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Chronology

70 BC

Birth of Virgil (Publius Vergilius Maro), whose epic poem *The Aeneid* was the major source of Marlowe's *Dido, Queen of Carthage*. Some of the lines in Marlowe's play are direct translations from Virgil, though in one or two places Marlowe gives his material a contemporary twist.

19 BC

Death of Virgil.

49 BC

The march of Caesar from Gaul towards Rome. This is the main event of the First Book of Lucan's epic poem the *Pharsalia*, which Marlowe later translated.

48 BC

Battle of Pharsalus, after which the *Pharsalia* is named.

43 BC

Birth of Ovid (Publius Ovidius Naso), whose risqué poem *Amores* Marlowe was the first to translate into English. Banished from Rome for reasons which the Renaissance believed to be connected with the sexual indiscretions of the Emperor Augustus's daughter Julia, Ovid acquired a reputation as the most daring and erotic of the major classical poets. On the implications of Marlowe's choice of his *Amores* to translate, see Cheney, *Counterfeit Profession*.

AD 17

Death of Ovid.

39

Birth of Lucan (Marcus Annaeus Lucanus), author of the *Pharsalia*. Lucan was the grandson of Seneca the Elder, a rhetorician, and nephew of Seneca the Younger, whose closet tragedies were very influential in Renaissance England. Lucan's is the only epic not to include machinery

(i.e. direct intervention by the gods), which may have made it attractive to Marlowe. It also has a republican bias, and indeed in the seventeenth century translating Lucan was to become effectively an affirmation of republicanism, as in the case of the poet and playwright Thomas May (see Cheney, *Cambridge Companion*, 15–17).

65

Lucan commits suicide, aged 26, after the discovery of his role in a conspiracy to overthrow the Emperor Nero.

597

St Augustine arrives in Canterbury, which is henceforth the premier spiritual site in England. Growing up there and attending a school in the shadow of the cathedral will certainly have been an important influence on Marlowe's view of religion and its ceremonies; it may explain his apparent preference for elaborate ceremonial, as reported in the Baines Note, and *The Jew of Malta* contains a reference to a Dark Entry, which clearly recalls the one at Canterbury.

1174

July

12 (Fri.) Henry II walks barefoot and weeping through Canterbury to do penance for the murder of Thomas à Becket. This celebrated episode makes Canterbury a symbol of the tensions between spiritual and secular power in England. Becket's magnificent shrine will dominate the cathedral until its destruction in the reign of Henry VIII. There would be people alive in Canterbury when Marlowe was a boy who would have remembered the shrine and its destruction.

1240

Birth of Abraham Abulafia of Zaragoza, founder of the practical Cabbala, who will later become the first known Jewish inhabitant of the Maltese islands (see Roth, 191–2). It is just conceivable that this might form part of the network of ideas and associations activated by the title of Marlowe's play *The Jew of Malta*.

1284**April**

25 (Tues.) The future Edward II, hero of Marlowe's play *Edward II*, is born at Caernarfon Castle, Wales, son of Edward I and Eleanor of Castile.

1288

Abraham Abulafia is by now living on the tiny Maltese islet of Comino, where he composes his *Book of the Sign*.

1298

Piers Gaveston is made one of ten royal wards and official companions of the future Edward II.

July

22 (Tues.) Edward I utterly defeats the army of the Scots, led by William Wallace, at the Battle of Falkirk. This is only one of the many military successes of his reign, with which his son's was to prove such an unfortunate contrast.

1299

Betrothal of the future Edward II, aged fifteen, to Isabella of France, aged eight.

1305**June**

14 (Mon.) The future Edward II is banished from court after a quarrel with his father's favourite minister, Walter Langton, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. The cause of the disagreement appears to have been Langton's anger at detecting Edward, along with Piers Gaveston and others, poaching his deer. Edward and Gaveston are separated. One of those who provided the prince with financial support during this period was Sir Hugh Despenser the elder, father of his second favourite (Bingham, 43–5).

October

Edward is pardoned and allowed to return to court.

1307

Winter

A fresh disagreement breaks out between the future Edward II and his father over the prince's desire to have Gaveston named Count of Ponthieu. Gaveston is ordered to leave England by the end of April.

July

7 (Fri.) Death of Edward I of England and accession of Edward II. This is the point at which Marlowe's play *Edward II* opens.

October

13 (Fri.) Piers Gaveston marries Edward II's niece, Margaret de Clare, heiress of the Earl of Gloucester. Margaret is shown looking forward to this marriage in III, ii of Marlowe's play.

1308

January

25 (Thurs.) Edward II marries Isabella of France at Boulogne. Gaveston is left as regent of the kingdom during his absence.

February

25 (Sun.) Edward's coronation. Gaveston appears in purple sewn with pearls. He has also been given the pick of Isabella's jewels.

April

Parliament, led by the Earls of Lincoln, Lancaster, Warwick, Hereford, Pembroke and Surrey, demands Gaveston's banishment and sets a deadline of 25 June for him to leave the country. Virtually the only support for Edward comes from Sir Hugh Despenser the Elder (see Bingham, 58–9).

1309

Summer

Gaveston is recalled from Ireland.

October

The Earls of Lancaster, Hereford, Warwick, Oxford and Arundel, whom Gaveston has once again alienated, refuse to attend a council called by the King at York on the grounds of Gaveston's presence at it.

1310**February**

Parliament meets at Westminster. Edward sends Gaveston north to ensure his safety.

1311**September**

27 (Mon.) The disaffected nobles, who have now banded together as the Lords Ordainers, announce their demands at Paul's Cross. These include stripping Gaveston of all his titles and sending him into perpetual exile.

November

3 (Wed.) Gaveston officially goes into exile, but is openly back at court by Christmas.

1312

In the early part of the year Edward and Gaveston flee north, first to Tynemouth and then to Scarborough.

May

9 (Tues.) Gaveston surrenders Scarborough Castle to the Earls of Pembroke and Surrey and Henry Percy.

June

9 (Fri.) The Earl of Pembroke, wishing to visit his wife, leaves Gaveston at the rectory at Deddington, ten miles south of Banbury, Oxfordshire.

10 (Sat.) Gaveston is captured at the rectory by the Earl of Warwick and imprisoned in Warwick Castle.

19 (Mon.) Gaveston is beheaded on Blacklow Hill, near Warwick.

November

13 (Mon.) Edward's queen, Isabella, gives birth to the future Edward III.

1313

October

14 (Sun.) Edward pardons the Earl of Lancaster for Gaveston's murder at a ceremony in Westminster Hall.

1314

June

23 (Sun.) Battle of Bannockburn, at which Edward's army is utterly defeated by the Scots king, Robert the Bruce.

1321

August

19 (Fri.) Parliament sentences both Despensers to banishment. The younger Despenser, whom Edward had married to the heiress Eleanor de Clare (sister of Gaveston's wife), had been increasingly emerging as a favourite of the King.

1322

January

The Despensers return to England after Edward repeals the decree of banishment and takes the field against the barons. After this, the younger Despenser becomes decisively established as the King's new favourite and the Queen's *bête noire*.

March

17 (Wed.) The Earl of Lancaster, leader of the baronial opposition, surrenders to Edward's forces.

March

22 (Mon.) Lancaster is executed.

May

22 (Sat.) Parliament meets and proves entirely compliant to all the King's requests.

1323

Autumn

The new King of France, Charles IV, brother of Queen Isabella, informs Edward that the homage he owes for his lands in France is overdue. Roger Mortimer of Wigmore, who was imprisoned in the Tower after the failure of Lancaster's rebellion, escapes and flees to France. This is the Mortimer Junior of Marlowe's play.

1325

March

Queen Isabella leaves for France to try to resolve the dispute with her brother. There she liaises with Roger Mortimer. Prince Edward is sent to join his mother towards the end of the year.

1326

September

23 (Tues.) Isabella sails from Dordrecht to invade England.

October

26 (Sun.) The Earl of Winchester (the elder Despenser) surrenders Bristol to Isabella.

27 (Mon.) Winchester is sentenced to death.

November

16 (Sun.) Edward, along with the younger Despenser and his follower Baldock, is captured at Neath Abbey.

24 (Mon.) The younger Despenser is tried at Hereford, sentenced to death and executed immediately.

1327

January

15 (Thurs.) Parliament declares the King deposed.

February

15 (Sun.) Coronation of Edward III.

September

22 (Tues.) Edward II is killed on the orders of his wife, Isabella of France, and her lover, Roger Mortimer.

1330

October

Edward III assumes power. Mortimer is executed and Isabella imprisoned until her death in 1358. This is the point at which *Edward II* ends.

c.1336

Birth of Timur the Lame (also known as Tamerlane or Timur Leng), later to be the subject of Marlowe's *Tamburlaine the Great*, Parts One and Two.

1347

Birth of the future Sultan Beyajid I (Marlowe's Bajazeth), principal antagonist of Tamburlaine in *Tamburlaine the Great*, Part One.

1369

By this date, Timur the Lame is in total control of what is now known as Turkistan.

1387

Timur the Lame is now in control of all land east of the Euphrates.

1389

Sultan Amurath I is assassinated by a Serb after the Battle of Kosovo. Beyajid succeeds to the Turkish throne as Beyajid I.

1392

Timur the Lame advances beyond the Euphrates.

1395

Timur the Lame conquers and sacks the Russian cities of Astrakhan, Sarai and Bolgar.

1398

Timur the Lame invades India.

1400

Timur the Lame captures Aleppo and Baghdad.

1402**July**

20 (Thurs.) Timur the Lame captures Sultan Beyajid I at Angora.

1403

Death of Beyajid I. This is roughly the point at which *Tamburlaine the Great*, Part One ends.

