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978-0-521-06039-4 - The Dramatic Works in the Beaumont and Fletcher
Canon, Volume IV

Edited by Fredson Bowers

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THE
DRAMATIC WORKS IN
THE BEAUMONT AND
FLETCHER CANON

GENERAL EDITOR
FREDSON BOWERS

*Linden Kent Professor Emeritus of English Literature
University of Virginia*

VOLUME IV

THE WOMAN'S PRIZE BONDUCA VALENTINIAN
MONSIEUR THOMAS THE CHANCES



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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. Thereafter 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 I, 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.

Charlottesville, Virginia

1978