

Introductions, Notes, and Commentaries to texts in 'The Dramatic Works of Thomas Dekker'



> Introductions, Notes, and Commentaries to texts in 'The Dramatic Works of Thomas Dekker' edited by Fredson Bowers

VOLUME I

SIR THOMAS MORE: DEKKER'S ADDITION
THE SHOEMAKERS' HOLIDAY
OLD FORTUNATUS
PATIENT GRISSIL
SATIROMASTIX
SIR THOMAS WYATT

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VOLUME III

THE ROARING GIRL

IF THIS BE NOT A GOOD PLAY, THE DEVIL IS IN IT

TROIA-NOVA TRIUMPHANS

MATCH ME IN LONDON

THE VIRGIN MARTYR

THE WITCH OF EDMONTON

THE WONDER OF A KINGDOM

VOLUME IV

THE SUN'S DARLING
BRITANNIA'S HONOR
LONDON'S TEMPE
LUST'S DOMINION
THE NOBLE SPANISH SOLDIER
THE WELSH EMBASSADOR



CYRUS HOY

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PREFACE

These four volumes of Introductions, Notes and Commentaries provide critical and explanatory material to accompany, respectively, the four volumes of texts in The Dramatic Works of Thomas Dekker, edited by Fredson Bowers (Cambridge, 1953-1961).1 Professor Bowers' introductions to the plays in his edition of the Dramatic Works are exclusively concerned with textual matters. The introductory essays in the four present volumes place the plays in their critical contexts, and treat of the issues concerning dates, sources and attributions as these arise in connection with them. Taken together, the twenty-five pieces that comprise the canon of Dekker's Dramatic Works pose a formidable range of problems that must be faced by anyone who attempts to place these plays in the history of the late sixteenth- and early seventeenthcentury English theatre. There are complex problems concerning the relation of individual plays: e.g. of The Wonder of a Kingdom and The Noble Spanish Soldier to John Day's The Parliament of Bees, or of Lust's Dominion to the lost Spanish Moor's Tragedy, or of Satiromastix to the stage quarrel between Marston and Jonson and the plays associated with that celebrated affair. The dates of a number of plays (e.g. The Roaring Girl, Match Me in London, The Wonder of a Kingdom, The Noble Spanish Soldier, Lust's Dominion) have been much debated and are difficult to assign with certainty. There is the recurrent problem of attempting to estimate Dekker's share in his collaborations with other dramatists: with Chettle and Haughton in Patient Grissil, with Webster in Sir Thomas Wyatt, Westward Ho and Northward Ho; with Middleton in The Honest Whore, Part One, and The Roaring Girl; with Massinger in The Virgin Martyr; with William Rowley and Ford

¹ Act-, scene- and line-numbers for Dekker's plays cited throughout these volumes are based on the 1970 reprint of vol. 1 of Bowers' edition, the 1964 reprint of vol. 11, the 1966 reprint of vol. 111, and the 1968 reprint of vol. 1V.



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in The Witch of Edmonton; with Ford in The Sun's Darling and The Welsh Embassador. This is to say nothing of the more tangled authorial claims that must be considered in connection with any effort to determine Dekker's share in The Wonder of a Kingdom, The Noble Spanish Soldier, and Lust's Dominion. None of these matters have gone unregarded by previous scholars, but the factual record of Dekker's plays is beset with the speculation of such nineteenth- and early twentieth-century scholars as Collier and Fleay and Dugdale Sykes. In my efforts to establish grounds for reasonable conjecture concerning these several issues, I have attempted to incorporate what seems valuable in the conclusions of past investigators, while rejecting what subsequent scholarship has deemed untenable. In addition to attempting to establish the factual record concerning dates, sources and attributions as firmly as the evidence for the various plays will permit, the Introductions in the present volumes provide a record of critical response to the plays, and an account of the stage history of those relatively few plays of the Dekker canon that have had one.