1405**January**

19 (Mon.) Death of Timur the Lame. He is buried at Samarkand. This is the point at which *Tamburlaine the Great*, Part Two ends.

1414

William Morle, fuller, admitted freeman of the city of Canterbury. This is the first mention of a Marlowe in the Canterbury records. It used to be thought that this was an ancestor of Marlowe's, but recent research has shown that Marlowe's father John in fact came from Ospringe in Kent, and there is no evidence for any previous connection of his family with Canterbury.

1415

Council of Constance, after which the heretic John Hus is burned by order of the Emperor Sigismund, who appears in *Tamburlaine the Great*, Part Two. Roy Battenhouse, in 'Protestant Apologetics', suggests that it was Sigismund's involvement with this episode which lies behind the unfavourable portrayal of him in Marlowe's play.

1438

Simon Morle, vintner, admitted freeman of the city of Canterbury. As with William Morle, Simon used to be identified as a probable ancestor of Marlowe's, but there is now no reason to suppose this.

1444

November

10 (Tues.) Battle of Varna. Bonfinius' account of this in his Latin chronicle of Hungary was the source of the Sigismund–Orcanes story in *Tamburlaine the Great*, Part Two (see Battenhouse, 'Protestant Apologetics'). Obviously, this is well after the death of the historical Timur/Tamburlaine, but Marlowe had used up so much of the available source material in Part One that he really had no choice but to look to different sources and even different periods for material for Part Two. This might suggest that he had not originally planned a second part of the play, and wrote it solely as a response to the runaway success of Part One (and that the drama was therefore originally intended to end not with Tamburlaine's death but with his triumph).

1453

May

29 (Tues.) Fall of Constantinople to Sultan Mohammed II. From now on, Ottoman power advances ever deeper and more menacingly into Europe. This is the situation underlying the depiction of Turkish aggression in *Tamburlaine the Great*, in which Bajazet declares that the activities of Tamburlaine are distracting him from the siege of Constantinople, and in *The Jew of Malta* (see Vella Bonavita).

1459

Thomas Morle, fuller, son of William Morle, fuller, admitted freeman of the city of Canterbury. This is the first sign of Morleys/Marlowes being resident in Canterbury and it used therefore to be suggested that this was an ancestor of Marlowe's, but it is now clear that that is not the case.

1467

John Marley, tanner, admitted freeman of the city of Canterbury. This may well be the John Marley whose son Richard made a will in 1521 referring to his son Christopher, a minor. It used to be thought that this Christopher must be the grandfather of Christopher Marlowe the playwright, but recent research has disproved that.

1475

Publication of Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* puts Canterbury on the literary map.

1478

Thomas Marlow, roper, admitted freeman of the city of Canterbury. Again, there now seems no reason to suppose a connection with the family of Christopher Marlowe, though this had been posited in the past.

1484

Date of the first traceable printing of Musaeus' late fifth-century Greek poem *Hero and Leander*, the major source of Marlowe's poem *Hero and Leander*.

1486

Birth of Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa, who was to become widely suspected of necromancy and is mentioned in *Doctor Faustus*.

Publication of the *Malleus Maleficarum* by the Dominican friars Heinrich Kramer and James Sprenger. This rapidly became used both as evidence for the actual existence of witches and as a guide to their behaviour. In *Doctor Faustus*, Faustus is technically a witch (see West, 'The Impatient Magic of Dr. Faustus', 226–7, and Traister, *Heavenly Necromancers*, 90).

Publication of Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, *Oration on the Dignity of Man*, a founding text of neo-platonic theory which offered a way of thinking about magic as not necessarily demonic. The contrasting perspectives offered by Pico della Mirandola and the *Malleus Maleficarum*, ironically originating in the same year, can be seen as jostling for supremacy in *Doctor Faustus*.

1487

Papal condemnation of Pico della Mirandola, who was forced to retract thirteen of his propositions.

1492

May

31 (Sat.) The decision to expel all Jews from Malta, then subject to the Spanish Crown, is secretly communicated to the authorities. Marlowe's *The Jew of Malta*, set in 1565, shows Jews on the island, but they are threatened with expulsion if they will not part with half their wealth.

June

18 (Mon.) The expulsion of the Jews from Malta is publicly proclaimed.

September

18 (Tues.) Deadline for departure of all Jews from Malta (though this was subsequently extended).

1493

Pico della Mirandola absolved by Pope Alexander VI (Rodrigo Borgia).

June

12 (Wed.) Final deadline for expulsion of all Jews from Malta.

1494

Birth of Süleyman the Magnificent. It was under Süleyman that the Turks besieged Malta, as depicted in Marlowe's *The Jew of Malta*, and his power and the magnificence of his court made him a figure of legend in the west.

1507

The German necromancer George Sabellicus is reported as terming himself 'the younger Faust'.

1509

Publication of Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa, *De nobilitate et praecellentia foeminei sexus* ('Of the Nobility and Excellence of the Female Sex'). Theoretical debate on the nature and roles of the sexes was a popular intellectual pursuit. One might wish to compare the value placed by Faustus on Helen with Agrippa's praise for women.

1512

March

5 (Fri.) Christening of Gerard Kremer, subsequently to be known as Gerard Mercator, cartographer and friend of both John Dee and Abraham Ortelius.

1517

The Aldine Press in Venice brings out an edition of Musaeus' *Hero and Leander*, accompanied by a Latin translation. This launches the story's popularity and forms the basis for most subsequent editions during the course of the century.

1518

Publication of Orwin Gratius, *Lamentationes obscurorum virorum* ('Lamentations of Obscure Men'), in which one 'Georgius Subbunculator', who may be George Sabellicus, is said to be in correspondence with 'Agrippa Stygianus' ('Agrippa from the River Styx', the classical gateway to the underworld), i.e. Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa (see Baron, 11–39). This is an indication of the notoriety of both men.

1520

Publication of Martin Luther, *Open Letter to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation*, in which the faith-breaking of Sigismund at Varna is mentioned (see Battenhouse, 'Protestant Apologetics'). Süleyman the Magnificent becomes Sultan of the Ottoman Empire on the death of his father Selim I.

1521

Publication of Oronce Finé, *De mundi sphaera, sive cosmographia*. Marlowe's apparent ignorance of the Copernican idea of the universe is much debated; Finé was one of the older authors on whom he might have been relying (see Johnson).

Richard Marley, tanner, son of John Marley, tanner, dies leaving a will in favour of his only son Christopher, a minor. It used to be thought that this child was probably the grandfather of Christopher Marlowe, and though recent research has disproved the idea of this direct descent, there might perhaps have been a collateral link. Certainly some of Richard Marley's property is leased from Sir John Ffyneux, and it will later be a 'Mr Fineux of Dover' whom Christopher Marlowe is said to have converted to atheism.

1522

The Knights of St John are driven out of Rhodes by the Turks. An international event, mentioned in Holinshed's *Chronicles*, this has widespread repercussions. The Knights begin a quest for a new home which will eventually take them to Malta.

Birth of William Allen, later to be Cardinal Allen and a key figure in the history of Richard Baines, who was the author of the 'Baines Note' and Marlowe's prime accuser.

1524

Alessandro Pazzi writes an Italian play on Dido, *Dido in Cartagine*. This will be one of the first of many indications of the growing popularity of her story in the sixteenth century.

1527

John Rightwise's Latin play on Dido performed before Cardinal Wolsey.

1529

Publication of Andreas Cambinus, *Libro ... della origine de Turchi et imperio delli Ottomanni* ('Book ... on the origin of the Turks and of the Ottoman Empire'), which Thomas and Tydeman include in their

Christopher Marlowe: The plays and their sources (126) as a possible source of material for *Tamburlaine the Great*. The same year saw the publication of Martin Luther, *On War Against the Turk*, indicating the general topicality of matters Turkish.

1530

First publication of Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa, *Of the Vanitie and uncertaintie of Artes and Sciences*.

The Knights of St John take up residence on Malta after being granted it by the Emperor Charles V.

Either in this year or the preceding one, Richard Rose or Rouse poisoned the porridge of the Bishop of Rochester's household, which Thomas and Tydeman see as a possible source for *The Jew of Malta*.

1531

Publication of the first emblem book, Andrea Alciati's *Emblemata cum commentaris* ('Emblems with Commentaries'), which includes an emblem on the fate of Actaeon. The episode of the horning of Benvolio in *Doctor Faustus* clearly relies on the story of Actaeon. The emblematic mode, which pairs text and images to convey a message or moral, becomes increasingly influential and can be seen as lying behind many of the stage pictures created in Marlowe's plays (see Diehl).

Publication of Sir Thomas Elyot, *The Boke Called the Governour*, an important text of Renaissance political theory, and a significant salvo in the debate about right ways of ruling to which *Tamburlaine the Great* can later be seen as a contribution.

1532

Georgius Sabellicus is referred to in the city records of Nuremberg as a 'great sodomite and necromancer' (see Keefer, *Christopher Marlowe's Doctor Faustus*, xxvi). On the question of Dr Faustus's sexuality, and whether anything analogous to this is suggested in Marlowe's play, see Findlay.

1533

Publication of Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa, *De occulta philosophia* ('Of Occult Philosophy').

1534

Sabellicus, by now known as Georgius Sabellicus Faustus, is invited to prepare a prediction for the German explorer Philip von Hutten's expedition to Venezuela. This might be compared with the interest of Marlowe's Doctor Faustus in the gold of the Indies.

1535

Death of Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa.

1536

Pierre de la Ramée, better known as Peter Ramus, receives his MA from the Collège de Navarre in Paris. Ramus was extremely influential on the teaching of Aristotelian theory in both England and France, and his death forms a key scene in Marlowe's *The Massacre at Paris*.

