

# SHAKESPEARE BULLETIN BOOK REVIEW GUIDELINES

*Last revised 15 October 2021*

Dear Contributor,

Thank you for agreeing to contribute a book review to *Shakespeare Bulletin*. Here are the guidelines for reviews.

Your review should begin with a factual headnote. Here is an example:

***Playing Companies and Commerce in Shakespeare's Time***. By Roslyn Lander Knutson. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001. Pp. x + 198. \$55.00.

**SARAH DUSTAGHEER**  
*University of Kent*

This challenging volume questions the importance of the “theatre history as personality” theories that have long dominated discussions of Renaissance English actors and companies. That approach, still largely accepted, holds that actors and their companies were rivals, sometimes bitter rivals. In its place Roslyn Knutson posits a cooperative model, patterned after the guild system to which many of the actors had themselves belonged before entering the theatre. Instead of seeking to drive one another out of business, Knutson suggests, theatre people worked together in the face of competing entertainments like bear-baiting as well as “the plague, civic authorities, and anti-theatrical clergymen” (20).

Book reviews are usually around 2000 words, and should be substantive, illustrative and opinionated. Since *Shakespeare Bulletin* focuses on Shakespeare in performance, book reviews should attend to the book's specific usefulness in this regard where possible, though of course you are free to discuss other aspects of the book as well.

If the book is published in both hard and soft covers, show the price of each: \$50 (cloth), \$20 (paper). Where possible, please indicate the price in \$US; if this is not possible, please let me know.

Please refer to the *Shakespeare Bulletin* [style sheet](#) when formatting your review. Some common queries are addressed below:

When you cite the text of the book under review, give page numbers in parentheses—(ii–v) or (32). If you refer to other books, give date (1995) or, if necessary, publisher and date (Oxford UP, 1991). Avoid footnotes.

No manual returns at the end of a line. Text should wrap automatically. Use a manual return at the end of a paragraph. Tab to begin new paragraphs. Do not format new paragraphs with the markers on the horizontal ruler. One space after all punctuation marks, including periods.

Leave two lines before and after block quotations. There is no need to indent block quotations. Do not use tabs or spaces to indent quotes, endnotes, or works cited.

No spaces before or after an en dash or an em dash (two hyphens).

Do not use underlined text, for example for book titles: use *italics*.

Use MLA-style in-text parenthetical citation and works cited. Page numbers do not need to be preceded by p. or pp.

Use the American style for spelling, periods, and commas throughout the manuscript except in quotations, where original spelling should be retained. Spelling, including hyphenation, should be consistent throughout the manuscript except in quotations.

We prefer theatre (not theater), Welles's (not Welles'), words with multi and post as one word (multicultural, postmodern), act one (not Act I), 5.1.163-64 (to indicate act, scene, lines), (20) to indicate page citation, twenty-six (not 26), Arabic numbers for numbers above 100.

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Please email me once you have received your books, by post, to negotiate a submission deadline; we normally suggest a two-month turnaround. If you have any questions about the format or content of your review, I would be glad to discuss these with you by e-mail, or to use e-mail to set up a Skype meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks, again, for providing a valuable service to scholars who rely on *Shakespeare Bulletin* to keep them informed about developments in our field.

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