A collection of essays on Shakespeare Jubilees around the world from 1769 to 2014, ranging from the elaborate celebrations in Shakespeare's hometown to more modest festivities elsewhere; from ambitious, theatrical, and politically loaded demonstrations to nationally coloured, culturally distinct and idiosyncratic commemorations. The variety of ways in which geographically distant countries have remembered Shakespeare has never before been the object of a comparative study. We hope that the essays in this collection will throw new light on Shakespeare as a shared international heritage.

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Preface

In this volume we consider various Shakespeare Jubilees (e.g. 1864, 1964, 2014) from different perspectives, focusing on the different ways in which geographically distant countries – with their distinct cultural traditions and political histories – have celebrated Shakespeare. These have not until now been the object of a comparative study; and we hope that ours will throw some new light on Shakespeare’s contribution to global culture. It was, of course, impossible to achieve a complete panorama of national Shakespeare jubilees, yet the first responses were encouraging, and we were able to complement the contributions of the original panel, ‘Shakespeare Jubilees on Three Continents (1864 and 1964)’, which convened in Paris in April 2014, with a number of additional contributions, thus presenting a somewhat more colourful picture.

We would like to offer our thanks to the contributors for their goodwill in cooperating with the project, to those who made the Paris panel such an enjoyable success, and, last but not least, to all who submitted their finished papers on time and without complaint.

We would also like to thank Elisabeth Herrmann, M.A., for formatting the articles, and Stefan Alexander Eick, M.A., M.Litt., and Dr. Tom Nolan for their meticulous proofreading.

We wish to dedicate this volume to Werner Habicht, Wilhelm Hortmann and Stanley Wells, on the occasion of their eighty-fifth and eighty-sixth birthdays, with deep gratitude and with our very best wishes. All three have done much for the advancement of global Shakespeare Studies and Jubilees during the last sixty years.

Bamberg and Bonn

Christa Jansohn and Dieter Mehl
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