Publication at Lyons of Johannes Quintinus Haedus' *Descriptio Melitensi Insula* ('Description of the Island of Malta'; the author is generally referred to as either Quintinus or Jean Quintin). This shows that there were accounts of Malta to which Marlowe could have turned for background reading for *The Jew of Malta*.

Probable year of birth of Marlowe's father, John Marlowe, at Ospringe near Faversham. Kent (Urry, 12–13).

1537

Probable year of death of Georgius Sabellicus.

The Italian poet Torquato Tasso translates Musaeus' *Hero and Leander* into Italian.

1538

September

The shrine of St Thomas à Becket at Canterbury is dismantled by order of Lord Protector Cromwell and his bones ordered to be burned. On the continuing place of Becket and other martyrs in Canterbury culture, see Kuriyama, *Christopher Marlowe*, 34–5.

1540

Death of Christopher Marley of Canterbury. He left one daughter and a pregnant wife, and stipulated that if the child was a boy he was to

inherit the house and the adjoining 'Old Hall'. It used to be supposed that this posthumous child must have been John Marley or Marlowe, father of Christopher the dramatist, but Constance Kuriyama has argued cogently against this (*Christopher Marlowe*, 10). The testator, Christopher Marley, may have been the child Christopher referred to in the 1521 will of Richard Marley.

Publication at Seville of Pedro Mexía, *Silva de Varia Leci6n* ('The Wood of Varied Reading'), a principal source for Marlowe's *Tamburlaine*.

George Rheticus circulates the first mention of Copernicus' theory that the earth revolves round the sun, rather than, as had been previously supposed, the sun round the earth.

1541

Publication of Clément Marot's translation of Musaeus' *Hero and Leander*, which says of Hero, 'Estoit nonnain, à Vénus dediée' ('She was a nun, dedicated to Venus'), a phrase which recurs in Marlowe's *Hero and Leander*.

Giambattista Giraldi Cinthio writes an Italian play on Dido, *Didone*.

Henry VIII endows the King's School, Canterbury, which Marlowe will later attend.

1542

Publication at London in English translation of Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa, *Of the nobilitie and excellencie of womankynde*.

1543

Bonfinius' Latin chronicle of Hungary, *Antonii Bonfinii Rerum Ungaricarum decades tres* ('Antonius Bonfinus' Three Decades of Hungarian Affairs'), published at Frankfurt. This was a source for Marlowe's *Tamburlaine*.

First publication of Ramus' *Dialecticae institutiones*, which had a major influence on the university curriculum in England.

First publication of Andreas Vesalius' *De Humani Corporis Fabrica* ('On the Fabric of the Human Body', which Matthew Greenfield sees as an influence on Marlowe's understanding of the human body (see Greenfield, 'Christopher Marlowe's Wound Knowledge').

First publication of Copernicus' *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium* ('On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Bodies'). Copernicus dies in the same year. The complete absence of any mention of this theory in Marlowe's works appears to be an extremely surprising lacuna given how well informed he was generally.

1544

March

- 10 (Mon.) François I of France issues a decree suppressing Ramus' books and forbidding him to teach reformed Aristotelianism.
Matthew Parker appointed Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

1545

Publication of John Seton, *Dialectica* ('Dialectic'), an important textbook for Cambridge students during Marlowe's time there (see Jardine).

1547

Lodovico Dolce writes an Italian play on Dido, *Didone*, which Marlowe may have known (see Thomas and Tydeman, 17).

João Micques, later known as Nassi and a possible analogue for Barabas in *The Jew of Malta* (see Thomas and Tydeman, 298), leads a group of 500 Jews from Venice to Constantinople. Nassi, who became known as 'The Great Jew', was ultimately to be made Duke of Naxos, by Sultan Selim II, and the only Jewish duke in Europe.

January

- 28 (Fri.) Death of Henry VIII and accession of Edward VI.

June

John Dee, the famous English 'magician' whom some have seen as an analogue for Doctor Faustus and who was extensively involved in formulating theories of empire and advising on exploration, visits Gerard Mercator in Louvain (see Crane, 164–5).

1548

December

- 27 (Thurs.) Death of Francis Spira, whose despair of the possibility of his salvation became internationally famous and who is a possible precedent for Marlowe's conception of Doctor Faustus (see Campbell).
- 28 (Fri.) This is the date incorrectly recorded in the parish register of St George's, Canterbury for the christening of Marlowe's sister Margaret, because a loose sheet has been misplaced.

1549

Publication in Basle of an account of the death of Francis Spira, with a preface by Calvin (see Campbell, 229).

Publication of John Proctor, *The Fal of the Late Arrian*. When Marlowe's former roommate Thomas Kyd was arrested in 1593, a copy of part of this treatise, which he said belonged to Marlowe, was found in his rooms and he was therefore deemed to be in possession of dangerous and heretical material (see Briggs).

1550

Re-publication (possibly in Geneva) of the account of the death of Francis Spira. Also in this year Georgio Siculo's *Epistola ... alli cittadini di Riva di Trento contra il mendatio di F. Spira, & falso dottrina di Protestanti* (Letter ... to the citizens of the Trento river-bank against the lie of Francis Spira, and the false doctrine of the Protestants) was published at Bologna, and an English translation by Edward Aglionby of Matteo Garibaldi's account of the death of Spira was published in Worcester. Calvin's *De scandalis* ('Of Scandals') denounces Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa as an atheist.

William Allen, later Cardinal Allen and prominent in the Baines story, receives his BA from Oriel College, Oxford, and is elected Fellow.

1551

Publication of Thomas Wilson, *The Rule of Reason*, the first textbook of logic written in English.

Thomas Arden of Faversham is murdered by his wife, Alice. This famous local scandal will eventually form the basis of the anonymous Elizabethan play *Arden of Faversham*, of which Marlowe has occasionally been proposed as the author.

Nicolas de Nicolay, geographer to Charles IX of France, accompanies the Baron d'Aramont, French Ambassador to the Sublime Porte, to Malta. The Turks attack while he is there and carry off a large part of the population of the neighbouring island of Gozo. Nicolay's subsequent work will be a source for Marlowe's *The Jew of Malta*.

Publication of Paulus Jovius (Paolo Giovio), *Elogia virorum bellica virtute illustrium* ('In Praise of Famous Men of Warlike Courage'), containing an account of Tamburlaine (see Thomas and Tydeman, 132), and two books by Ramus, who is a character in *The Massacre at Paris* (see Bakeless, 62).

1552

Publication of Claude Gruget, *Les Diverses Leçons de Pierre Messie* ('The Varied Readings of Pedro Mexía'), a translation of Mexía later used by Thomas Fortescue in his own 1571 translation into English, and thus a possible source for Marlowe's *Tamburlaine* (Thomas and Tydeman, 74).
Birth of Sir Walter Raleigh.
Traditional year of birth of Edmund Spenser.

1553

Machiavelli's *The Prince* (first published in 1532) is translated into French and dedicated to the Earl of Arran. Debate still surrounds the extent of Marlowe's acquaintance with the writings of Machiavelli, who appears as a character in *The Jew of Malta*; this may represent a route by which Marlowe could have encountered Machiavelli's text.

Matthew Parker leaves his post as Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

The Muscovy Company is floated. Richard Wilson argues, in 'Invisible Bullets', that the affairs of the Company were an important subtext of *Tamburlaine*.

Publication of Petrus Perondinus, *Magni Tamerlanis Scythiarum Imperatoris Vita* ('Life of Tamburlaine the Great, Emperor of Scythia'), a translation of one of the principal sources for *Tamburlaine*.

Gavin Douglas translates the *Aeneid* into Scottish verse. This is part of the vogue for translations of the classics into the vernacular to which Marlowe will later contribute with his translations of *All Ovids Elegies* and the first book of Lucan's *Pharsalia*, and arguably with *Dido, Queen of Carthage*, since it depends so closely on Virgil's *Aeneid*.

July

6 (Thurs.) Death of Edward VI and accession of Mary I. Catholicism again becomes the official religion of England.

1554

William Allen receives his MA from Oriel College, Oxford.
The Earl of Surrey translates Book II of the *Aeneid* into English, another indication of the vogue for Virgil of which *Dido, Queen of Carthage* will form part.

April

17 (Tues.) Stephen Gosson, later to become the period's most virulent anti-theatrical writer, baptised at St George's, Canterbury.

1555

John Lyly, the future dramatist and author of *Euphues His England* and *Euphues' Golden Legacy*, is baptised in Canterbury. In many ways Marlowe's literary project can be seen as antithetical to Lyly's and indeed as a reaction against it.

1556

Publication of Laonicus Chalcocondylas, *De origine et rebus gestis Turcorum ...* ('Of the Origin and Deeds of the Turks'), translated by Conrad Clauderus (see Thomas and Tydeman 142).

Birth of Marlowe's friend Thomas Watson.

William Allen is chosen Principal of St Mary's Hall, Oxford.

Probable year of arrival of Marlowe's father John in Canterbury (Urry, 10). It used to be supposed that Christopher Marlowe came of a long-established Canterbury family, possessed of property and financial security; the recent research into John Marlowe's background has dispelled that idea and has shown that the position of the Marlowes was actually much more precarious than that.

February

5 (Wed.) Birth of Philip Henslowe, the future theatrical entrepreneur who will be extensively involved in staging Marlowe's plays (see Cerasano, 'Philip Henslowe', 153).

1557

Publication of Tottel, *Songs and Sonnets*, inaugurating the vogue for verse miscellanies like that in which Marlowe's 'The Passionate Shepherd to his Love' will later appear.

The Earl of Surrey translates Book IV of the *Aeneid*.

1558

Birth of John Cecil, later to be a Catholic priest and possible double agent. Marlowe's apparent involvement in government service is likely

to have entailed the pursuit of men like Cecil, and perhaps undercover collaboration too.

