



She Hath Been Reading: Women and Shakespeare Clubs in America

Katherine West Scheil

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In the late nineteenth century hundreds of clubs formed across the United States devoted to the reading of Shakespeare. From Pasadena, California, to the seaside town of Camden, Maine; from the isolated farm town of Ottumwa, Iowa, to Mobile, Alabama, on the Gulf coast, Americans were reading Shakespeare in astonishing numbers and in surprising places. Composed mainly of women, these clubs offered the opportunity for members not only to read and study Shakespeare but also to participate in public and civic activities outside the home. In *She Hath Been Reading*, Katherine West Scheil uncovers this hidden layer of intellectual activity that flourished in American society well into the twentieth century.

Shakespeare clubs were crucial for women's intellectual development because they provided a consistent intellectual stimulus (more so than was the case with most general women's clubs) and because women discovered a world of possibilities, both public and private, inspired by their reading of Shakespeare. Indeed, gathering to read and discuss Shakespeare often led women to actively improve their lot in life and make their society a better place. Many clubs took action on larger social issues such as women's suffrage, philanthropy, and civil rights. At the same time, these efforts served to embed Shakespeare into American culture as a marker for learning, self-improvement, civilization, and entertainment for a broad array of populations, varying in age, race, location, and social standing.

Based on extensive research in the archives of the Folger Shakespeare Library and in dozens of local archives and private collections across America, *She Hath Been Reading* shows the important role that literature can play in the lives of ordinary people. As testament to this fact, the book includes an appendix listing more than five hundred Shakespeare clubs across America.

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The actual book *She Hath Been Reading: Women and Shakespeare Clubs in America* has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was authored by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research ahead of write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can find the point easily after reading this article book.

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She Hath Been Reading: Women and Shakespeare Clubs in America can be one of your nice books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort that will put every word into joy arrangement in writing *She Hath Been Reading: Women and Shakespeare Clubs in America* however doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one among it. This great information may drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial imagining.

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