

# THE DUBUQUE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT

at the Carnegie Stout Library, Dubuque, IA

Winter/Spring 2024

## THE MAKING OF A PLAYWRIGHT

### Edward III

Synopsis: Edward III is one of the most consequential kings of England, establishing it as a military force and conquering France. The play starts with his campaign in Scotland, and his attempted wooing of the Countess of Salisbury. The king learns valuable lessons in character and then attempts to conquer France in the second half of the play. His son, the charismatic Black Prince, plays a huge role in the battles.

Discussion Topics:

- The Countess of Salisbury scenes establish a unique voice which is reflected in many other Shakespeare scenes. What are some of the touches that make it Shakespearean?
- The Black Prince is a charismatic figure who is referred to in other history plays, most notably Richard II. How does the play portray the warrior king and the warrior prince, both by themselves and in relation to each other?
- Shakespeare's contributions to the play have been established with modern statistical and stylistic analysis, but there is reluctance to the play being accepted into the canon. Singular authorship, non-inclusion in the First Folio are some of the barriers to acceptance. Does the play, in part or in whole, fit within the history play genre?

A short presentation on Marlowe's plays, especially Edward II will precede the discussion.

NOTE: There is no filmed version of Edward III. Folger does not have an entry for the play.

Online Text Link: <https://internetshakespeare.uvic.ca/Library/Texts/Edw/>  
<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1770>

CS Library also has paper copies of the play.

***Other resources to consider:***

*Edward II* by Christopher Marlowe

*World Without End* by Ken Follett

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