Matthew Parker appointed Archbishop of Canterbury.

Publication of Thomas Phaer's translation of the first seven books of the *Aeneid*, which may have influenced *Dido, Queen of Carthage* (see Thomas and Tydeman, 18).

November

6 (Sun.) Thomas Kyd, later Marlowe's roommate, baptised at the church of St Mary Woolnoth, Lombard Street, London.

17 (Thurs.) Death of Mary I and accession of Elizabeth I. After five years of Catholicism, Protestantism again becomes the official religion of England.

1559

Publication of the fourth edition of Robert Fabyan's *The Chronicle of Fabyan ...*, which is the source for the ballad about the defeat of the English at Bannockburn which is quoted in *Edward II* (Thomas and Tydeman, 380).

Probable year of birth of Marlowe's future brother-in-law John Moore, husband of his sister Joan, or Jane, at Ulcombe in Kent.

January

15 (Sat.) Coronation of Elizabeth I. The date had been selected by the alchemist and astrologer John Dee, who had been consulted to see when would be auspicious.

July

31 (Mon.) Philip II of Spain obtains from Pope Paul IV authorisation for the foundation of the University of Douai, where a number of English Catholics will eventually go.

1560

First Latin translation of Machiavelli's *The Prince* published.

John Marlowe, father of Christopher, enrolled as an apprentice by Gerard Richardson, shoemaker and freeman of Canterbury.

Publication at London of Joannes Philippon, *A Famous Chronicle of our time, called Sleidan's Commentaries*, translated by John Daus, which gave an extensive account of the story of Francis Spira.

Births of Thomas Hariot and Gilbert Gifford, both later associates of Marlowe's. Gifford was to be a double agent who was expelled from the seminaries at both Rome and Rheims, and was highly instrumental in the entrapment of Mary, Queen of Scots. Hariot, a celebrated mathematician, sailed to Virginia in 1585, and the Baines Note states Hariot's observations about the Indians to be the source of Marlowe's scepticism about traditional Biblical chronology, as well as quoting Marlowe as saying 'that Moyses was but a Jugler, & that one Heriots being Sir W Raleighs man can do more than he'. Hariot was a close friend of the Earl of Northumberland, to whom Marlowe was later to say he was very well known, and also of Sir Walter Raleigh.

January

6 (Sat.) Pope Pius IV confirms the establishment of Douai.

1561

A German play about the story of Francis Spira is performed.
William Allen resigns all his offices and leaves England for Louvain.

January

19 (Sun.) Philip II issues letters patent authorising the establishment of the University of Douai.

May

22 (Thurs.) Marriage of Marlowe's parents, John Marlowe and Katherine Arthur, at the church of St George the Martyr, Canterbury.

1562

The Thirty-Nine Articles set out the fundamental tenets of the English Church.

William Allen returns to England to evangelise.

Loyalty to Catholicism is still so strong in Canterbury that during this year the government has to intervene to ensure that a Protestant mayor is elected (see Urry, xxi).

Publication of John Shute, *Two Commentaries*, a translation of Andreas Cambinus' *Libro ... della origine de Turchi et imperio delli Ottomanni* ('Book ... on the Origin of the Turks and of the Ottoman Empire'), which includes an account of the treachery at Varna, immediately following the story of Tamburlaine.

The family of the future dramatist John Lyly are recorded as living in the parish of St Alphege's, Canterbury.

Antony Jenkinson, factor of the Muscovy Company, surveys Russia for Abraham Ortelius' atlas *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* and dedicates his map to Sir Henry Sidney, father of Sir Philip Sidney and the leading light of the Muscovy Company. Marlowe is known to have used Ortelius' atlas (see Seaton, 'Marlowe's Map'). This is particularly interesting because Ortelius' atlas was intended to be not only accurate but also an expression of its maker's irenicism and hopes for religious tolerance (see Binding, 15). Amongst other things, the cordiform projection used by Ortelius was intended to signify sincerity and to resonate in the heart: 'So the very projection, determining our reception of the world, is itself irenicist' (Binding, 131).

Loppe de Aguirre murders his daughter Elvira to prevent her falling into enemy hands, a possible source or analogue for the infanticide of Olympia in *Tamburlaine the Great*, Part Two (see Hopkins, *Christopher Marlowe*, 54).

Birth of John Fixer, later a Catholic priest and probable turncoat (see Loomie, 74).

May

21 (Thurs.) Mary, first child of John and Katherine Marlowe, christened at St George's, Canterbury.

October

5 (Mon.) Inauguration of the University of Douai.

1563

Publication of Johannes Wier, *De praestigiis daemonum* ('Of the Illusions of Demons'), which defended the reputation of his late master Agrippa and attacked the idea of witch-hunting on the grounds that people who thought they were witches were mentally ill rather than diabolically possessed.

Protestants finally secure definitive control of Canterbury local politics (see Urry, xxi). A household survey of Canterbury suggests that there are approximately 900 households in the city (Urry, 2).

March

Birth of Nicholas Skeres, one of the three men present at Marlowe's death.

Birth of Thomas Walsingham, at whose house at Scadbury Marlowe was staying at the time of his death.

May

16 (Sun.) Baptism of Leonard Sweeting, a future schoolfellow of Marlowe and son of the rector of St George's, Canterbury. A list of Sweeting's books compiled in 1608 included *Hero and Leander*.

November

19 (Fri.) Birth of Sir Robert Sidney, who was later to interrogate Marlowe after his arrest in Flushing in 1592.

1564

January

13 (Thurs.) Baptism at Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire of John Cranford, future husband of Marlowe's sister Ann.

February

26 (Sat.) Christopher Marlowe christened at St George's Church, Canterbury. The entry in the parish register reads 'The 26th day of february was Christened Christofer the sonne of John Marlow'. He is likely to have been a few days old at the time.

March

Gerard Richardson, to whom John Marlowe had been apprenticed, dies.

25 (Fri.) Lady Day. Start of the Elizabethan new year.

April

2 (Sun.) Easter Sunday.

20 (Thurs.) Marlowe's father John admitted as a freeman of Canterbury, although he had served only a four-year apprenticeship instead of the customary seven. This was probably because plague had created a labour shortage. From now, or from shortly after, John Marlowe has his own shoemaker's shop.

23 (Sun.) William Shakespeare is christened at Holy Trinity church, Stratford-upon-Avon. Although seemingly a later starter

than Marlowe, Shakespeare is overwhelmingly likely to have known him in the 1590s. They may have collaborated on the *Henry VI* plays and Shakespeare's early work shows clear signs of the influence of Marlowe.

27 (Thurs.) Henry Percy, later 9th Earl of Northumberland, born at Tynemouth Castle, Northumberland. Marlowe was later to say that he was 'very well known' to the earl.

Publication at Douai of William Allen, *Certain Brief Reasons concerning the Catholick Faith*. Allen's activities increase the pressure for English Catholics not to accept the *status quo* and thus foment the discontent and covert activity which eventually become the principal concern of the government's intelligence agents.

August

4–6 (Fri.–Sun.) Canterbury fair held. For some indication of what this might have been like, see Jonson's *Bartholomew Fair*.

7 (Mon.) *Dido*, a version of the Dido story written by Edward Halliwell, formerly Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, acted before Queen Elizabeth in King's College Chapel. It is now lost (see Boas, *University Drama*, 52).

September

8 (Fri.) The dean of Canterbury Cathedral authorises a payment of shillings to a 'straunger off the contry of Persia', who was reputed to come from 'Babylond' (see Urry, 7). Though Marlowe was still less than a year old, he might perhaps have heard about this later, and it could conceivably represent his first encounter with the territory which was to become so crucial a part of *Tamburlaine the Great*.

1565

William Allen leaves England and is ordained priest at Mechlin.

Early in the year Marlowe's father John, along with several of his neighbours, gives evidence when a local girl, Godelif Chapman, sues a tailor, Laurence Applegate, for claiming to have had sex with her.

Publication at London of Arthur Golding's hugely influential translation of the first four books of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Marlowe too will later translate Ovid, though his text will be the far more risqué *All*

Ovids Elegies. Golding's translation will bring Ovid to the forefront of the literary scene, and will have a huge impact on Shakespeare in particular.

Publication at Antwerp of William Allen, *A Defense and Declaration of the Catholike Churches Doctrine touching Purgatory and Prayers of the Soules Departed*. The question of purgatory and of the destination of the soul at death was one of the key differences between Protestantism and Catholicism. Protestant disbelief in purgatory was a major source of spiritual anxiety, and its consequences form an important subtext in both *Doctor Faustus* and Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

March

25 (Sun.) Lady Day. Start of the Elizabethan new year.

April

22 (Sun.) Easter Sunday.

May

18 (Fri.) Turks are sighted from Fort St Angelo and Fort St Elmo, which guard the Grand Harbour of Malta. This heralds the start of the Siege of Malta, which will later form the backdrop to Marlowe's *The Jew of Malta*.

25 (Fri.) The siege of Fort St Elmo begins.

28 (Mon.) Bombardment of Fort St Elmo begins.

June

The Piccolo Siccorso ('Small Relief Force'), including Sir Edward Stanley, sails from Sicily to the relief of Malta, arriving shortly after the fall of Fort St Elmo. This is probably the same Sir Edward Stanley as the man of that name who was the uncle of Ferdinando Stanley, Lord Strange, to whom Marlowe later said he was 'very well known'. Marlowe's account of the part of the siege at which Sir Edward was present seems to come closer to the truth than that of the earlier part to which he was not a witness (see Hopkins, *Christopher Marlowe*, 97–9).

23 (Sat.) Fall of Fort St Elmo.

August

4–6 (Sat.–Mon.) Canterbury fair held.

