

Ben Jonson In Context

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Ben Jonson Richard Dutton 2014-07-21 Interest in Ben Jonson is higher today than at any time since his death. This new collection offers detailed readings of all the major plays - Volpone, Epicene, The Alchemist and Bartholomew Fair - and the poems. It also provides significant insights into the court masques and the later plays which have only recently been rediscovered as genuinely engaging stage pieces.

Texts, Contexts and Intertextuality Norbert Lennartz 2014-10-22 While Dickens used to be seen as a writer of shallow and sentimental children's literature, as the prolific caterer to the new market of mass literature, this collection of essays shows that Dickens was not only a reader of high-brow literature, but also expected his readers to understand them in the context of contemporary scientific and economic debates. Covering a wide range of writers - from Sidney, Shakespeare, Cervantes to Swift, Smollett and Bulwer-Lytton - Dickens's novels reveal a multi-layered cosmos and supply their readers with richly woven nets of intertextuality.

Politics and Political Culture in the Court Masque J. Knowles 2015-06-17 Politics and Political Culture in the Court Masque considers the interconnections of the masque and political culture. It examines how masques responded to political forces and voices beyond the court, and how masques explored the limits of political speech in the Jacobean and Caroline periods.

Ovid and Masculinity in English Renaissance Literature John S. Garrison 2021-01-16 Ovid transformed English Renaissance literary ideas about love, erotic desire, embodiment, and gender more than any other classical poet. Ovidian concepts of femininity have been well served by modern criticism, but Ovid's impact on masculinity in Renaissance literature remains underexamined. This volume explores how English Renaissance writers shifted away from Virgilian heroic figures to embrace romantic ideals of courtship, civility, and friendship. Ovid's writing about masculinity, love, and desire shaped discourses of masculinity across a wide range of literary texts of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, including poetry, prose fiction, and drama. The book covers all major works by Ovid, in addition to Italian humanists Angelo Poliziano and Natale Conti, canonical writers such as William Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson, Edmund Spenser, Philip Sidney, and John Milton, and lesser-known writers such as Wynkyn de Worde, Michael Drayton, Thomas Lodge, Richard Johnson, Robert

Greene, John Marston, Thomas Heywood, and Francis Beaumont. Individual essays examine emasculation, abjection, pacifism, female masculinity, boys' masculinity, parody, hospitality, and protean Jewish masculinity. *Ovid and Masculinity in English Renaissance Literature* demonstrates how Ovid's poetry gave vigour and vitality to male voices in English literature - how his works inspired English writers to reimagine the male authorial voice, the male body, desire, and love in fresh terms.

New Perspectives on Ben Jonson James E. Hirsh 1997 Alexander Leggatt revisits the issue of the double plot in *Volpone* and finds that an emphasis on simple thematic parallels between the two plots distorts the dramatic significance of their relationship. As Kate D. Levin shows, conventional critical approaches have obscured both the structural peculiarities that Jonson's plays share with his masques and his occasional disregard of playhouse pragmatism.

Ben Jonson and Possessive Authorship Joseph Loewenstein 2002-06-27 Publisher Description

Ben Jonson James Loxley 2005-06-29 Annotation This volume offers the broadest range of information on Jonson and his works, from background on contexts to details of recent interpretations of his plays.

Craftmanship in Context Judith Kegan Gardiner 2015-07-24

Jonson and the Contexts of His Time Robert C. Evans 1994 "Ben Jonson was one of the most important writers of the English Renaissance, and this study both reflects and contributes to the growing focus on the concrete details of his art and career. By examining specific works, particular historical circumstances, and complex relations with various individuals, author Robert C. Evans tries to locate Jonson's writings in the contexts that helped shape their artistry." "This book presumes that the more one knows about Jonson's various contexts, the more richly one can appreciate the complicated significance of the texts he produced. In fact, a major purpose of the book is the presentation of new archival data. The individual chapters all assume that Jonson could not ignore his relations with other people and the effects that those relations might have had on his life and writings." "The first chapter raises explicitly many of the questions involved in the historical study of literature, contributing to recent dialogue about the meaning and value of the so-called New Historicism. This chapter also offers one of the few sustained examinations of one of Jonson's most typical and significant poems, the epistle to Edward Sackville." "Chapter 2 suggests why Jonson's relations with rivals and patrons were particularly significant. It discusses one of his most important rivalries - the "poetomachia" - and its significance for the early years of his life as a writer. The chapter then jumps to the end of Jonson's career and emphasizes works he addressed to the Earl of Newcastle, one of his most important later patrons. This initial emphasis on patronage and rivalry recurs in one way or another in all the subsequent chapters, which follow a roughly chronological scheme." "Chapter 3 looks at the earliest and perhaps still the best of Jonson's great plays, *Volpone*, and explores new evidence suggesting that Jonson may have used this comedy to mock a powerful and wellknown contemporary. Chapter 4 explores *The Devil is an Ass* (1616) and attempts to suggest the very complicated political and social circumstances in which it was enmeshed. Chapter 5 tries to show how the important masque entitled *Pleasure Reconciled to Virtue* offered a detailed response to another aristocratic entertainment written a few months earlier, and chapter 6 surveys the poet's apparently contentious relations with the highly talented Thomas Campion." "Chapters 7 and 8 focus on the closing years of Jonson's

