## Acknowledgements

Many people have helped produce this book. I should like to thank Betty Marshall, Crispin Paine, Stephen Rench, Barbara Hayward, Neil Younger and Tony Hadland for reading early drafts, offering perceptive insights and acute, often critical, comments and corrections.

The assistance, and even more the patience, of staff in many record offices willing to produce a stream of documents and apparently unfazed when asked to unknot seemingly impenetrable scrawls is very gratefully acknowledged. In particular I should like to thank staff at Warwick County Record Office, the Shakespeare Centre Library and Archive at Stratford upon Avon, Birmingham Archives (the former Central Library collection), Worcestershire Archaeological and Archives Service in that movingly beautiful Hive building, Staffordshire Record Office, Keele University's Special Collections and the National Archives, Kew.

The specialist skills of Mrs Hilary Clare, Dr Claire Jarvis and Colin Williams are gratefully recognized and much appreciated.

Thanks are due also to many others who willingly helped this project on, especially the skill and ingenuity of my designer, Jonathan Taylor of Spiral Publishing.

I alone am responsible for errors.

Hilary L. Turner

Who asserts her right to be identified as author of this Work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act 1988