September

The Turks abandon the siege of Malta and sail away from the island.

October

- 26 (Fri.) Thomas Kyd, later to be Marlowe's roommate and another major force on the Elizabethan theatrical scene, enters Merchant Taylors' School.

December

Date on the dedication to Cardinal Hippolito d'Este of *Della Historia di Malta, et successo della guerra seguita tra quei Religiosissimi Cavalieri ed il potentissimo gran Turco Sulthan Soliman, l'anno MDLXV* (Of the History of Malta, and of the War between Those Most Religious Knights and the Most Potent Grand Turk Sultan Soliman, the year 1565), by Pierro Gentile de Vendôme (see Vella Bonavita, 1028).

- 2 (Sun.) Date given in the records of St George's, Canterbury, for the christening of Marlowe's sister Margaret (but see entry below for 18 December 1566, which appears to be the right one).
- 11 (Tues.) Date sometimes cited as being given in the records of St George's, Canterbury, for the christening of Marlowe's sister Margaret (the confusion has arisen because the entry appears as ii December).

1566

Publication of William Painter, *Palace of Pleasure*, an important compilation of narratives much used as a source by Renaissance playwrights. John Gresshop is appointed headmaster of the King's School, Canterbury.

Publication at Bologna of Pierro Gentile de Vendôme's *Della Historia di Malta ...* This was subsequently pirated by Marino Fracasso in Rome and by Alfonso Ulloa, who incorporated it into his history of the war in Tripoli and the siege of Malta. It was also the source of Caelius Secundus Curio's *Caelii Secundi Curionis de Bello Melitensi a turcis gesto historia nova* ('Caelius Secundus Curio's New History of the War Waged in Malta by the Turks') (see Vella Bonavita, 1028).

George Gascoigne and Francis Kinwelmershe's *Jocasta*, a possible source for *Tamburlaine*, staged at Gray's Inn (see Thomas and Tydeman, 81).

Death of Süleyman the Magnificent. He is succeeded by his son Selim, the Selim-Calymath of *The Jew of Malta*.

Joseph (João) Nassi, formerly João Micques and a possible analogue for Barabas (see Thomas and Tydeman, 298), is created Duke of Naxos by Sultan Selim II.

March

25 (Mon.) Lady Day. Start of the Elizabethan new year.

April

14 (Sun.) Easter Sunday.

August

4–6 (Sun.–Tues.) Canterbury fair held.

18 (Sun.) Philip II orders an *Ommegang* (ritual procession) in Antwerp in which all are to bow their knees to effigies of the Virgin Mary. The largely Protestant Antwerpers are incensed (see Binding, 143).

20 (Tues.) A disturbance in Onze Lieve Vrouwekathedraal, the cathedral of Antwerp, leads to an iconoclastic riot. This is the first real sign of the religious unrest which will eventually bring war to the Netherlands and lead to the English involvement there.

September

1 (Sun.) Birth of Edward Alleyn, who was to become famous as the first actor of almost all Marlowe's heroes.

2 (Mon.) Edward Alleyn christened at St Botolph Bishopsgate, London, where his father, a porter to the Queen, also owned an inn.

9 (Mon.) Nicholas Skeres' father, Nicholas senior, makes his will, and presumably dies shortly after. From this period on Skeres junior lives on his wits, apparently mainly as a confidence trickster.

December

18 (Wed.) Date given in the Bishop's Transcript for the baptism of Marlowe's sister Margaret. Constance Kuriyama is confident that either this or 28 December 1566 is the right date for Margaret's christening and suggests that the unusually long gap between Margaret's birth and Christopher's may be due to his having been breastfed for longer because he was the eldest male (Kuriyama, *Christopher Marlowe*, 16–17). It is of course also possible that Katherine Marlowe had had a miscarriage between Christopher's birth and Margaret's, or had simply not conceived.

1567

Publication at London of Arthur Golding's translation of the complete fifteen books of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, and publication at London of George Turberville's translation of Ovid's *Heroides*.

The Knights of Malta take a large number of Jewish prisoners after a sea battle, contributing to the island's evil reputation amongst Jewish chroniclers (see Roth, 215).

A local shopkeeper later recalled that there was a severe water shortage in Canterbury this year (see Urry, 4).

Publication at Basle of Caelius Secundus Curio's *Caelii Secundi Curionis de Bello Melitensi a turcis gesto historia nova* ('Caelius Secundus Curio's New History of the Maltese War and the Deeds of the Turks'), translated into German in the same year by Hieronymus Helvecius and published, again at Basle, as *History von Krieg in der Insul Malta, Verteutschet durch M. Hieronymum Helvecium* ('History of the War in the Island of Malta, translated into German by Master Hieronymus Helvecius'). Curio's account was also republished the next year as part of his son Caelius Augustine Curio's *Caelii Augustini Curionis Sarracenicæ historiae Libri tres* (Caelius Augustine Curio's Three Books of Saracen History) (see Vella Bonavita, 1028–9). Curio's account is unusual in being written from the perspective of a Reformer. Curio is also famous for having supposedly escaped from prison (to which he had been sent because of his Reformist views) by inserting a wooden leg into the stocks in place of his own (see Vella Bonavita, 1034 n. 55), something which may seem to foreshadow the trick played by Faustus on the horse-courser.

Birth of John Benchkin, whom Constance Kuriyama ('Second Selves', 89) sees as a close friend of Marlowe. Marlowe was later to be present at the witnessing of the will of Katherine Benchkin, John's stepmother. Thomas Watson, future friend of Marlowe, goes to school at Winchester.

March

25 (Tues.) Lady Day. Start of the Elizabethan new year.

30 (Sun.) Easter Sunday.

August

4–6 (Mon.–Wed.) Canterbury fair held.

November

Thomas Nashe, Marlowe's future friend, is born in Lowestoft.

1568

Bonfinius' Latin chronicle of Hungary reissued at Basle.

Publication at Lyons of Nicolas de Nicolay's account of his visit to Malta.

Marlowe's father John takes his first apprentice, Richard Umbarffeld, or Umberfield, whose father seems to have been John Umberfield, a clock-maker and gunsmith.

March

25 (Thurs.) Lady Day. Start of the Elizabethan new year.

April

18 (Sun.) Easter Sunday.

May

Edmund Spenser, future author of *The Faerie Queene*, enters Pembroke Hall, Cambridge as a sizar (a student of limited means, who earned his keep by performing chores).

June

10 (Thurs.) Birth of Audrey Shelton, later to be the wife of Marlowe's friend Sir Thomas Walsingham of Scadbury. Audrey is also referred to as Etheldred in some records, and appears in the records of the parish church at Scadbury as Adrian.

August

4–6 (Wed.–Fri.) Canterbury fair held.

28 (Sat.) Burial of Marlowe's elder sister Mary, aged six. This leaves Christopher, aged four, as the elder of the two surviving Marlowe children.

October

10 (Sun.) Michaelmas. Robert Poley, later to be one of the three men present at Marlowe's death, enters Clare College, Cambridge as a sizar.

William Allen begins to gather English Catholics to form at English College at Douai.

24 (Sun.) Raffe Typpinge of Hoxton helps search the Portuguese ambassador's chapel for recusants. The Tipping family will later feature in the tangled web surrounding Marlowe's

arrest and death (see Seaton, 'Marlowe, Poley, and the Tippings', 277).

- 31 (Sun.) An unnamed son of John and Katherine Marlowe is christened.

November

Richard Baines, later to be Marlowe's chief accuser in the Baines Note, matriculates as a pensioner at Christ's College, Cambridge.

The English College founded at Douai.

- 5 (Fri.) Burial of John and Katherine Marlowe's unnamed infant son.

1569

Edmund Spenser is recorded as carrying despatches from France.

Gerald Mercator publishes a world map which is the first to make use of his new projection (on its effects and significance, see Binding, 200–1).

João Micques, now Nassi, the Portuguese Jew who was created Duke of Naxos by Sultan Selim II, publicly urges the Sultan to break his alliance with Venice and seize Cyprus.

John Ballard, later to be involved in the Babington Plot of 1586, matriculates as a sizar at St Catharine's College, Cambridge.

Catholic families in Canterbury successfully remove Protestants from office (see Urry, xxi).

March

- 25 (Fri.) Lady Day. Start of the Elizabethan new year.

April

- 10 (Sun.) Easter Sunday.

July

- 10 (Sun.) The churchwardens of St George's Church, Canterbury complain of John Marlowe 'for that he commeth not to church as he ought to doe'.

August

4–6 (Thurs.–Sat.) Canterbury fair held.

- 20 (Sat.) Marlowe's sister Joan (or Jane) christened. (The name is erroneously recorded in the parish register as John.)

October

23 (Sun.) Ortelius receives his first licence to print the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*.

1570

Second English edition of John Foxe's *Actes and Monuments*, including new material on Bajazet. It was ordered by Convocation to be placed in every cathedral church.

Nassi persuades Sultan Selim to attempt the capture of Cyprus from the Venetians (see Thomas and Tydeman, 298).

Publication of Abraham Ortelius' atlas *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, which Marlowe is known to have used (see Seaton, 'Marlowe's Map').

The Papal Bull 'Regnans in Excelsis' is issued by Pius V. It deposes Queen Elizabeth and declares that her subjects owe her no allegiance. It significantly inflames both Catholic resistance and Protestant anxieties. Edward Aglionby's English translation of Matteo Garibaldi's account of the death of Spira is reissued in London.

January

18 (Wed.) John Ballard, who is later to be involved in the Babington Plot, is admitted to Caius College, Cambridge.

February

21 (Tues.) Ortelius receives a second licence for the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*.

March

25 (Sat.) Lady Day. Start of the Elizabethan new year.

26 (Sun.) Easter Sunday.