career. They explore his little-known friendship with Joseph Webbe, an important language theorist whose ideas were quite controversial at the time, and examine Jonson's relations with significant Caroline patrons in an attempt to show the complicated ways in which the patronage "system" - so often discussed in the abstract could operate in actuality. A brief afterword summarizes some of the general critical assumptions on which all the preceding chapters are based."--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

The Cambridge Introduction to Early Modern Drama, 1576-1642 Julie Sanders 2014-02-20 Engaging and stimulating, this Introduction provides a fresh vista of the early modern theatrical landscape. Chapters are arranged according to key genres (tragedy, revenge, satire, history play, pastoral and city comedy), punctuated by a series of focused case studies on topics ranging from repertoire to performance style, political events to the physical body of the actor, and from plays in print to the space of the playhouse. Julie Sanders encourages readers to engage with particular dramatic moments, such as opening scenes, skulls on stage or the conventions of disguise, and to apply the materials and methods contained in the book in inventive ways. A timeline and frequent cross-references provide continuity. Always alert to the possibilities of performance, Sanders reveals the remarkable story of early modern drama not through individual writers, but through repertoires and company practices, helping to relocate and re-imagine canonical plays and playwrights.

Ben Jonson's Theatrical Republics J. Sanders 1998-08-19 This timely book challenges conventional critical wisdom about the work of Ben Jonson. Looking in particular at his Jacobean and Caroline plays, it explores his engagement with concepts of republicanism. Julie Sanders investigates notions of community in Jonson's stage worlds - his 'theatrical republics' - and reveals a Jonson to contrast with the traditional image of the writer as conservative, absolutist, misogynist, and essentially 'anti-theatrical'. The Jonson presented here is a positive celebrant of the social and political possibilities of theatre.

Christopher Marlowe in Context Emily C. Bartels 2013-07-11 The most up-to-date contextual guide to Christopher Marlowe's world and the full range of his poetry and drama.

Thomas Middleton in Context Suzanne Gossett 2011-04-21 An illuminating study of all works in the newly enlarged Middleton canon, placing them in personal, national, international and theatrical contexts.

Notes and Queries 1898

Ben Jonson: Authority: Criticism R. Dutton 1996-03-27 Ben Jonson: Authority: Criticism is the first book-length study of Jonson's literary criticism, and examines the ways that criticism defines his unprecedented role as a professional author. Each chapter explores a different facet: 'The Lone Wolf' looks at Jonson's role in creating a critical discourse to respond to a new literary market-place; 'Poet and Critic' explores the relationship between his 'creative' and 'critical' writing; 'Poet and State' traces his accommodations as an author with censorship and other forms of authority; 'The Laws of Poetry' relates his appeals to classical precedent to his insecurity in a world where literary conditions were very different from those of ancient Greece and Rome; 'Jonson and Shakespeare' examines the old supposed rivalry as evidence of competing definitions of authorship. Throughout Richard Dutton suggests how Jonson's

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criticism set the terms for the profession of letters in England for more than a century. Finally an appendix provides a representative selection of Jonson's critical work.

