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by José Ángel García Landa

(University of Zaragoza, Spain)

# Ben Jonson (1572-1637)

(English dramatist and poet, b. Westminster, orphaned son of a Protestant minister, st. Westminster School, left Cambridge without a degree, masqueaprenticed as bricklayer to father-in-law; volonteer in Flanders army 1592, killed enemy in single combat, actor in London c. 1594, imprisoned for manslaughter, converted to Catholicism for some time, married 1594, children died; returned to Anglicanism 1606; pensioned by the King 1616; honorary MA Oxford 1619; poet for aristocratic patrons, apologist of Stuart royalty; neoclassical theorist and literary authority, overweight and hard drinker)

**Works**

**1590s**

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\_\_\_\_\_. *Every Man in his Humour.* Ed. Herford and Simpson.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Every Man in His Humour.* (Revels series). Ed. Robert S. Miola.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Case Is Altered.* Comedy. 1598. (Vs Munday, "Don Antonio Ballendino").

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Jonson, Ben, Thomas Dekker, and Henry Chettle. *Robert the Second, King of Scottes.* Drama. c. 1599. (Lost).

Chettle, Henry, Henry Porter and Ben Jonson. *Hot Anger soon Cold.* Drama. August 1598. Not printed.

Nashe, Thomas, Ben Jonson, et al. *The Isle of Dogs.* Drama. 1597. (Lost).

**1600s**

Jonson, Ben. *Cynthia's Revels.* Drama. Acted at Whitehall and Blackfriars, 1600.

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\_\_\_\_\_. *Every Man Out of His Humour.* Online at *Project Gutenberg.\**

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\_\_\_\_\_. *The Poetaster.* Comedy. Acted at Blackfriars, 1601.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Poetaster.* Ed Tom Cain. Manchester: Manchester UP, 1995. 1996.

\_\_\_\_\_. Rev. version of *Jeronymo* for Henslowe. 1601.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Richard Crook-Back.* Tragedy. 1602. (Lost).

\_\_\_\_\_. *Sejanus His Fall.* Tragedy (in collaboration with anon. author). Produced by the King's Men, Globe theatre, 1603. Rev. version by Ben Jonson 1605. (Political play, in support of the Earl of Essex).

\_\_\_\_\_. "To the Readers of *Sejanus."* 1605. In *Criticism from Plato to Dryden.* Ed. Gilbert. 538-49.\*

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\_\_\_\_\_. *Volpone.* Comedy. First performed King's Men, Globe Theatre, 1606. Acted 1606 at Oxford and Cambridge.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Volpone.* Quarto, 1607.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Volpone.* In *Works,* 1616.

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\_\_\_\_\_. *Oberon the Fairy Prince*. Masque. 1611. (With Inigo Jones).

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**1620s**

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\_\_\_\_\_. *Time Vindicated.* 1623.

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\_\_\_\_\_. "To the memory of my beloued, the avthor Mr. William Shakespeare: And what he hat left vs." Prefatory poem to the First Folio of Shakespeare's plays. 1623. Facsimile. In *The Norton Shakespeare.* Ed. Stephen Greenblatt et al. New York: Norton, 1997. 3351-52.\*

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<http://www.luminarium.org/sevenlit/jonson/benshake.htm>

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\_\_\_\_\_. *Anti-Masque of Jophiel.* 1627.

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\_\_\_\_\_. "Ode (To Himself)." *The Oxford Book of Seventeenth Century Verse*. Ed. H. J. C. Grierson and G. Bullough. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1934. 179-180.

\_\_\_\_\_. "An Ode. To himselfe ('Where do'st thou carelesse lie'). From *Underwoods,* 1641. In *The Oxford Book of Seventeenth Century Verse.* Ed. H. J. C. Grierson and G. Bullough. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1934. Rpt. 1938, 1942, 1946. 169-70.\*

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<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44462/an-ode-to-himself>

2019

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\_\_\_\_\_. *The Sad Shepherd.* Pastoral drama. c. 1637.

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\_\_\_\_\_. *English Grammar.* Rev. ed. in Jonson's 1692 Folio.

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Department of English , UNLV,

Box 4555069, 4505 Maryland Parkway,

Las Vegas, NV 89154-5069.

E-mail: harplh@nevada.edu

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