April

Richard UMBERFIELD, John Marlowe's apprentice, is accused of having made one Joan Hubbard pregnant and his apprenticeship seems to have been terminated (Urry, 23).

May

20 (Sat.) Publication of the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (see Binding, 201).

July

26 (Wed.) Marlowe's brother Thomas, the first of the two to be so named, is christened.

August

4–6 (Fri.–Sun.) Canterbury fair held.

7 (Mon.) Marlowe's brother Thomas buried.

September

13 (Wed.) Burial of Edward Alleyn senior, father of the actor.

1571

Battle of Lepanto, in which Venice defeats the Turks. This is now seen as a turning-point in the struggle against Ottoman power, though the Turks remained a very real threat for some considerable time.

Publication at London of Thomas Fortescue, *The Foreste or Collection of Histories* (a translation of Mexia's *Silva de Vario Lecion*, one of the principal sources of *Tamburlaine*).

Richard Edwardes, *Damon and Pithias*. As a play about male friendship, this has been proposed as a model for *Edward II* (see Mills).

Sir Edward Stanley, uncle of Ferdinando Stanley, Lord Strange and probably the same person as the Sir Edward Stanley who was a veteran of the Siege of Malta, is implicated in a plot to rescue Mary, Queen of Scots.

January

20 (Sat.) Edward Alleyn's mother Margaret remarries. Her husband, Richard Christopher, also known as Richard Grove, becomes Alleyn's first stepfather.

March

25 (Sun.) Lady Day. Start of the Elizabethan new year.

April

15 (Sun.) Easter Sunday.

July

14 (Sat.) Marlowe's sister Ann christened at St George's, Canterbury. She seems to have been a quarrelsome person; in later life, when 55 years old, she fought a neighbour armed with a staff and a dagger, and the following year she assaulted the same neighbour with a sword and a knife. She was also reported to the ecclesiastical authorities in 1603 as a scold and blasphemmer.

August

4–6 (Sat.–Mon.) Canterbury fair held.

October

14 (Sun.) Eleanor Whitney marries Richard Bull at St Mary-le-Bow. It will be in her house that Marlowe dies.

November

7 (Wed.) Edmund, son of Humphrey Rowland, christened at St Botolph's, London. Humphrey Rowland will act as one of Marlowe's sureties when he is arrested after a fight in 1589.

1572

Publication at London of Thomas Churchyard's translation of the first three books of Ovid's *Tristia*, another indication of the growing vogue for translating Ovid.

Sir Walter Raleigh's name appears on the register of Oriel College, Oxford for this year.

Nicholas Faunt, native of Canterbury and later an important figure in Walsingham's espionage network, matriculates at Caius College, Cambridge.

March

25 (Tues.) Lady Day. Start of the Elizabethan new year.

April

6 (Sun.) Easter Sunday.

June

9 (Mon.) Death of Jeanne d'Albret, mother of Henri of Navarre (later Henri IV of France). Marlowe stages her death in scene iii of *The Massacre at Paris*.

August

4–6 (Mon.–Wed.) Canterbury fair held.

18 (Mon.) Marriage of Henri of Navarre and Marguerite de Valois, both characters in *A Massacre at Paris*.

22 (Fri.) Admiral Coligny is shot and wounded, precipitating the St Bartholomew's Day Massacre (Marlowe's 'massacre at Paris').

- 24 (Sun.) Coligny is murdered in bed while recovering from his injuries.
Execution of Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, for intriguing with Mary, Queen of Scots.

November

- 11 (Tues.) A new star appears in the constellation Cassiopeia and is much commented on by astronomers, who see it as an omen (Woolley, 147). This kind of event typically causes considerable consternation in Elizabethan England.

1573

The poet and playwright George Gascoigne is recorded as working in the Low Countries with Rowland Yorke, who, along with Sir William Stanley, would later betray the Dutch city of Deventer to the Spanish. Religious conservatives in Canterbury complain unsuccessfully about Protestant domination of local politics (Urry, xxi).

Publication, probably at London but possibly at Stirling or Edinburgh, of an English translation of François Hotman, *De Furoribus Gallicis*, as *A true and plaine report of the Furious outrages of Fraunce* (see Kocher, 'François Hotman', 350, n. 4). This recounts some of the events which Marlowe would later dramatise in *A Massacre at Paris*.

John Cecil, later to be either a Catholic priest or a government plant, enters Trinity College, Oxford as a scholar.

Nicholas Faunt enters Corpus Christi College, Cambridge as a scholar.

John Marlowe appears to have been acting as a sidesman at St George's (Urry, 28).

March

22 (Sun.) Easter Sunday.

25 (Wed.) Lady Day. Start of the Elizabethan new year.

May

20 (Wed.) A boy called Christopher Mowle is recorded as living in the house of John Roydon, victualler, of Canterbury, and as witnessing an assault alleged to have taken place there on this date. Andrew Butcher suggested that this boy was Christopher Marlowe, although he conceded that the age is wrong – Christopher Mowle's age is given as twelve years, whereas Christopher Marlowe was three months short of his

tenth birthday (Butcher). If the suggestion were accepted, it would mean that Marlowe was living away from his family at this time, which would be interesting in the light of the numerous family conflicts dramatised in his plays. However, the discrepancy in age cannot simply be ignored. As we have seen, there had previously been Christopher Morleys or Morles living in Canterbury; this makes it possible that some of their descendants would have been given that name, so conceivably Christopher Mowle was one of these.

July

John Marlowe sues Leonard Browne for debt.

August

4–6 (Tues.–Thurs.) Canterbury fair held.

September

John Marlowe sues Hugh Jones, landlord of the Chequers tavern, for debt.

3 (Thurs.) The Queen, on progress to Canterbury, enters the city, rides in triumph through it, and is greeted at the cathedral by Archbishop Parker.

7 (Mon.) The Queen celebrates her fortieth birthday at Archbishop Parker's palace.

October

18 (Sun.) Marlowe's sister Dorothy christened.

20 (Tues.) John Marlowe sues Thomas Ovington over a quarrel about a horse, and is awarded damages of 9s 4d.

22 (Thurs.) John Marlowe brings his quarrelsome and litigious summer to an end by telling Michael Shaw, basket-maker, 'Michael Shawe thou art a thief and so I will prove thee to be'. Shaw subsequently sued him for slander.

1574

Birth of Thomas Fineux, whom Marlowe was later alleged to have converted to atheism.

Death of Sultan Selim II, Marlowe's Selim-Calymath.

Publication of an English translation of François Hotman's *De Furoribus Gallicis* as *The Three Parties of Commentaries ... of the Ciuill warres of Fraunce* (see Kocher, 'François Hotman').

Publication (at Edinburgh but in French) of Nicholas Barnaud, *Le Reveille-Matin des François* ('The Wake-up Call of the French'), another account of the French wars of religion.

Death of the Cardinal of Lorraine, a key figure in the wars.

John Fixer, subsequently to become a Catholic priest, matriculates at Trinity College, Oxford.

January

John Marlowe enters a plea for debt against Michael Shaw.

March

The new star which had appeared in Cassiopeia in 1572 disappears. Contemporary inability to explain this fuels concerns about celestial phenomena and divine warnings.

John Marlowe enters a plea for debt against Robert Shaw.

25 (Thurs.) Lady Day. Start of the Elizabethan new year.

April

11 (Sun.) Easter Sunday.

May

3 (Mon.) Burial of William Sweeting, rector of St George's, Canterbury, and father of Leonard Sweeting, who will attend the King's School, Canterbury and will own a copy of *Hero and Leander* at the time of his death.

June

20 (Sun.) A 'Dick Baies' is mentioned as having carried messages to Mary, Queen of Scots. This is mistakenly indexed as 'Baines' (suggesting Richard Baines) in the *Calendar of the State Papers Relating to Scotland*, but Constance Kuriyama has argued that since the name Baies or Bayes is common in the area around Sheffield where Mary was being held, 'Baies' is likely to be correct (Kuriyama, 'Marlowe's Nemesis', 350).

August

4–6 (Wed.–Fri.) Canterbury fair held.

November

14–15 (Sun.–Mon.) The Northern Lights are seen over Canterbury, to the alarm of the local population.

1575

Coronation of Henri III of France.

Around about this year the Canterbury gallows are moved and re-erected in the parish in which Marlowe was living (Urry, 7).

Robert Greene, later to denounce Marlowe as an atheist in his preface to *Perimedes the Blacksmith*, matriculates at Cambridge.

Death of Marlowe's grandfather, William Arthur of Dover.

William Allen visits Rome and helps in the founding of the English College there.

Publication of Henri Estienne, *A Marvelous Discourse upon the Life, Deeds, and Behaviors of Katherine de Medicis, Queen Mother*. Catherine is an important character in *The Massacre at Paris*, and Marlowe might have consulted this.

Publication of François de Belleforest, *La cosmographie Universelle de tout le monde ... beaucoup plus augmentée, ornée, et enrichie* ('The Universal Cosmography of the Whole World ... Much Augmented, Adorned, and Enriched'), which includes a version of the Olympia story told in *Tamburlaine the Great*, Part Two. The same year also saw the publication of an English version of Celio Secundo Curione, *Notable History of the Saracens*, translated by Thomas Newton. Milton's nephew Edward Phillips will later think that Newton wrote Marlowe's *Tamburlaine*.

John Ballard graduates BA from King's College, Cambridge.

February

27 (Sun.) The register of the Middle Temple in London records the presence of Walter Raleigh there.

March

25 (Fri.) Lady Day. Start of the Elizabethan new year.

April

3 (Sun.) Easter Sunday.

5 (Tues.) Matthew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury, makes his will, setting up a scholarship to be held at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, by a boy from the King's School, Canterbury. Marlowe will be a future holder of it.

