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978-0-521-03710-5 - The Dramatic Works in the Beaumont and Fletcher Canon,
Volume X

Edited by Fredson Bowers

Frontmatter

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THE DRAMATIC WORKS IN THE BEAUMONT AND FLETCHER CANON

This is the tenth and final 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, Nathan Field, Philip Massinger, Ben Jonson, George Chapman, John Ford and John Webster. Each play is introduced by a discussion of the text and its authorship, and is accompanied by detailed textual notes, a list of press variants, emendations of accidentals and a historical collation.

The plays are *The Honest Man's Fortune*, *Rollo, Duke of Normandy*, *The Spanish Curate*, *The Lovers' Progress*, *The Fair Maid of the Inn* and *The Laws of Candy*.

At the back of this concluding volume, there is a useful index showing how the plays are distributed between the volumes, and a table giving the authorship of the plays.

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THE
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GENERAL EDITOR
FREDSON BOWERS

VOLUME X

THE HONEST MAN'S FORTUNE

ROLLO, DUKE OF NORMANDY

THE SPANISH CURATE

THE LOVERS' PROGRESS

THE FAIR MAID OF THE INN

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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.

Charlottesville, Virginia

F.B.