

Contents

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Acknowledgements | <i>page</i> vii |
| A note on references and abbreviations | ix |
| Introduction | 1 |
| 1 Scepticism in the Renaissance | 10 |
| Sceptics and believers | 14 |
| Evidence, authority, and ridicule | 19 |
| Histories and stories: facts, fictions, and lies | 27 |
| Rhetorical scepticism | 33 |
| Submerged scepticism | 40 |
| Protestant scepticism and the origins of witchcraft drama | 45 |
| 2 Witchcraft in Elizabethan drama | 58 |
| Gender, scepticism, and magic in Elizabethan England | 61 |
| <i>Fedele and Fortunio</i> : the female witch as male magician | 77 |
| Classical witches and Elizabethan prophecy | 81 |
| <i>The Golden Asse</i> and early modern witchcraft | 89 |
| <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> : witchcraft without witches | 97 |
| Joan of Arc, Margery Jourdain, and the historical witch | 103 |
| Magic and demonology in <i>Dr Faustus</i> and its competitors | 110 |
| 3 Witchcraft in Jacobean drama | 130 |
| <i>Sophonisba</i> | 132 |
| <i>Macbeth</i> | 137 |
| <i>The Masque of Queens</i> | 155 |
| Frances Howard, court scandal, and <i>The Witch</i> | 160 |

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 4 | <i>The Witch of Edmonton</i> | 182 |
| | Scepticism in <i>The Witch of Edmonton</i> | 184 |
| | The devil and sin in <i>The Witch of Edmonton</i> | 192 |
| | The social and the demonic | 200 |
| | Evidence and authority in <i>The Witch of Edmonton</i> | 206 |
| 5 | <i>The Late Lancashire Witches</i> | 209 |
| | Witchcraft in the 1630s | 210 |
| | Thomas Heywood and witchcraft | 217 |
| | The play and the case | 220 |
| | Debating witchcraft in <i>The Late Lancashire Witches</i> | 226 |
| | Two types of witchcraft | 238 |
| 6 | Witchcraft in the Restoration | 244 |
| | The nature of spirit and body | 247 |
| | Witchcraft in the theatre | 260 |
| 7 | <i>The Lancashire Witches</i> | 278 |
| | Scepticism in <i>The Lancashire Witches</i> | 279 |
| | Good and bad witchcraft | 287 |
| | The play and the plot | 291 |
| | Conclusion | 306 |
| | Bibliography | 320 |
| | Index | 336 |