May–August Plague in Canterbury pushes the death toll in these months to twice its normal figure.

May

17 (Tues.) Death of Matthew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury.

August

4–6 (Thurs–Sat.) Canterbury fair held.

October

Heavy snow in Canterbury.

November

10 (Thurs.) First mention of Lady Arbella Stuart, to whom Marlowe might just conceivably later have acted as tutor. Her precise birthdate is unknown, but a letter from her grandmother on this date refers to her. She had probably been born shortly before.

1576

Publication at Geneva of Innocent Gentillet, *Discours sur les moyens de bien gouverner et maintenir en bonne paix un royaume ou autre principauté. Divisez en trois partis; à savoir, du conseil, de la religion et police que doit tenir un Prince: Contre Nicholas Machiavel Florentin* ('Discourse on the Ways of Ruling Well and of Maintaining in Peace a Kingdom or Other Principality. Divided into Three Parts, that is, on the Advice, Religion and Policy which a Prince Should Follow: against Niccolò Machiavelli the Florentine'). Known as the *Contre-Machiavel*, this is one possible source for the knowledge of Machiavelli displayed by Marlowe in *The Jew of Malta*.

Walter Ralegh publishes his first poetry.

Publication of Thomas Tymme's translation of Jean de Serres, *The Fourth Part of Commentaries of the Civil Wars in France ...*, discussed by Thomas and Tydeman as a possible source for *The Massacre at Paris* (see Thomas and Tydeman, 333).

Publication of Jean Bodin, *Six Livres de la république* ('Six Books of the Republic'), which contrasts Tamburlaine with Bajazet and subsequently became the subject of lectures at Cambridge.

Publication at London of Arthur Golding's translation of Jean de Serres' *Lyfe of ... Iasper Colignie Shatilion*. The murder of Coligny was one of the key incidents in the St Bartholomew's Day Massacre.

Anthony Marlowe, who may possibly have been a relation of Christopher Marlowe, begins working as London agent of the Muscovy Company and continues in their employ until 1599 (for some details of his career, see Wilson, 'Visible Bullets').

Marlowe's friend Thomas Watson goes to the English College at Douai.

Second English edition of John Foxe's *Actes and Monuments*, which includes the material on Bajazet, reissued.

The Theatre, probably the first purpose-built theatrical venue in England to be used exclusively for plays, is opened in London by James Burbage, a joiner and an amateur player, whose son Richard will eventually become Shakespeare's leading actor. It is financed largely by James's brother-in-law John Brayne, a grocer, who died before the theatre was completed.

Richard Baines, now a member of Caius, receives his MA.

March

25 (Sun.) Lady Day. Start of the Elizabethan new year.

April

8 (Sun.) Probable date of the baptism of Marlowe's brother Thomas (the second of his brothers to be so called, and the youngest of the Marlowe children) at St Andrew's Church, Canterbury.

21 (Sat.) John Marlowe takes Lactantius Presson as his apprentice, but the two soon fall out. After a fight, Presson leaves and John Marlowe is fined for drawing blood.

22 (Sun.) Easter Sunday.

May

Heavy storms lead to severe flooding in Canterbury (see Urry, 4).

17 (Thurs.) John Cecil, who is later to be either a Catholic priest or a government double agent, receives his BA from Trinity College, Oxford.

August

4–6 (Sat.–Mon.) Canterbury fair held.

October

15 (Mon.) Thomas Watson leaves Douai for Paris.

November

4 (Sun.) The 'Spanish Fury' – Spanish soldiers from the citadel devastate and pillage the city of Antwerp. Contemporary accounts suggested that as many as 18,000 people died on this and the subsequent days, though 8,000 is now considered a more likely figure (see Binding, 269–75).

1577

A Thomas Baines of Southwell matriculates at Caius. The coincidence of name and college suggests that this may be Richard Baines's brother, and that if so, Richard Baines came from Southwell.

William Parry, later to be executed for supposedly attempting to assassinate Elizabeth, visits Rome and Siena.

Gentillet's *Contre-Machiavel* is translated into English by Simon Patericke (though this was not published until 1602).

Publication of Pierre de la Primaudauye, *French Academy*, containing an account of Tamburlaine influenced by Perondinus.

First publication of Raphael Holinshed's *Chronicles*, later to be used by Marlowe as a source for *Edward II*.

Publication of *Beautiful Blossoms, gathered by John Bishop, from the best trees of all kinds ...*, cited by Thomas and Tydeman as a possible source for *Tamburlaine* (see Thomas and Tydeman, 139).

January

31 (Thurs.) Gilbert Gifford, future recusant priest, arrives at Douai.

March

12 (Tues.) Abraham Ortelius, whose map *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* Marlowe will use for *Tamburlaine*, visits John Dee at his home in Mortlake (see Crane, 364).

25 (Mon.) Lady Day. Start of the Elizabethan new year.

April

7 (Sun.) Easter Sunday.

May

Thomas Watson returns from Paris to Douai.

July

Thomas Watson leaves Douai.

August

4–6 (Sun.–Tues.) Canterbury fair held.

7 (Wed.) Thomas Watson embarks for England.

November

- 10 (Sun.) A comet is seen over Europe and the astrologer John Dee is asked by the Queen to comment on what it portends. It is variously viewed as, amongst other things, being shaped like a Turkish sword and thus foreboding Turkish invasion, and as pointing threateningly towards the Muscovites and Tartars (Woolley, 161–2).
- 30 (Sat.) Execution of the Catholic priest Cuthbert Mayne at Launceston in Devon. Mayne has been condemned by Sir Roger Manwood, on whom Marlowe will later write an epitaph, and sentence has been enforced by Sir Richard Grenville, with whom Hariot will later sail to America. This is the first execution of a seminary priest. On the repercussions of Mayne's death, see Kendall, *Christopher Marlowe*, 121–5.

December

- 13 (Fri.) Sir Francis Drake sets sail for Plymouth, ostensibly for the Mediterranean but in fact for the Americas (see Bawlf).

1578

England and Turkey open formal trade relations.

John Marlowe is acting as a sidesman at the church of St Andrew, having moved out of the parish of St George.

Publication at Frankfurt of the second edition of Philippus Lonicerus, *Chronicorum Turcicorum tomi duo* ('Two Volumes of the Chronicles of the Turks'), which included *Antonii Bonfinii Rerum Ungaricum decades tres* ('Antonius Bonfinus' Three Decades of Hungarian Affairs') and *Callimachi Experientis de clade Varnensi Epistola* ('The Letter of Callimachus Experiens [Filippo Buonaccorsi] on the defeat at Varna') (see Boas, *Christopher Marlowe*, 88–9). Marlowe drew on the Battle of Varna material in *Tamburlaine the Great*, Part Two.

Publication at London of Gabriel Harvey, *Gratulationum Valdinensium libri quattuor* ('Four Books of Welcome to Saffron Walden'), including an epigram on the image of Machiavelli, which indicates that he was already known about at Cambridge (see Thomas and Tydeman, 335). Gabriel Harvey and his brother Richard were the targets of satirical attacks from a number of those in Marlowe's circle.

February

Heavy snow in Canterbury; snowdrifts block roads (see Urry, 4).

March

The seminary at Douai transfers to Rheims.

9 (Sun.) Burial of Edward Alleyn's first stepfather, Richard Christopher (also known as Grove).

25 (Tues.) Lady Day. Start of the Elizabethan new year.

30 (Sun.) Easter Sunday.

June

The Queen issues a patent to Sir Humphrey Gilbert for 200 leagues of any American coast which he may find unoccupied by a Christian ruler. This is to expire on 11 June 1584 if he has not found and settled any such land by that date.

August

4–6 (Mon.–Wed.) Canterbury fair held.

September

21 (Sun.) Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, marries Lettice Knollys, the widow of the 1st Earl of Essex, and thus becomes the stepfather of Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex. The name of Essex is one of the most frequently invoked in speculation about the causes of Marlowe's death, and it was this marriage of his mother to Elizabeth I's favourite which paved the way for the earl's subsequent rise to favour.

26 (Fri.) Walter Raleigh and his half-brother Sir Humphrey Gilbert set sail in an attempt to raid the French, Spanish and Portuguese fishing fleets and raise money for New World exploration from the proceeds (see Lacey, 28–9). Storms drive them back to Plymouth.

November

19 (Wed.) Raleigh and Gilbert try again, but once more the weather gets the better of them.

December

Marlowe is enrolled as a scholar of the King's School, Canterbury.

8 (Mon.) Henry Woodward, first husband of Agnes Woodward, wife of the theatrical entrepreneur Philip Henslowe, is buried in the parish of St Saviour's in London.

1579

Thomas Watson is involved with Anne Burnell, who believed herself the daughter of Philip of Spain. Watson seems to have encouraged her in the delusion (see Nicholl, *Reckoning*, 185–6).

Thomas Hariot graduates from Oxford.

Publication of *The School of Abuse*, written by Marlowe's fellow parishioner in Canterbury, Stephen Gosson. This was an 'invective against Poets, Pipers, Plaiers, Jesters and such like', and a milestone in the growing anti-theatrical movement. It was dedicated to Sir Philip Sidney, though Sidney's own *Apologie for Poetrie*, published two years later, suggests that he by no means shared Gosson's views.

Publication of Edmund Spenser, *The Shepheardes Calender*.

Death of João Micques, now Nassi.

Publication of *Tocsain contre les Massacres* ('Tocsin against the Massacres'), which mentions Ramus' efforts to buy his life and so was proposed by John Bakeless as a source for *The Massacre at Paris* (see Bakeless, 255).

Prince John Casimir, a Protestant continental leader, meets Philip Sidney in Canterbury.

Robert Greene graduates BA from St John's College, Cambridge.

