred October 20<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016, hosted by Wright State University in Dayton. The conference theme, “Encountering Shakespeare,” brought together a wide range of perspectives on early modern drama and contemporary interpretations of that drama. The keynote speakers, Professor Curtis Perry from the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, and Professor Ayanna Thompson from the George Washington University, considered encounters that challenge us to consider the broad possibility of our theme: Professor Perry focused on the encounter of ancient Roman literature within Shakespeare’s plays, as well as the encounter of alterity within Shakespeare’s works in his talk “Recovering Shakespeare’s Seneca: Alterity, Inwardness, and Empire”; Professor Thompson explored the audience’s experience of radical adaptations of *Othello* on the contemporary stage in her talk, “Encountering *Othello* Anew through the Deutsches Theater Berlin.”

In this volume, we present a variety of understandings of that word “encountering,” from encounters within plays to the act of encountering Shakespeare in the contemporary moment. The first piece in volume nine of the journal comes from Amany El-Sawy (Alexandria University, Egypt). In this piece, El-Sawy explores the convergence of the West and the East in Shakespeare’s figure of Cleopatra, providing an especially useful discussion of the Egyptian queen as the site of that encounter of the Occident and the Orient within literary criticism. Her reading of the play thus “constructs an epistemological paradigm that fragments the Western monoglossic discourse and obliterates the dialectical tenets of its episteme as it deconstructs the West’s ontological and teleological basis.”

In a decidedly different sort of encounter, Marcia Eppich-Harris (Marian University) explores the encounters of an historical figure – Hubert de Burgh – with the Shakespearean history play in her paper “Hubert’s Encounters with Succession in Shakespeare’s *King John*.” In this, Eppich-Harris contributes to scholarship on the play by exploring the role of Hubert in king-making and the subsequent disappearance of a

character whose historical analogue was a significant figure in Henry III's reign.

The third paper in this volume, David George's (Urbana University) "Young Shakespeare: Culture, Patrons, and Connections," turns away from the plays and towards the playwright himself. In this piece, George examines the historical records, seeking our evidence of Shakespeare's connections with various potential patrons. Thus, this paper provides the reader with a series not only of Shakespearean encounters, but also a series of encounters between early modern cultural patrons, early modern cultural king-makers.

Daniel G. Lauby (University of South Florida St. Petersburg) took another approach to the idea of the Shakespearean encounter, this time focusing on encounters in the nineteenth century. In his piece "Sadomasochistic Cyclicity: Appropriations of Shakespeare's 'Dark Lady' Sonnets in Dicken's *Great Expectations*," Lauby argues for a more careful critical examination of the role of the sonnets in Charles Dickens' work, focusing particularly on the way that "Dickens and Shakespeare's lovers typically emphasize contradictions associated with the beloved, [with] both Estella and the 'Dark Lady' [coming] to embody the pleasure and pain inherent in sadomasochistic fantasies."

Our fifth piece, "She May Strew Dangerous Conjectures': The Political Seditious and Social Potency of *Hamlet's* Ophelia," by Christina Puntasecca Luigi (Wright State University) argues for a renewed look at Ophelia "a politically seditious and verbally dangerous character, albeit restricted by the social constructs of gender and social class during the Renaissance period." To consider this, Luigi examines both the text of the play itself, but also the potential for the character created in a recent production of the play at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival.

Finally, Anne McIlhaney (Webster University) returns us to Cleopatra with her exploration of the treatment of maternal figures in the Roman plays, examining particularly the Egyptian queen, Tamora, and the Queen in *Cymbeline*. McIlhaney's work returns the conversation to the encounter between the east and the west, because the Roman and the non-Roman that this volume of essays begins with.

These essays provide some insight into the work of our 2016 conference, and most especially the multivalent ways in which members of the Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference approached the word

“encountering.” The contributors to this volume have assisted us with a great deal of time and work, but I have also had a great deal of help on other fronts. I want to thank, in particular, Hillary Nunn of the University of Akron for her assistance, with both technical and editorial needs; I want to thank all of the OVSC members who volunteered their time and expertise to read and respond to our submissions; and I want to thank the Board of the OVSC for trusting me with this endeavor.