King Lear Bibliography: Textual Analysis

Hammond, Paul. “James I's Homosexuality and the Revision of the Folio Text of King Lear.”


- This academic article discusses the Folio’s removal of the Goneril mock trial in Act III due to possible censorship conducted by James I on homosexual content. This puts the textual analysis of *King Lear* in a political lens as Hammond discusses several scholars' suspicions of a political agenda behind this scene’s removal.


- This article offers a general overview of the differences in Shakespearean text when analyzing the Quarto and Folios. Using *King Lear* as a specific example in this article, it explains how much of the Quarto came from actors’ or audience members’ recollection of what was said on stage. This allows for a basis as to why there is such a difference between the *King Lear* texts to begin with before ever beginning the analysis.


- This academic article written by Leo Kirschbaum examines several differences between the first folio and quarto editions of “King Lear.” Due to variations in lines and punctuation, Kirschbaum argues that the first folio text is more faithful to Shakespeare’s original vision. The quarto incorrectly numbers some lines and lacks a lot of proper punctuation, leading some scholars to suspect that this was a transcript of a performance.
originally jotted down in shorthand. The folio edition, on the other hand, must have been based on a manuscript or more reliable source.


- The article discusses the character Edmund and what makes him a villain, with textual support.


- This academic article written by Thomas Sidney rebukes the two-text theory, the idea that Shakespeare revised the text of “King Lear” for the first folio edition. Sidney does not believe that the differences between the first folio and quarto editions of the text are dramatically significant. While there might be some different lines, the characters are still the same. Since the differences are not essential to the plot, Sidney is skeptical that Shakespeare would revise the text to simply add a couple of alterations and new lines. Instead, he holds that the quarto is a corrupted text.


- The article discusses the role of the Fool. Was the Fool’s presence made bigger from the Quarto to the Folio? Also how the Quarto may be considered a rough draft.