

**MINUTES AND ACCOUNTS OF
THE CORPORATION OF
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON AND
OTHER RECORDS, 1553-1620,
VOL. I. 1553-1566**

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Minutes and accounts of the corporation of stratford-upon-avon and other records, 1553-1620,
Vol. I. 1553-1566 by Richard Savage & Edgar I. Fripp

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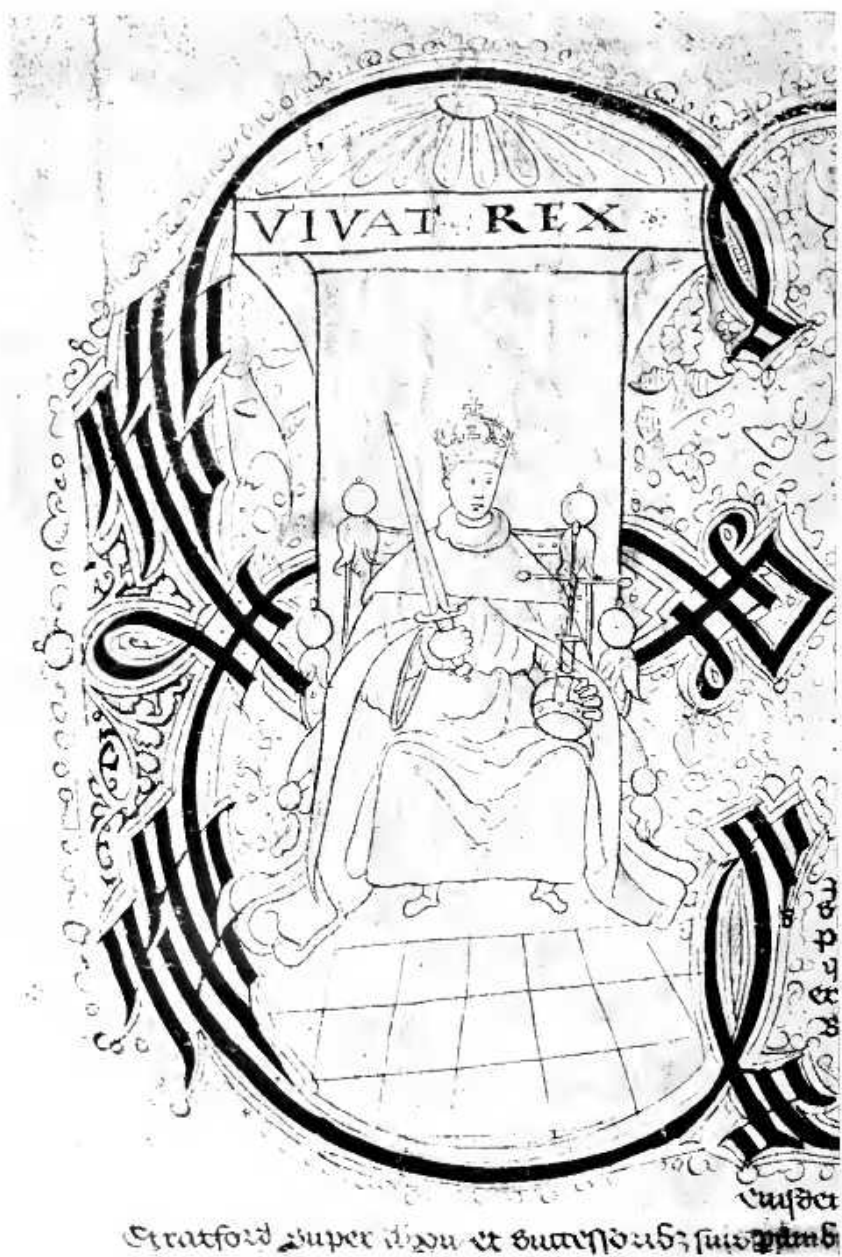
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RICHARD SAVAGE & EDGAR I. FRIPP

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EDWARD VI

From initial letter of the Charter of Incorporation

28 June 1553

MINUTES AND ACCOUNTS
OF THE CORPORATION OF
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
AND OTHER RECORDS

1553-1620

TRANSCRIBED BY

RICHARD SAVAGE

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VOLUME I. 1553-1566

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PREFATORY NOTE 1304218

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON is rich, perhaps as rich as any borough in England, in its records. Owing partly, no doubt, to Shakespeare's connexion with it, documents that might seem in any way to bear upon his life and work have for a considerable period been carefully collected or preserved, and the labours of such able writers as Edmund Malone, Robert Bell Wheler, J. O. Halliwell-Phillipps and Sir Sidney Lee, not to mention others, have both added to the treasures and awakened interest in their value. There is a mass of material at Stratford under the care of the Birthplace Trust, belonging to the Trustees or to the Corporation, and elsewhere—as at Worcester, the Public Record Office, Somerset House, the British Museum, and the Bodleian Library—which should permit of a full history of Shakespeare's native town during his lifetime, throwing light, not only on the Poet's biography, plays, and poems, but on the religious, political, economic, and municipal conditions of the age. A chapter in the story of a town of the comparative importance of Stratford is a chapter also in the story of Warwickshire, the Midlands, and even of England.

This volume is an attempt to give and interpret the records of the years from 1553 to 1566. They have been glanced at by many and read by a few, and one or two have appeared in print. They are now published in full for the historian as well as the student of Shakespeare, and their respective sources are indicated.

We desire very heartily to thank the Corporation of Stratford-upon-Avon and the Trustees and Guardians of Shakespeare's Birthplace for their generous permission to transcribe and publish the documents which are their property,

and to express our sense of the unfailing courtesy of the officials in Worcester, London, Oxford, and wherever we have sought assistance. Especially we are grateful to Mr. F. C. Wellstood, M.A., Secretary and Librarian of the Birthplace Trust, the founder of the Dugdale Society and General Editor of its publications. This volume owes very much to his valuable criticism and information.

RICHARD SAVAGE.
EDGAR I. FRIPP.

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