THE DRAMATIC WORKS IN
THE BEAUMONT AND
FLETCHER CANON

This is the ninth volume in the definitive series of critical, old-spelling texts of the plays in the Beaumont and Fletcher canon, in which the texts are established on modern bibliographical principles. This volume contains the texts of six plays written by Fletcher and his collaborators, Philip Massinger and William Rowley. Each play is introduced by a discussion of the text and authorship, and is accompanied by detailed textual notes, a list of press-variants, emendations of accidentals and a historical collation.

VOLUME I
The Knight of the Burning Pestle
The Masque of the Inner Temple and Gray's Inn
The Woman Hater    The Coxcomb
Philaster    The Captain

VOLUME II
The Maid's Tragedy    A King and No King
Cupid's Revenge    The Scornful Lady
Love's Pilgrimage

VOLUME III
Love's Cure    The Noble Gentleman
Beggars' Bush
The Tragedy of Thierry and Theodoret
The Faithful Shepherdess

VOLUME IV
The Woman's Prize    Bonduca
The Tragedy of Valentinian
Monsieur Thomas    The Chances

VOLUME V
The Mad Lover    The Loyal Subject
The Humorous Lieutenant    Women Pleased
The Island Princess

VOLUME VI
Wit Without Money    The Pilgrim
The Wild-Goose Chase    A Wife for a Month
Rule a Wife and Have a Wife

VOLUME VII
Henry VIII    The Two Noble Kinsmen
Wit at Several Weapons    The Nice Valour
The Night Walker    A Very Woman

VOLUME VIII
The Queen of Corinth    The False One
Four Plays, or Moral Representations, in One
The Knight of Malta
The Tragedy of Sir John Van Olden Barnavelt
The Custom of the Country
THE DRAMATIC WORKS IN THE BEAUMONT AND FLETCHER CANON

GENERAL EDITOR
FREDSON BOWERS

VOLUME IX
THE SEA VOYAGE  THE DOUBLE MARRIAGE
THE PROPHETESS  THE LITTLE FRENCH LAWYER
THE ELDER BROTHER  THE MAID IN THE MILL
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FOREWORD

These volumes contain the text and apparatus for the plays conventionally assigned to the Beaumont and Fletcher canon, although in fact Fletcher collaborated with dramatists other than Beaumont in numerous plays of the canon and some of the preserved texts also represent revision at a later date by various hands. The plays have been grouped chiefly by authors; this arrangement makes for an order that conveniently approximates the probable date of composition for most of the works.

The texts of the several plays have been edited by a group of scholars according to editorial procedures set by the general editor, who closely supervised in matters of substance as well as of detail the initially contrived form of the texts. Otherwise the individual editors have been left free to develop their concepts of the plays according to their own views. We hope that the intimate connection of one individual, in this manner, with all the different editorial processes will lend to the results some uniformity not ordinarily found when diverse editors approach texts of such complexity. At the same time, the peculiar abilities of the several editors have had sufficient free play to ensure individuality of point of view in its proper role; and thus, we hope, the deadness of compromise that may fasten on collaborative effort has been avoided, even at the risk of occasional internal disagreement.

The principles on which each text has been edited have been set forth in detail in ‘The Text of this Edition’ prefixed to volume 1, pp. ix–xxv, followed by an account on pp. xxvii–xxxv of the Folio of 1647. Necessary acknowledgements will be found in the present volume in each Textual Introduction.

F.B.

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