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978-0-521-06046-2 - The Dramatic Works in the Beaumont and Fletcher Canon,
Volume VII

Edited by Fredson Bowers

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THE DRAMATIC WORKS IN THE BEAUMONT AND FLETCHER CANON

This is the seventh volume under Fredson Bowers' general editorship of 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 text of six plays by Fletcher but two, *Henry VIII* and *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, include the collaborative efforts of Shakespeare. Each play is introduced by a discussion of the text and authorship, and is accompanied by detailed textual notes, lists of press-variants, emendations and accidentals and historical collations.

The plays are *Henry VIII* and *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, edited by Fredson Bowers; *Wit at Several Weapons*, edited by Robert Kean Turner; *The Nice Valour*, edited by George Walton Williams; *The Night Walker*, edited by Cyrus Hoy; and *A Very Woman*, edited by Hans Walter Gabler.

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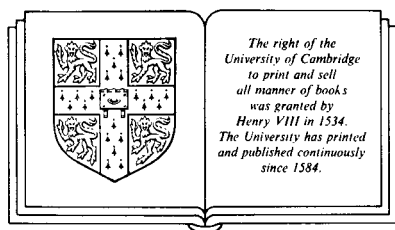
THE
DRAMATIC WORKS IN
THE BEAUMONT AND
FLETCHER CANON

GENERAL EDITOR
FREDSON BOWERS

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

VOLUME VII

HENRY VIII THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN
WIT AT SEVERAL WEAPONS THE NICE VALOUR
THE NIGHT WALKER A VERY WOMAN



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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 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