Ben Jonson, John Marston and Early Modern Drama Rebecca Yearling 2016-01-05 This book examines the influence of John Marston, typically seen as a minor figure among early modern dramatists, on his colleague Ben Jonson. While Marston is usually famed more for his very public rivalry with Jonson than for the quality of his plays, this book argues that such a view of Marston seriously underestimates his importance to the theatre of his time. In it, the author contends that Marston's plays represent an experiment in a new kind of satiric drama, with origins in the humanist tradition of *serio ludere*. His works—deliberately unpredictable, inconsistent and metatheatrical—subvert theatrical conventions and provide confusingly multiple perspectives on the action, forcing their spectators to engage actively with the drama and the moral dilemmas that it presents. The book argues that Marston's work thus anticipates and perhaps influenced the mid-period work of Ben Jonson, in plays such as *Sejanus*, *Volpone* and *The Alchemist*.

Figures in a Renaissance Context C. A. Patrides 1989 Essays on many of the most important literary figures of the 16th and 17th centuries

The Cultural Geography of Early Modern Drama, 1620-1650 Julie Sanders 2011-05-26 Literary geographies is an exciting new area of interdisciplinary research. Innovative and engaging, this book applies theories of landscape, space and place from the discipline of cultural geography within an early modern historical context. Different kinds of drama and performance are analyzed: from commercial drama by key playwrights to household masques and entertainment performed by families and in semi-official contexts. Sanders provides a fresh look at works from the careers of Ben Jonson, John Milton and Richard Brome, paying attention to geographical spaces and habitats like forests, coastlines and arctic landscapes of ice and snow, as well as the more familiar locales of early modern country estates and city streets and spaces. Overall, the book encourages readers to think about geography as kinetic, embodied and physical, not least in its literary configurations, presenting a key contribution to early modern scholarship.

'Volpone' in Context Keith Linley 2016-11-21 Everything you need to know about the cultural contexts of 'Volpone'. The unremitting exposure of human vileness is black and bleak, redeemed perhaps by the eventual punishment of the wrongdoers in an outcome achieved more by luck than justice. This book provides detailed in-depth discussion of the various influences that a Jacobean audience would have brought to interpreting the play. How did people think about the world, about God, about sin, about kings, about civilized conduct, about the predatory impulses that drive men to prey upon each other? Historical, literary, political, sociological backgrounds are explained within the biblical-moral matrices by which the play would have been judged. This book links real life in the late 1600s to the world on the stage. Discover the orthodox beliefs people held about religion. Meet the Devil, the Seven Deadly Sins and human depravity. Learn about the social hierarchy, gender relationships, court corruption, class tensions, the literary profile of the time, attitudes to comedy - and all the subversions, transgressions, and oppositions that made the play a topical satire but also an unsettling picture of a world so close to disaster.

The Cambridge Companion to Ben Jonson Richard L. Harp 2000-11-30 Ben Jonson is, in many

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ways, the figure of greatest centrality to literary study of the Elizabethan and Jacobean period. He wrote in virtually every literary genre: in drama, comedy, tragedy and masque; in poetry, epigram, epistle and lyric; in prose, literary criticism and English grammar. He became the most visible poet of his age, honored more than even William Shakespeare, and his dramatic works, in particular his major comedies, continue to be performed today. This Companion brings together leading scholars from both sides of the Atlantic to provide an accessible and up-to-date introduction to Jonson's life and works. It represents an invaluable guide to current critical perspectives, providing generous coverage not only of his plays but also his non-dramatic works. The volume is informed by the latest development in Jonson scholarship and will therefore appeal to scholars and teachers as well as newcomers to his work.

Ben Jonson in Context Julie Sanders 2010-06-03 This collection highlights exciting new areas of research related to Ben Jonson, including book history, social history and cultural geography.

Imitation and Contamination of the Classics in the Comedies of Ben Jonson Tom Harrison 2022-10-12 This book focuses on the influence of classical authors on Ben Jonson's dramaturgy, with particular emphasis on the Greek and Roman playwrights and satirists. This book illuminates the interdependence of the aspects of Jonson's creative personality by considering how classical performance elements including the Aristophanic 'Great Idea,' chorus, Terentian/Plautine performative strategies, and 'performative' elements from literary satire manifest themselves in the structuring and staging of his plays. This fascinating exploration contributes to the 'performative turn' in early modern studies by reframing Jonson's classicism as essential to his dramaturgy as well as his erudition. This book is also a case study for how the early modern education system's emphasis on imitative-contaminative practices prepared its students, many of whom became professional playwrights, for writing for a theatre that had a similar emphasis on the recycling and recombining performative tropes and structures.