In defining and illustrating the language of any one of Dekker's plays in the Commentary, the practice has here been to provide a widening range of reference that begins with the evidence that is available in parallels from Dekker's other plays, moves on to evidence afforded by his non-dramatic works, and comes to rest in the evidence furnished by works (principally dramatic) of contemporary Elizabethan and Jacobean authors. The numerous cross-references in the Commentary to Dekker's other works, both dramatic and non-dramatic, are intended to aid the cause of relating his separate plays, poems and prose pamphlets into a corpus, and thus to suggest something of the inner connections that characterize his total literary output.¹ The references to the work of his

¹ Concerning the corpus of Dekker's dramatic works, it may properly be said to consist of the twenty-five pieces collected in Bowers' edition, to which I would add only the comedy of Blurt, Master-Constable, or The Spaniard's Night Walk, published anonymously in 1602. Though traditionally included in editions of Middleton, the play is certainly Dekker's in part, and probably is entirely his. The parallels cited from it in these volumes should make clear its relation to the Dekker canon. Edward Pudsey's quotation of two passages from it among quotations from Satiromastix in his Commonplace Book provides external evidence for Dekker's authorship. See the Appendix to Satiromastix.



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contemporaries will suggest some of the relations of his plays to the language of the contemporary stage, and to the poetic and dramatic conventions of his age.

Since in preparing a Commentary on such a scale as this identical items of information must often be cited, cross-references must also be used to avoid excessive repetition. Whenever possible, passages requiring the same information by way of explanation are referred to a note on a single passage; this will contain as well a listing of all the other passages that have been referred to this single one. The Index to the Commentary at the end of vol. IV is on similar lines, with each entry containing in most cases but a single Commentary reference, where all additional references will be found. Reference is made by abbreviated play title (for which, see Abbreviations: Dekker's dramatic works) followed by act-, scene- and line-numbers. When these in turn are followed by 'n.', it is to be understood that the reference contains a Commentary note that has some substantive bearing on the passage in question. Act-, scene- and line-references without the accompanying 'n.' refer to passages exhibiting identical or comparable verbal features; these, too, are regularly grouped together at a single point in the Commentary, to which all other occurrences are referred. References without an 'n.' do not usually refer to notes containing substantive information; rather, they contain information concerning the prevalence of a given word or image in the corpus of Dekker's work, both dramatic and non-dramatic. Apart from the interest such a record may have for the student of Dekker's vocabulary and his descriptive style, it has seemed appropriate - in a canon that contains as much collaborative work as Dekker's does - to provide information of this kind for whatever value it may possess as authorial evidence.

I wish to express my appreciation to the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation for the award of a fellowship in 1962, and to Vanderbilt University for granting me leave throughout the academic year 1962/3, when work on these volumes was in its initial stage. I am grateful to the Folger Shakespeare Library for two fellowships, one in the summer of 1962 that helped me to launch this project, another that permitted a longer stay in that grand place during the first six months of 1970 and which enabled me to get this work into



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a shape that permitted of the hope that someday it might be finished. Finally, I want to acknowledge my gratitude to the University of Rochester for a generous summer grant (in 1967) and for two years of academic leave (1969/70, 1976/7) that were of crucial importance in carrying the work forward and eventually completing it.

For help with foreign languages in Dekker's plays, I want to thank Peter Dunn of Wesleyan University, Connecticut (for translating the Spanish), T. Arwyn Watkins of the University College of Wales and Hadley Tremaine of Hood College, Maryland (for translations of the Welsh), and Frederick Locke of the University of Rochester (for help in identifying Latin quotations).

I am much indebted to Jane Hodgart of the Cambridge University Press for the care and the patience she has expended on a difficult manuscript.

C.H.

Rochester, New York May 1980



ABBREVIATIONS

DEKKER'S DRAMATIC WORKS

B.H.	Britannia's Honor
1 H.W.	The Honest Whore, Part I
2 H.W.	The Honest Whore, Part II
I.T.B.N.	If This Be Not a Good Play, the Devil Is In It
L.D.	Lust's Dominion
L.T.	London's Tempe
M.E.	The Magnificent Entertainment
M.M.L.	Match Me in London
N.H.	Northward Ho
N.S.S.	The Noble Spanish Soldier
O.F.	Old Fortunatus
P.G.	Patient Grissil
R.G.	The Roaring Girl
Sat.	Satiromastix
S.D.	The Sun's Darling
S.H.	The Shoemakers' Holiday
S.T.M.	Sir Thomas More
S.T.W.	Sir Thomas Wyatt
T.T.	Troia-Nova Triumphans
V.M.	The Virgin Martyr
W.B.	The Whore of Babylon
W.E.	The Welsh Embassador
W. of E .	The Witch of Edmonton
	Westward Ho
W.K.	The Wonder of a Kingdom

