

"General Introduction"

"He was not of an age, but for all time!" --Ben Jonson

April 23, 1564
April 23, 1616
Stratford-upon-Avon
anti-Stratfordians
London

Elizabeth I, 1558-1603
James I, 1603-25

Anglican Church / Church of England

Lord Chamberlain's Men
King's Men (His Majesty's Servants)

actor-sharers
clown

The First Globe, 1599-1613
The Second Globe, 1613-1644
Blackfriars

Early Modern English
King James Bible, 1611
First Folio (F1), 1623

Shakespeare's vocabulary

rhyme
blank verse
iambic pentameter

soliloquy

end-stopped lines vs. run-on lines
enjambment

law of re-entry
main plot vs. subplot (secondary plot, overplot, underplot)

Shakespeare's characterization

NOT FOUND in Globe Theatre

actresses

play director

artificial lighting

night performances

changeable background scenery

historically accurate costumes

roof over entire theatre

curtained main stage

stage behind proscenium arch,
putting action behind "frame"

intermissions

FOUND in Globe Theatre

boy actors playing women's roles

actor-sharers

natural lighting: daylight

afternoon performances

permanent background of tiring-house

elaborate contemporary costumes

unroofed yard, where groundlings stood
3 tiers of seats in covered galleries

small curtained inner stage

thrust platform-stage,
bringing action close to audience

rapid nonstop performances

"The Globe Theatre"

Shakespeare's Globe, reconstructed 1996

natural light vs. artificial light

all-male productions

canopy

pillars