Preface

The libraries of Harvard University, Yale University, and Queens College, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the New York Public Library, and the archives of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust have made my work possible. I am grateful to Dr. Louis B. Wright and Folger Library for a grant-in-aid and for permission to print manuscript material, to Mr. Levi Fox, Director of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, for permission to print material from the archives, and to McGraw-Hill Company for permission to quote from Boswell in Search of a Wife, edited by Frank Brady and Frederick A. Pottle (1956).

I have had the help of Professors Walter Jackson Bate, Herschel Baker, and René Wellek, of Dr. David V. Erdman and Mr. Levi Fox, so generously given that I wonder why this book is not more scholarly than it is. When I think of help given by library officials, notably Dr. Robert A. Colby of Queens College and Mr. John Shea of Widener Library, I wonder why it is not more accurate than it is. Remembering the blessings that have come to me from lay scholarship, especially that of Hardy L. Winburn and his lifelong interest in some of the problems dealt with here, I wonder why it is not more humane than it is. Recalling those who, in carrels and subways, by swimming pools and baby cribs, have talked about it and raised the question of the relation of art to life, I wonder why it is not more lyrical than it is. But such as it is, I offer it to Professor
Harry Levin, not in payment of a debt, but in acknowledgment of a debt that could only be paid in time to my own students.

Martha Winburn England

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1963