Shakespeare's Tragedy of Julius Caesar. Shakespeare and the Politics of Honor: Purpose and Performance in Julius Caesar. Suzanne Smith - 2006 - Interpretation 33 (3):243-280. Julius Caesar: The Civil War, Books I & II by Julius Caesar Ed. J. M. Carter. [REVIEW] Mary Ann Natunewicz - 1992 - Classical World: A Quarterly Journal on Antiquity 85:715-716. C. Julius Caesar C. Julius Caesar: Sein Leben Nach den Quellen Kritisch Dargestellt. Von E. G. Sihler, Professor an der New York University. 8vo. Caesar's manliness is questioned throughout the play. In Act 1, Caesar reportedly asks that his throat be cut rather than endure the shame of the crowds' displeasure at his being offered kingship by Antony. And yet, the strain of the moment causes a spell of the “falling sickness” (an epileptic seizure). In some ways, Shakespeare avoids an overly rigid code of manliness in Julius Caesar. No single character exemplifies masculinity in an unvarying, wooden manner, and even women can embody it. On the other hand, manhood and honor can only finally be assessed upon one's death, meaning that, to a certain extent, it's an unattainable ideal in life—one that is constantly sought after and subject to the assessments of one's peers. In Julius Caesar, when Mark Antony addresses the crowd after Caesar's shocking assassination, his opening words capture the idea that a friend was, in the broadest sense, simply one's fellow subject: 'Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears' (3.2.70). The first illustrated works of Shakespeare edited by Nicholas Rowe, 1709. 'Friends, Romans, countrymen': Mark Antony addresses the crowd before Caesar's wounded corpse. View images from this item (74). He is the author of Male Friendship and Testimonies of Love in Shakespeare's England (Palgrave) and Playing Indoors: Staging Early Modern Drama in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse (forthcoming). The text in this article is available under the Creative Commons License. See Also.