DEKKER'S NON-DRAMATIC WORKS

A.G.	The Artillery Garden (1616)
B.L.	The Belman of London (1608 ('The third impression,
	with new additions'))

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ABBREVIATIONS

B.R.W.R.	The Blacke Rod and the White Rod (1630)
D.D.	Dekker his Dreame (1620)
D.P.	The Double PP (1606)
D.T.	The Dead Tearme (1608)
E.V.	English Villanies (1632)
F.B.N.A.	Foure Birds of Noahs Arke (1609)
G.H.	The Guls Horne-booke (1609)
J.M.M.	Jests to make you Merie (1607)
K.C.	A Knight's Conjuring (1607)
L.C.	Lanthorne and Candle-light (1609 ('The second
	edition, newly corrected and amended'))
L.L.B.	London Looke Backe (1630)
M.G.	The Meeting of Gallants (1604)
N.F.H.	Newes from Hell (1606)
N.G.	Newes from Graves-end (1604)
O.P.	O per se O (1612)
P.W.	Penny-Wise, Pound-Foolish (1631)
R.A.	The Ravens Almanacke (1609)
R.R.	A Rod for Run-awayes (1625)
S.D.S.	The Seven deadly Sinnes (1606)
S.H.R.	A Strange Horse-Race (1613)
V.D.	Villanies Discovered by Lanthorne and Candle-light (1616)
W.A.	Worke for Armorours (1609)
W.W.W.	Warres, Warres, Warres (1628)
W.Y.	The Wonderfull yeare (1603)

Quotations from Dekker's non-dramatic works are drawn from the editions indicated above with the following exceptions: quotations from The Wonderfull yeare, Newes from Graves-end, The Meeting of Gallants, A Rod for Run-awayes, London Looke Backe, The Blacke Rod and the White Rod are based on the texts in F. P. Wilson's edition of The Plague Pamphlets of Thomas Dekker (Oxford, 1925); page references cited with quotations from these pamphlets in the Commentary are to this edition. Quotations from Foure Birds of Noahs Arke are from the edition of F. P. Wilson (Oxford, 1924), to which page references are made in the Commentary. Quotations from The Artillery Garden are based on the facsimile edition prepared by



ABBREVIATIONS

F. P. Wilson (Oxford, 1952) from the only extant copy (now preserved at the University of Göttingen), to which reference is made in the Commentary by quarto signature.

SECONDARY SOURCES AND MOST FREQUENTLY CITED EDITIONS

The following list identifies abbreviations, surnames of authors and editors, and short titles frequently used in these volumes.

Annals of English Drama, 975-1700, by Alfred

Harbage, revised by S. Schoenbaum (London, 1964).

Arber A Transcript of the Registers of the Company of Stationers of London, 1554–1640, ed. Edward

Arber (5 vols., London, 1875-1894).

Beaumont and The Dramatic Works in the Beaumont and Fletcher Fletcher Canon, General Editor, Fredson Bowers (3 vols.,

Cambridge, 1966–1976). (Quotations from Wit Without Money, Monsieur Thomas and The Loyal Subject are based on texts in The Works of Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher, Variorum Edition, General Editor, A. H. Bullen (4 vols., London, 1904–1912). Quotations from Rollo Duke of Normandy or The Bloody Brother are from the edition of J. D. Jump (Liverpool, 1948). Quotations from other plays in the Beaumont and Fletcher canon are based on seventeenth-century texts, as indicated in their individual citations in

the Commentary.)

Bentley Gerald Eades Bentley, The Jacobean and Caroline

Stage (7 vols., Oxford, 1941-1968).

Bond Early Plays from the Italian, ed. R. W. Bond

(Oxford, 1911).

Brome The Dramatic Works of Richard Brome, ed. R. H.