Volpone: or, The fox, a comedy Ben Jonson 1739

'King Lear' in Context Keith Linley 2015-02-15 This engaging book provides in-depth discussion of the various influences that an audience in 1606 would have brought to interpreting 'King Lear'. How did people think about the world, about God, about sin, about kings, about civilized conduct? Learn about the social hierarchy, gender relationships, parenting and family dynamics, court corruption, class tensions, the literary profile of the time, the concept of tragedy – and all the subversions, transgressions, and oppositions that made the play an unsettling picture of a disintegrating world in free fall.

The Magnetic Lady Ben Jonson 2000-11-18 This is the first fully annotated edition of Ben Jonson's *The Magnetic Lady*, written in 1632. The introduction places the play in the context of Jonson's later dramatic and poetic works and discusses the political context of the Caroline court. A performance history of the play and fresh material relating to its 17th-century reception are also provided. This new edition by Peter Happè reappraises Jonson's much-neglected play and argues for its recognition as a work of real distinction.

Tottel's Songes and Sonettes in Context Stephen Hamrick 2016-02-24 Though printer Richard Tottel's *Songes and Sonettes* (1557) remains the most influential poetic collection

printed in the sixteenth century, the compilation has long been ignored or misunderstood by scholars of early modern English culture. Embracing a broad range of critical and historical perspectives, the eight essays within this volume offer the first sustained analysis of the many ways that consumers read and understood *Songes and Sonettes* as an anthology over the course of the early modern period. Copied by a monarch, set to music, sung, carried overseas, studied, appropriated, rejected, edited by consumers, transferred to manuscript, and gifted by Shakespeare, this multi-author verse anthology of 280 poems transformed sixteenth-century English language and culture. With at least eleven printings before the end of Elizabeth I's reign, Tottel's ground-breaking text greatly influenced the poetic publications that followed, including individual and multi-author miscellanies. Contributors to this essay collection explore how, in addition to offering a radically new kind of English verse, 'Tottel's Miscellany' engaged politics, friendship, religion, sexuality, gender, morality and commerce in complex-and at times, contradictory-ways.

Ben Jonson Ian Donaldson 2012-02-20 Ben Jonson was the greatest of Shakespeare's contemporaries. In the century following his death he was seen by many as the finest of all English writers, living or dead. His fame rested not only on the numerous plays he had written for the theatre, but on his achievements over three decades as principal masque-writer to the early Stuart court, where he had worked in creative, and often stormy, collaboration with Inigo Jones. One of the most accomplished poets of the age, he had become - in fact if not in title - the first Poet Laureate in England. Jonson's life was full of drama. Serving in the Low Countries as a young man, he overcame a Spanish adversary in single combat in full view of both the armies. His early satirical play, *The Isle of Dogs*, landed him in prison, and brought all theatrical activity in London to a temporary — and very nearly to a permanent — standstill. He was 'almost at the gallows' for killing a fellow actor after a quarrel, and converted to Catholicism while awaiting execution. He supped with the Gunpowder conspirators on the eve of their planned coup at Westminster. After satirizing the Scots in *Eastward Ho!* he was imprisoned again; and throughout his career was repeatedly interrogated about plays and poems thought to contain seditious or slanderous material. In his middle years, twenty stone in weight, he walked to Scotland and back, seemingly partly to fulfil a wager, and partly to see the land of his forebears. He travelled in Europe as tutor to the mischievous son of Sir Walter Raleigh, who 'caused him to be drunken and dead drunk' and wheeled provocatively through the streets of Paris. During his later years he presided over a sociable club in the Apollo Room in Fleet Street, mixed with the most learned scholars of his day, and viewed with keen interest the political, religious, and scientific controversies of the day. Ian Donaldson's new biography draws on freshly discovered writings by and about Ben Jonson, and locates his work within the social and intellectual contexts of his time. Jonson emerges from this study as a more complex and volatile character than his own self-declarations (and much modern scholarship) would allow, and as a writer whose work strikingly foresees - and at times pre-emptively satirizes - the modern age.

Elizabeth Bishop in Context Angus Cleghorn 2021-07-31 Elizabeth Bishop is increasingly recognised as one of the twentieth century's most original writers. Consisting of thirty-five ground-breaking essays by an international team of authors, including biographers, literary critics, poets and translators, this volume addresses the biographical and literary inception of Bishop's originality, from her formative upbringing in New England and Nova Scotia to long residences in New York, France, Florida and Brazil. Her poetry, prose, letters, translations and visual art are analysed in turn, followed by detailed studies of literary movements such as

surrealism and modernism that influenced her artistic development. Bishop's encounters with nature, music, psychoanalysis and religion receive extended treatment, likewise her interest in dreams and humour. Essays also investigate the impact of twentieth-century history and politics on Bishop's life writing, and what it means to read Bishop via eco-criticism, postcolonial theory and queer studies.

