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978-0-521-06050-9 - The Dramatic Works in the Beaumont and Fletcher Canon,
Volume IX

Edited by Fredson Bowers

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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.

The plays are *The Sea Voyage*, *The Double Marriage*, *The Prophetess*, *The Little French Lawyer*, *The Elder Brother*, *The Maid in the Mill*.

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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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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

<i>Foreword</i>	<i>page vi</i>
THE SEA VOYAGE	I
<i>Edited by FREDSON BOWERS, formerly Linden Kent Professor of English Literature, University of Virginia; Introduction and Textual Notes by CYRUS HOY</i>	
THE DOUBLE MARRIAGE	95
<i>Edited by CYRUS HOY, John B. Trevor Professor of English, University of Rochester</i>	
THE PROPHECESS	221
<i>Edited by GEORGE WALTON WILLIAMS, Professor of English, Duke University</i>	
THE LITTLE FRENCH LAWYER	323
<i>Edited by ROBERT KEAN TURNER, Professor of English, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee</i>	
THE ELDER BROTHER	461
<i>Edited by FREDSON BOWERS</i>	
THE MAID IN THE MILL	569
<i>Edited by FREDSON BOWERS</i>	

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[More information](#)

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.

Charlottesville, Virginia