Religion Around Shakespeare and millions of other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more. Books. This book is significant, then, for Shakespearean scholars, for scholars of early modern English non-Shakespearean drama, and for historians of the English Reformation. Its originality derives from the author’s command of his special subject: no other historian of religion has examined early modern English religion with as scrupulous and searching an eye to its potential Shakespearean connections. The value of the book lies in its extended examination of the religious pastures, seemingly outside the plays’ boundaries, into which the plays occasionally wander. Religious intention throughout Shakespeare’s plays has made Shakespeare’s own views a bit vague. For instance, critics have come to many different conclusions about Hamlet’s religious content. It seems that, in Hamlet, there is a mixture of old and new religious connotations. Shakespeare’s play creates a dichotomy between religious and secular world views. In the play, it seems as though Shakespeare uses religious references where the Ghost is made to represent Roman Catholicism and Hamlet to represent Protestantism. During Ghost and Hamlet’s conversation, the audience is led to think that the... Morris, Ivor. Shakespeare’s God The role of religion in the tragedies (Routledge Library Editions: Shakespeare). New York: Routledge, 2005. Print. In Religion Around Shakespeare, Peter Kaufman sets aside such speculation in favor of considering the historical and religious context surrounding his work. Employing extensive archival research, he aims to assist literary historians who probe the religious discourses, characters, and events that seem to have found places in Shakespeare's plays and to aid general readers or playgoers developing an interest in the play's and playwright's religious contexts: Catholic, conformist, and reformist. For years scholars and others have been trying to out Shakespeare as an ardent Calvinist, a crypto-Catholic, a Puritan-baiter, a secularist, or a devotee of some hybrid faith.