Stages of Power
Marlowe and Shakespeare, 1592
ERIC S. MALLIN AND PAUL V. SULLIVAN

It is October 1592. Christopher Marlowe, the most accomplished playwright in London, has written The Massacre at Paris for his company, the Lord Admiral’s Men. Bubonic plague has hit outlying parishes, forcing theaters to close and postponing the season. Ordinarily, the Rose Theatre would debut Marlowe’s work, but its subject—the St. Bartholomew Day’s Massacre—is unpleasant and might inflame hostilities against Catholics and their sympathizers, such as merchants on whom trade depends. A new company, the Lord Strange’s Men, boasts a young writer, William Shakespeare, who is said to have several barn-burners in the queue. A competition is called to decide which company will reopen the theaters. Who will most effectively represent the nation’s ideals and energies, its humor and grandeur? One troupe will gain supremacy, primarily for literary but also for cultural, religious, and political reasons.

ERIC S. MALLIN is associate professor of English at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of Godless Shakespeare and Inscribing the Time: Shakespeare and the End of Elizabethan England.

PAUL V. SULLIVAN is a lecturer in English and the humanities program at the University of Texas at Austin. He has published works on early modern education and drama and on teaching Shakespeare.

November 2016
978-1-4696-3144-8 $30.00s Paper
978-1-4696-3145-5 $29.99 @BOOK
Approx. 120 pp., 8 x 10, 1 maps, append.