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Her major publications include the study *Das Geheimnis um Shakespeares 'Dark Lady'* (The Secret of Shakespeare's 'Dark Lady: Uncovering a Mystery), 1999, in which she identifies the mistress of Shakespeare's sonnets; *What did Shakespeare Look Like? Authentic Portraits and the Death Mask: Methods and Results of the Tests of Authenticity*, 2000; *Die verborgene Existenz des William Shakespeare. Dichter und Rebell im katholischen Untergrund* (The Secret Life of William Shakespeare: Poet and Rebel in the Catholic Underground), 2001, which resolves the question of Shakespeare's religion; the three-volume work that appeared in 2003, *Die Shakespeare-Illustration (1594-2000). Bildkünstlerische Darstellungen zu den Dramen William Shakespeares* (Shakespearean Illustrations [1594-2000]. The Work of Artists on Shakespeare's Plays), containing more than 3000 illustrations; *Die authentischen Gesichtszüge William Shakespeares. Die Totenmaske des Dichters und Bildnisse aus drei Lebensabschnitten* simultaneously published in English by Chaucer Press as *The True Face of William Shakespeare. The Poet's Death Mask and Likenesses from Three Periods of His Life*, 2006; and the earlier German version of her Shakespeare biography, *William Shakespeare. Seine Zeit – Sein Leben – Sein Werk*, 2003, which heavily draws on new historical and pictorial sources she has brought to light during a lifetime of Shakespearean study.

Jacket images:

The Davenant Bust, a true image of Shakespeare, a bust scientifically authenticated by Professor Hildegard Hammerschmidt-Hummel as being sculpted during his lifetime.

View of London from Southwark – Anonymous, Anglo-Dutch School, 17th century; formerly attributed to Thomas Wyck (?1616-1677)
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William Shakespeare

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The Life and Times of *William Shakespeare* 1564-1616

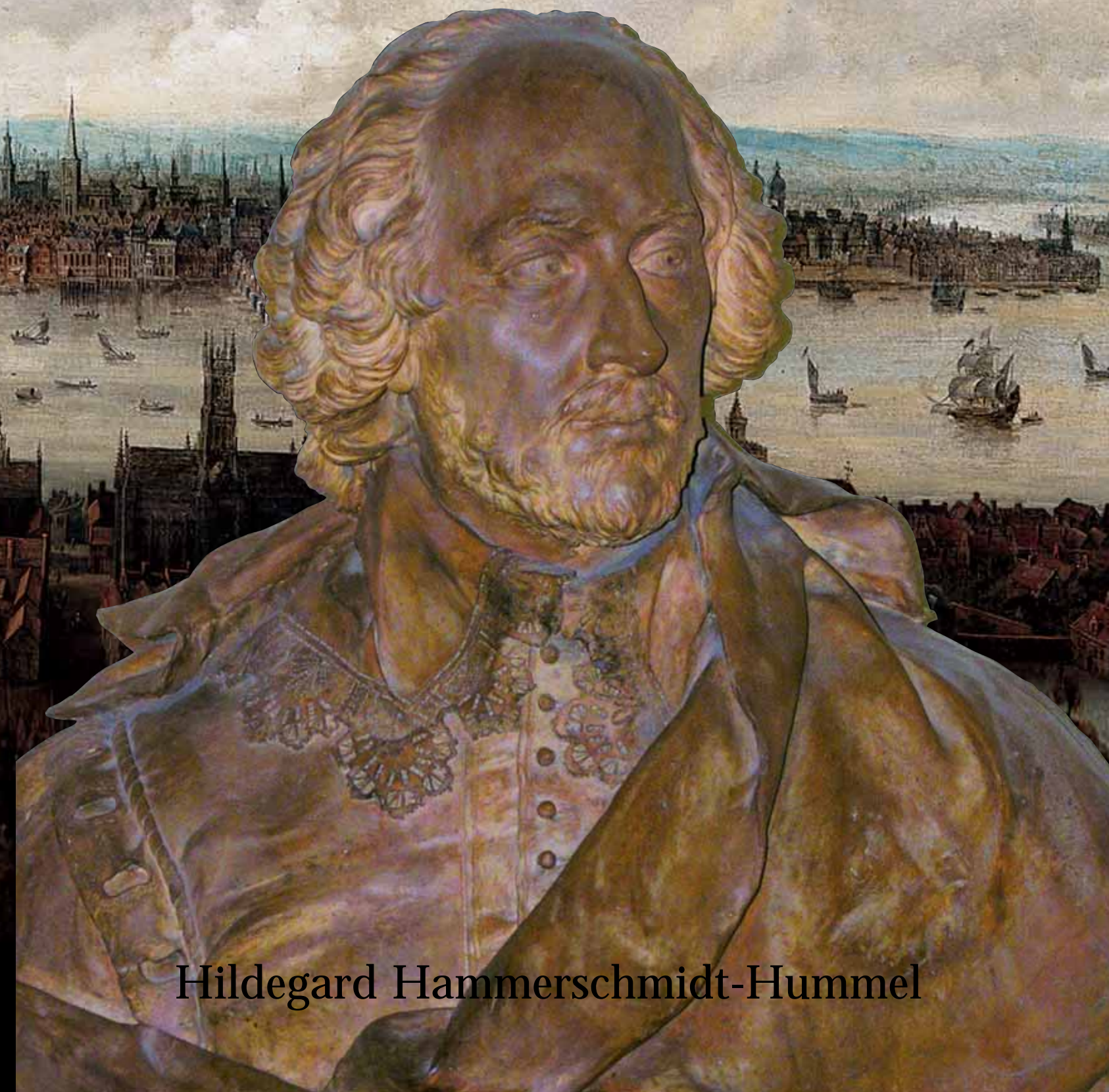
Hildegard Hammerschmidt-Hummel



The Life and Times of

William Shakespeare

1564-1616



Hildegard Hammerschmidt-Hummel

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S LITERARY WORK has fascinated and entertained people throughout the world for centuries. His life, however, has always been shrouded in mystery. Now an eminent Shakespearean scholar presents a complete picture of his life and times and reveals the man himself.

In this extraordinary study, Professor Hildegard Hammerschmidt-Hummel sets the great English playwright firmly in his time and reveals his deep involvement in the dramatic political events of the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I. After ascending the throne, Queen Elizabeth I made Anglicanism, a version of the Protestant confession, the official State religion and announced her aim to abolish Catholicism within her lifetime. Brutal persecution of priests and believers in the Old Religion followed and they were forced to go underground or into exile. This background of religious ferment meant that, due to their potentially explosive content, nearly half of Shakespeare's works could not be published during his lifetime, only becoming public seven years after his death. Using new and newly interpreted historical sources, Hammerschmidt-Hummel demonstrates how this religious and political backdrop is the key to understanding so many of the secrets and puzzles of Shakespeare's life and work.

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