The Complete Critical Guide to Ben Jonson James Loxley 2002 This volume offers the broadest range of information on Jonson and his works, from background on contexts to details of recent interpretations of his plays.

The Self-Centred Art Jakub Boguszak 2021-03-30 *The Self-Centred Art* is a study of the plays of Ben Jonson and the actors who first performed in them. Jakub Boguszak shows how the idiosyncrasies of Jonson's comic characters were thrown into relief in actors' part-scripts—scrolls containing a single actor's lines and cues—some five hundred of which are reconstructed here from Jonson's seventeen extant plays. Reading Jonson's spectating parts, humorous parts, apprentice parts, and plotting parts, Boguszak argues that the kind of self-absorption which defines so many of Jonson's famous comic creations would have come easily to actors relying on these documents. Jonson's actors would have moreover worked on their cues, studied their speeches, and thought about the information excluded from their parts differently, depending on the type they had to play. Boguszak thus shows that Jonson brilliantly adapted his comedies to the way the actors worked, making the actors' self-centredness serve his art. This book addresses Jonson's dealings with the actors as well as the printers of his plays and supplements the discussion of different types of parts with a colourful range of case studies. In doing so, it presents a new way of understanding not just Ben Jonson, but early modern theatre at large.

Delphi Complete Works of Ben Jonson (Illustrated) Ben Jonson 2013-11-17 The genius of Jacobean theatre appears here in his entirety for the first in digital print. This comprehensive eBook presents the complete works of Ben Jonson, with numerous illustrations, informative introductions and the usual Delphi bonus material. (Version 1) * Beautifully illustrated with images relating to Jonson's life and works * Concise introductions to the plays and other texts * Images of how the dramas were first printed, giving your eReader a taste of the original texts * Excellent formatting of the texts * ALL 19 plays, including rare fragments and F G Waldron's continuation of THE SAD SHEPHERD * Includes the complete masques and entertainments for the first time in digital print * Special chronological and alphabetical contents tables for the poetry * Easily locate the poems you want to read * Includes Jonson's rare non-fiction texts * Features a special Jacobean Language glossary, providing easy access to difficult words and their definitions * Special criticism section, with essays by writers such as Samuel Taylor Coleridge and T. S. Eliot evaluating Jonson's contribution to literature * Also includes a bonus biography - discover Jonson's turbulent life * Scholarly ordering of texts into chronological order and literary genres CONTENTS: The Plays A TALE OF A TUB THE ISLE OF DOGS (LOST PLAY) THE CASE IS ALTERED EVERY MAN IN HIS HUMOUR EVERY MAN OUT OF HIS HUMOUR CYNTHIA'S REVELS THE POETASTER SEJANUS HIS FALL EASTWARD HO VOLPONE EPICOENE THE ALCHEMIST CATILINE HIS CONSPIRACY BARTHOLOMEW FAIR THE DEVIL IS AN ASS THE STAPLE OF NEWS THE NEW INN THE MAGNETIC LADY THE SAD SHEPHERD (Fragment) MORTIMER HIS FALL (Fragment) The Masques and Entertainments THE MASQUES OF BEN JONSON The Poetry Collections EPIGRAMS THE FOREST UNDERWOOD EUPHEME OR, THE FAIRE FAME EPITHALAMION MISCELLANEOUS POEMS The Poems LIST OF POEMS IN CHRONOLOGICAL

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Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England John Pitcher 2003 Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England is an international volume published every year in hardcover, containing essays and studies as well as book reviews of the many significant books and essays dealing with the cultural history of medieval and early modern England as expressed by and realized in its drama exclusive of Shakespeare.

The Alchemist Ben Jonson 1974-09-10 Renaissance comedy, first produced in 1610. Includes modernized English text, critical and explanatory notes and Introduction. From the Yale Ben Jonson edition.

Gale Contextual Encyclopedia of World Literature Anne Marie Hacht 2009 Covers world authors from many periods and genres, building an understanding of the various contexts -- from the biographical to the literary to the historical -- in which literature can be viewed. Identifies the significant literary devices and global themes that define a writer's style and place the author in a larger literary tradition as chronicled and evaluated by critics over time.

