

From the Editor

It is my pleasure and privilege to introduce the current volume of our journal. It celebrates two very significant events for both Polish and the international Shakespeare community.

The first part of the volume is dedicated to Professor William B. Worthen, who in spring 2016 was invited to the University of Lodz as a special guest of the Rector, at the suggestion of the Międzynarodowe Centrum Badań Szekspirowskich (the International Shakespeare Research Centre). His visit was a part of the University's celebration of the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. Professor William B. Worthen is the Alice Brady Pels Professor in the Arts at Barnard College, Columbia University, where he chairs the Department of Theatre. He also co-chairs the PhD program in Theatre at Columbia University, where he is a Professor of the Division of Theatre and the Department of English and Comparative Literature.

His academic interests cover contemporary Shakespeare performance, the history and theory of modern performance and modern drama. His monographs include *Shakespeare Performance Studies* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2014); *Drama: Between Poetry and Performance* (Blackwell-Wiley, 2010); *Print and the Poetics of Modern Drama* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2006); *Shakespeare and the Force of Modern Performance* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2003); *Shakespeare and the Authority of Performance* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 1997); *Modern Drama and the Rhetoric of Theater* (Univ. of California Press, 1992); *The Idea of the Actor* (Princeton Univ. Press, 1984). He has also been an editor or co-editor of such influential publications as *The Wadsworth Anthology of Drama*, sixth edition (Wadsworth, 2010); *Modern Drama: Plays/Criticism/Theory* (Harcourt Brace, 1995), *A Companion to Shakespeare and Performance* (Blackwell, 2005), *Theorizing Practice: Redefining Theatre History* (Palgrave, 2003), *Modern Drama: Defining the Field* (University of Toronto Press, 2003), among others.

For his achievements, Professor Worthen has received numerous awards and grants, including the J.L. Styan Collegiate Professorship at the University of Michigan, a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship. He has also won teaching awards from the University of Texas, Northwestern University, the University of Michigan and the Association for Theatre in Higher Education Research. Most recently, he has been a fellow of the "Interweaving Performance Cultures,"

International Research Center of the Free University in Berlin. He was previously the editor of the professional journals *Modern Drama* and *Theatre Journal*.

While in Lodz, he delivered an open lecture entitled „Mediatizing Hamlet” to specialists in Shakespeare, theatre and drama. An important part of his visit was his participation in the symposium “Shakespeare and the Authority of Performance in Poland,” which was inspired by his research. Selected papers of this symposium are included in this volume, which opens with an interview conducted with Professor Worthen.

The second part of the volume is dedicated, posthumously, to another world-famous Shakespeare scholar, James Harner. His death in 2016 was especially distressing to international researchers, teachers and students, who all use his essential research and teaching tools *Literary Research Guide* and his *On Compiling an Annotated Bibliography*, as well the *World Shakespeare Bibliography (WSB)*. He took over the current WSB in 1989. It had been part of the *Shakespeare Quarterly* since the quarterly’s inception in 1950. Professor Harrison Meserole, who was Professor Harner’s predecessor, was responsible for moving the bibliography from the typewriter to the computer, while Professor Harner made it accessible digitally.

In 1997, the WSB received the British Library Association’s Besterman Medal for outstanding bibliography and in 2001 the Besterman-McColvin medal for outstanding reference work. Though these awards are no doubt prestigious, they do not demonstrate the immense value of Professor Harner’s work. As a Shakespeare scholar, I cannot imagine my research without this magnificent, internationally recognized research tool, and I believe my attitude is shared by Shakespeare specialists around the globe.

I had the pleasure of knowing Professor Harner personally. Our first meeting took place at Texas A&M University, when Professor Meserole and Jim were working on a new approach to WSB. I was inspired by his work, as well as his enthusiasm. As a member of the WSB’s International Committee of Correspondents, and with Professor Harner’s encouragement, I edited a Polish version of the bibliography, *Polska Bibliografia Szekspirowska 1989-2000* (Wydawnictwo Ossolineum, 2009).

Over the years, we stayed in touch and we met from time to time at various Shakespeare conferences all over the world. As the *World Shakespeare Bibliographer*, Professor Harner always organized lunches or dinners for his international group of correspondents during which we talked, joked and exchanged news about our professional and private lives.

While in Prague at the *World Shakespeare Congress* I was honored to be invited by him to a private dinner in a beautiful restaurant. We talked for many hours about work, families and life in general. I did not realize then that it would be the last opportunity to enjoy his company.

There is no doubt that Professor Harner revolutionized the World Shakespeare Bibliography. He turned its paper edition into the best of its kind through digitalized machinery. Because he made the bibliography easily accessible, it is used by thousands of people daily. This has been especially helpful for scholars like me whose university libraries have limited resources. He is greatly missed by international scholars and by friends and colleagues.

As for myself, I cannot imagine doing Shakespeare studies without his presence as a friendly and knowledgeable pillar of support, expertise, and wisdom. I would like to believe that I had a special friendship with Professor Harner. He was one of the most caring people I know, and he frequently went out of his way to help. Among other things, he frequently sent me books and photocopies of articles that I needed for my academic work and were unavailable in Poland. I will always be grateful for his professional advice and assistance.

The essays, which constitute the second part of this volume testify that many people share my sorrow and sense of loss after Professor Harner's passing. This collection was gathered and edited by Professor Laura Estill, the current editor of the WSB, for which the many members of the international Shakespeare community are very grateful.

In other words, this volume presents two significant Shakespeare scholars, whose work has inspired both the Polish and international academic community. I hope that its readers will appreciate the powerful intellectual agenda of these two distinguished professors, who have stimulated a unique range of approaches to Shakespeare studies, theatre and bibliography.

Krystyna Kujawińska Courtney