The printer John Stubbs has his right hand amputated as punishment for having published an attack on the Queen's apparent plan to marry the Catholic Duke of Anjou.

January

- 11 (Sun.) Date at the end of the dedication of Thomas Mainwaringe's translation of Caelius Secundus Curio's history of the siege of Malta to the Queen's Champion, Sir Henry Lee. This is the first full account of the siege to appear in English. Mainwaringe notes that he writes from 'my chamber in St. Johns College in Oxforde' (see Vella Bonavita, 1040–1).
- 14 (Wed.) Official recording of Christopher Marlowe's enrolment as a scholar of the King's School, Canterbury.

February

Anthony Munday, poet, playwright and secret agent, enrolls at the English College at Rome, where students include Gilbert Gifford and Charles Sledd, who may have been an associate of Richard Baines. Gifford is expelled during the course of the year.

- 14 (Sat.) The theatrical entrepreneur Philip Henslowe marries the widowed Agnes Woodward and becomes stepfather to her two daughters, Joan and Elizabeth.

March

- 25 (Wed.) Lady Day. Start of the Elizabethan new year.
Marlowe receives his first scholarship payment at the King's School, Canterbury.

April

- 19 (Sun.) Easter Sunday.
28 (Tues.) Marlowe's father John acts as a professional bondsman for a couple seeking a marriage licence, offering security of £100. This was a way of supplementing his income. (A bond was given to the court by the groom and would be forfeited if he subsequently failed to marry the bride. The role of the bondsman was to guarantee payment if need be in return for a fee.)

June

- 15 (Mon.) Richard Jones, later to print *Tamburlaine* (and not to be confused with the actor of the same name), is fined for unlicensed printing of *A True Copy Of a Letter sent by the Prince of Parma to the generall States of the lowe Countries*. Parma will be mentioned in *Doctor Faustus* and will lend his surname, Farnese, to the Governor in *The Jew of Malta*. On the reputation of Parma in England, and in particular for an argument that he came to be associated with Tamburlaine, see Voss, 166–7 and 170–1.

July

- 4 (Sat.) Records of the Rheims seminary record the arrival from England of 'Holmes et Baynes', i.e. Richard Baines.

August

- The Duke of Anjou arrives in England to pursue his courtship of Elizabeth.
4–6 (Tues.–Thurs.) Canterbury fair held.

October

- 21 (Wed.) Margaret Alleyn, mother of Edward, marries for the third time. Her husband is a haberdasher named John Browne.

November

- 20 (Fri.) John Ballard arrives at Rheims.

December

- 1 (Tues.) A charter issued to all Canterbury leatherworkers decrees that from now on they are all to be part of one 'Fellowshippe companye crafte and mysterye of shoemakers'.

1580

Raffe Typpinge of Hoxton has his house searched on suspicion of recusancy (see Seaton, 'Marlowe, Poley, and the Tippings', 277).

Thomas Hariot enters the household of Sir Walter Raleigh (see Rukeyser, 6–7).

Probable year of arrival in Canterbury of Marlowe's future brother-in-law John Moore, who, after leaving his birthplace of Ulcombe at the age of fifteen, has spent seven years in Faversham.

John Alleyn, Edward's elder brother, mentioned as a player and as a servant of Lord Sheffield.

Publication of Robert Greene, *Mamillia*, a 'Looking-Glasse for the Ladies of England', which was modelled on Lyly's *Euphues* (see Nicholl, *Cup*, 27).

Death of Raphael Holinshed, author of Holinshed's *Chronicles*, used by Marlowe as one of the sources for *Edward II*.

Publication of John Stow, *Chronicles*, also a source for *Edward II*.

January

Richard Kitchen, later to stand surety for Marlowe, marries Agnes Redman.

February

Death of John Gresshop, Marlowe's first headmaster at the King's School, Canterbury. Nicholas Goldsborough succeeds as headmaster, presumably shortly afterwards.

23 (Tues.) An inventory is taken of Gresshop's goods (see Urry, 46–7).

March

14 (Mon.) John Cecil receives his MA from Trinity College, Oxford.

25 (Fri.) Lady Day. Start of the Elizabethan new year.

April

Possible mention of Richard Baines in the diary of Charles Sledd. The man referred to by Sledd is a Walsingham agent lodging with the Catholic scholar Thomas Court in Paris, and is ejected thence on

Friday, 15 April (see Nicholl, *Reckoning*, 125–7). However, Kendall (*Christopher Marlowe*, 84–5) argues that in fact the reference is to William Wade.

Indenture drawn up between Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and John Parker, son of Archbishop Matthew Parker, in which John Parker reserves to himself the nomination of the Parker scholars, of whom Marlowe will later be one. It is expected that Parker scholars will go on to take holy orders; Marlowe's acceptance of the scholarship must have meant either that he did originally intend to do this and then changed his mind, or that he was acting a part from the outset.

3 (Sun.) Easter Sunday.

6 (Wed.) A two-minute earthquake, apparently centred on Oxford, sets London church bells ringing at 6.10 pm and is felt as far away as France. Like new stars, earthquakes were generally interpreted as portents.

27 (Wed.) An intelligence report listing 'sundry Englishmen, Papists, presently abiding in Paris' names 'Banes' and two Watsons, of whom one is 'son to the Attorney in London'. Constance Kuriyama suggests that this could be Marlowe's friend Thomas Watson (*Christopher Marlowe*, 86). Also mentioned is William Clitherow, who, on 21 September 1586, will write to 'Gerard Burghet', which may have been an alias of Richard Baines (see Kendall, *Christopher Marlowe*, 101).

Summer

Walter Raleigh sails to Cork in the first of his attempts at 'planting' in Ireland.

July

6 (Wed.) A meeting of Gresshop's creditors includes John Marlowe, to whom 16s 4d is owed from the headmaster's estate.

13 (Wed.) Francis Kett resigns as a Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, but remains in residence during early 1581. It is sometimes suggested that Kett's subsequent execution for heresy might have been a factor in Marlowe's disillusionment with the Church (if indeed he ever had intended to take holy orders). Adrian Morey calls Kett 'the tutor of Christopher Marlowe' (Morey, 210), but this is conjecture.

23 (Sat.) John Marlowe enrolls Elias Martin and William Hewes as apprentices.

August

Nicholas Faunt, Canterbury man and spy, whom Constance Kuriyama sees as a friend of Marlowe's, meets Anthony Bacon, the flamboyantly homosexual brother of Francis Bacon, in Paris (see Kuriyama, 'Second Selves', 94).

4–6 (Thurs.–Sat.) Canterbury fair held.

September

Gabriel Harvey informs Edmund Spenser that Turkish affairs are currently the talk of the university.

26 (Mon.) Sir Francis Drake returns from circumnavigating the world and having skirted the American coastline perhaps as far as Vancouver Island (see Bawlf).

October

Thomas Walsingham, at whose house Marlowe seems to have been staying when he died, is recorded as bringing letters for the Queen from the English ambassador in France.

10 (Mon.) A blazing star appears in Pisces. Again this is taken by astrologers as an omen.

November

2 (Wed.) William Parry, later to be executed for allegedly attempting to assassinate Elizabeth, is involved in an altercation in the Inner Temple with Hugh Hare, to whom he owes money, and is subsequently sentenced to death for burglary and attempted murder. This is commuted, but Parry will later be sent to the debtors' prison. The sureties for his release from this included Sir William Drury and Sir Edward Stafford (see *DNB* entry on Parry).

9 (Wed.) Walter Raleigh, serving under Lord Grey of Wilton, participates in the Smerwick massacre in Ireland, which involved the brutal killing of a number of Irish (including pregnant women), as well as Italians and Spanish mercenaries who were helping the Earl of Kildare in his rebellion against the English (see Lacey, 35–7).

December

10 (Sat.) Probable date of Marlowe's arrival at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, to study divinity. His roommates were Robert

Thexton, a native of Norfolk, studying for his MA; Thomas Lewgar, also from Norfolk, a Parker scholar; and the outgoing holder of his scholarship, Christopher Pashley. Among the many books in the Corpus library at the time of Marlowe's arrival, there are known to have been copies of Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* and the works of Paolo Giovio, which he used as sources for *Tamburlaine*.

- 16 (Fri.) Michaelmas Term ends.
 21 (Wed.) Christopher Pashley, Marlowe's predecessor in his Parker scholarship, is ordained priest at Ely, and subsequently becomes curate of St Benet's, dying in 1612.

1581

William Perkins, later to be a famous populariser of Calvinism and a theorist of witchcraft, receives his BA (see Pinciss). The importance of both Calvinism and witchcraft in *Doctor Faustus* is still debated. Perkins was one of the Protestant reformers of whom there were later to be portraits in the college founded by Edward Alleyn in Dulwich (Foister, in Reid and Maniura, 54).

Richard Harvey, brother of Marlowe's future antagonist Gabriel, is elected a fellow of Pembroke Hall, Cambridge.

Sir Walter Raleigh starts to rise to favour at court.

Marlowe's father John is appointed 'searcher' (i.e. inspector) of leather, along with Christopher Ashenden.

Publication of Nathaniel Wood's *Conflict of Conscience*, a play based on the story of Francis Spira.

Publication of William Allen, *An Apology for the English Seminaries*. To those concerned with English national security, this will have seemed like a clear sign of the magnitude of the threat posed by seminaries like the one at Rheims.

Publication at London of Thomas Watson's *Antigone*, dedicated to Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel. Watson was later to be a friend of Marlowe and this play shows the importance of classical models for English tragedy, as in Marlowe's own *Dido, Queen of Carthage*.

January

- 13 (Fri.) Lent term starts at Cambridge.

February

Pedantius, a satire on Gabriel Harvey, presented at Trinity College, Cambridge.

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