Shepherd (3 vols., London, 1873). (Quotations from *The Antipodes* and from *A Jovial Crew* are based on the editions of A. Haaker (Lincoln,

Nebraska, 1966 and 1968).)

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ABBREVIATIONS

Brooke The Shakespeare Apocrypha, ed. C. F. Tucker

Brooke (Oxford, 1918).

Bullen A Collection of Old English Plays, ed. A. H. Bullen

(4 vols., London, 1882-1885).

Chambers E. K. Chambers, The Elizabethan Stage (4 vols.,

Oxford, 1923).

Chapman The Tragedies and Comedies of George Chapman,

ed. Thomas Marc Parrott (2 vols., London,

1910–1914).

Chappell W. Chappell, Popular Music of the Olden Time

(2 vols., London, 1855-1859).

Cotgrave Randle Cotgrave, A Dictionary of the French and

English Tongues (London, 1611).

Crawford Englands Parnassus, ed. Charles Crawford

(Oxford, 1913).

Day The Works of John Day, Reprinted from the

collected Edition of A. H. Bullen (1881) with an Introduction by Robin Jeffs (London, 1963).

Deloney The Works of Thomas Deloney, ed. F. O. Mann

(Oxford, 1912).

D.N.B. Dictionary of National Biography.

Drayton The Works of Michael Drayton, ed. J. W. Hebel,

K. Tillotson and B. H. Newdigate (5 vols.,

Oxford, 1961).

Dryden The Dramatic Works of John Dryden, ed.

Montague Summers (6 vols., London, 1931–1932).

Field The Plays of Nathan Field, ed. William Peery

(Austin, Texas, 1950).

Fleay F. G. Fleay, A Biographical Chronicle of the

English Drama, 1559-1642 (2 vols., London,

1891).

Florio John Florio, A World of Words, or Most copious,

and exact Dictionary in Italian and English

(London, 1598).

Ford The Works of John Ford, with Notes Critical and

Explanatory by William Gifford, revised with additions to the text and to the notes by Alexander

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ABBREVIATIONS

Dyce (3 vols., London, 1895). (Quotations from Perkin Warbeck and from The Broken Heart are based on the editions of D. K. Anderson, Jr (Lincoln, Nebraska, 1965 and 1968); quotations from 'Tis Pity She's a Whore are based on the edition of N. W. Bawcutt (Lincoln, 1966).)

The Plays & Poems of Robert Greene, ed. J. Greene Churton Collins (2 vols., Oxford, 1905). (Dramatic

Works)

The Life and Complete Works in Prose and Verse Greene (Non-Dramatic of Robert Greene, ed. A. B. Grosart (15 vols.,

1881-1886). (Referred to in the Works) London, Commentary by volume- and page-numbers

following the title of individual works.)

Collected Poems of Joseph Hall, ed. Arnold Hall

Davenport (Liverpool, 1949).

James Orchard Halliwell[-Phillipps], A Dic-Halliwell

tionary of Archaic and Provincial Words (London,

1924).

William Harrison, Description of England, ed. Harrison

F. J. Furnivall (London, 1877).

William Haughton, Englishmen for my Money, Haughton ed. W. W. Greg (Oxford (Malone Society), 1912).

A Select Collection of Old English Plays, originally Hazlitt, published by Robert Dodsley in the year 1744, 4th Old Plays

ed., revised and enlarged by W. Carew Hazlitt

(15 vols., London, 1874–1876).

Popular Antiquities of Great Britain, edited from Hazlitt, the Materials Collected by John Brand, with very Popular large corrections and additions by W. Carew Antiquities

Hazlitt (3 vols., London, 1870).

Henslowe's Diary, ed. R. A. Foakes and R. T. Henslowe's

Rickert (Cambridge, 1961). Diary

The Dramatic Records of Sir Henry Herbert, Herbert

Master of the Revels, 1623-1673, ed. J. Q. Adams

(New Haven, 1917).

Heywood The Dramatic Works of Thomas Heywood, ed.



