Contents

List of contributors
Acknowledgements
List of citations and abbreviations

Introduction
David Armitage, Conal Condren and Andrew Fitzmaurice

PART I CONTEXTS

1 Shakespeare's properties
David Armitage

2 The active and contemplative lives in Shakespeare's plays
Cathy Curtis

3 Shakespeare and the ethics of authority
Stephen Greenblatt

4 Shakespeare and the politics of superstition
Susan James

PART II THE COURT

5 Counsel, succession and the politics of Shakespeare's Sonnets
Cathy Shrank

6 Educating Hamlet and Prince Hal
Aysha Pollnitz

7 The corruption of Hamlet
Andrew Fitzmaurice
Contents

8 Unfolding 'the properties of government': the case of Measure for Measure and the history of political thought
Conal Condren 157

9 Shakespeare and the politics of co-authorship: Henry VIII
Jennifer Richards 176

PART III THE COMMONWEALTH

10 Putting the city into Shakespeare's city comedy
Phil Withington 197

11 Talking to the animals: persuasion, counsel and their discontents in Julius Caesar
David Colclough 217

12 Political rhetoric and citizenship in Coriolanus
Markku Peltonen 234

13 Shakespeare and the best state of a commonwealth
Eric Nelson 253

Afterword: Shakespeare and humanist culture
Quentin Skinner 271

Index 282