Literature in Context Rick Rylance 2001-05-11 This book examines a key topic in modern literary studies. Contextual factors shape our perception of how literary texts are made, and how they are read. This book contains accessible essays by leading scholars on the contextual understanding of works of literature from Chaucer to the present day.

Renaissance Poetry and Drama in Context Andrew Lynch 2009-03-26 Renaissance Poetry and Drama in Context is a stimulating refereed collection of new work dedicated to Emeritus Professor Christopher Wortham of The University of Western Australia. The essays provide a rich context for the interdisciplinary study of the English Renaissance, from its medieval antecedents to its modern afterlife on stage and screen. Their up-to-date engagement with many scholarly fields - art and iconography, cartography, cultural and social history, literature, politics, theatre, and film - will ensure that this book makes a valuable contribution to contemporary Renaissance studies, with a special interest for those researching and teaching English literature and drama. The nineteen contributors include distinguished Renaissance scholars such as Ann Blake, Graham Bradshaw, Alan Brissenden, Conal Condren, Joost Daalder, Heather Dubrow, Philippa Kelly, Anthony Miller, Kay Gililand Stevenson, Robert White, and Lawrence Wright. Work on Shakespeare forms the core of this coherent collection. There are also significant essays on Magnificence, Donne, Marlowe, A Yorkshire Tragedy, Jonson, Marvell, the Ferrars of Little Gidding, and female conduct literature. hardbound with dust jacket; xii+353 pp; 18 b/w illustrations.

Disgust in Early Modern English Literature Natalie K. Eschenbaum 2016-04-20 What is the role of disgust or revulsion in early modern English literature? How did early modern English subjects experience revulsion and how did writers represent it in poetry, plays, and prose? What does it mean when literature instructs, delights, and disgusts? This collection of essays looks at the treatment of disgust in texts by Spenser, Shakespeare, Donne, Jonson,

Herrick, and others to demonstrate how disgust, perhaps more than other affects, gives us a more complex understanding of early modern culture. Dealing with descriptions of coagulated eye drainage, stinky leeks, and blood-filled fleas, among other sensational things, the essays focus on three kinds of disgusting encounters: sexual, cultural, and textual. Early modern English writers used disgust to explore sexual mores, describe encounters with foreign cultures, and manipulate their readers' responses. The essays in this collection show how writers deployed disgust to draw, and sometimes to upset, the boundaries that had previously defined acceptable and unacceptable behaviors, people, and literatures. Together they present the compelling argument that a critical understanding of early modern cultural perspectives requires careful attention to disgust.

The Cultural Geography of Early Modern Drama, 1620-1650 Julie Sanders 2011-05-26 Literary geographies is an exciting new area of interdisciplinary research. Innovative and engaging, this book applies theories of landscape, space and place from the discipline of cultural geography within an early modern historical context. Different kinds of drama and performance are analysed: from commercial drama by key playwrights to household masques and entertainment performed by families and in semi-official contexts. Sanders provides a fresh look at works from the careers of Ben Jonson, John Milton and Richard Brome, paying attention to geographical spaces and habitats like forests, coastlines and arctic landscapes of ice and snow, as well as the more familiar locales of early modern country estates and city streets and spaces. Overall, the book encourages readers to think about geography as kinetic, embodied and physical, not least in its literary configurations, presenting a key contribution to early modern scholarship.

Ben Jonson Alexander Leggatt 2017-03-31 While most critical writing on Jonson concentrates on the plays, poems or masques seen in isolation, this title, first published in 1981, ranges across the genres to explore Jonson's vision as a whole. The author points to the inner connections that make of the rich variety of Jonson's writing a single coherent body of work. We see Jonson exploring the relations between culture and society, the difficulties of ideal virtue in a far from ideal world, and above all the problems of art itself. Combining a wide-ranging discussion of Jonson's interests with a detailed examination of his major works, this book provides a balanced critical introduction to one of the most complex and fascinating figures in English Literature.

The Alchemist: A Critical Reader 2013-03-28 The eponymous alchemist of Ben Jonson's quick-fire comedy is a fraud: he cannot make gold, but he does make brilliant theatre. The Alchemist is a masterpiece of wit and form about the self-delusions of greed and the theatricality of deception. This guide will be useful to a diverse assembly of students and scholars, offering fresh new ways into this challenging and fascinating play.