ABBREVIATIONS

R. H. Shepherd (6 vols., London, 1874). (Quotations from A Woman Killed With Kindness are based on the edition of R. Van Fossen (London, 1961); quotations from The Fair Maid of the West are based on the edition of R. K. Turner

(Lincoln, Nebraska, 1967).)

Hunt Mary Leland Hunt, Thomas Dekker, a Study

(New York, 1911).

Jones-Davies M. T. Jones-Davies, Un peintre de la vie

londonienne: Thomas Dekker (circa 1572-1632)

(2 vols., Paris, 1958).

Jonson Ben Jonson, ed. C. H. Herford and Percy

Simpson (11 vols., Oxford, 1925-1952).

Kyd The Works of Thomas Kyd, ed. F.S. Boas

(Oxford, 1901).

Lamb Charles Lamb, Specimens of English Dramatic

Poets, ed. Israel Gollancz (2 vols., London, 1893).

Linthicum M. Channing Linthicum, Costume in the Drama of

Shakespeare and his Contemporaries (Oxford,

1936).

Lyly The Complete Works of John Lyly, ed. R. W.

Bond (3 vols., Oxford, 1902).

Marlowe The Complete Works of Christopher Marlowe, ed.

Fredson Bowers (2 vols., Cambridge, 1973). (Quotations from *Doctor Faustus* are based on the parallel-text edition of W. W. Greg (Oxford,

The Works of John Marston, ed. A. H. Bullen

1950).)

Marston (Dramatic Works)

(3 vols., London, 1887). (Quotations from Antonio and Mellida and from Antonio's Revenge are based on the editions of G. K. Hunter (Lincoln, Nebraska, 1965); quotations from The Malcontent and from The Dutch Courtesan are based on the editions of M. Wine (Lincoln, 1965); quotations from The Fawn are based on

the edition of G. Smith (Lincoln, 1964); quotations from Histriomastix, Jack Drum's Entertain-

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ABBREVIATIONS

ment, and The Insatiate Countess are based on the texts in vol. III of H. Harvey Wood's edition of The Plays of John Marston (Edinburgh, 1939).) The Poems of John Marston, ed. Arnold Davenport

Marston (Non-Dramatic (Liverpool, 1961).

Works) Massinger

The Plays and Poems of Philip Massinger, ed. Philip Edwards and Colin Gibson (5 vols., Oxford, 1976).

Middleton

The Works of Thomas Middleton, ed. A. H. Bullen (8 vols., London, 1885). (Quotations from Michaelmas Term are based on the edition of R. Levin (Lincoln, Nebraska, 1966); quotations from A Mad World, My Masters are based on the edition of S. Henning (Lincoln, 1965); quotations from A Trick to Catch the Old One are based on the edition of H. Spencer in his Elizabethan Plays (Boston, 1933); quotations from A Chaste Maid in Cheapside are based on the edition of R. B. Parker (London, 1969); quotations from No Wit. No Help Like a Woman's are based on the edition of L. E. Johnson (Lincoln, 1976); quotations from Women Beware Women are based on the edition of R. Gill (London, 1968); quotations from The Changeling are based on the edition of G. W. Williams (Lincoln, 1966); quotations from Anything for a Quiet Life are based on F. L. Lucas' text in vol. Iv of his edition of Webster's Works (see below); quotations from The Witch are based on the Malone Society Reprint prepared by W. W. Greg and F. P. Wilson (Oxford, 1950 (for 1948)); quotations from A Game at Chess are based on the edition of R. C. Bald (Cambridge, 1929); quotations from The Ghost of Lucrece are from the edition of J. Q. Adams (New York and London, 1937); quotations from The Second Maiden's Tragedy are from the Malone Society

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ABBREVIATIONS

Reprint prepared by W. W. Greg (Oxford, 1909); quotations from *The Puritan* are based on the edition of C. F. Tucker Brooke in his

Shakespeare Apocrypha (see above).)

M.S.R. Malone Society Reprint.

Nares Robert Nares, A Glossary; or, Collection of Words, Phrases, Names, and Allusions to Customs,

Phrases, Names, and Allusions to Customs, Proverbs, etc. which have been thought to Require Illustration, in the Works of English Authors, particularly Shakespeare, and his Contemporaries

(London, 1822).

Nashe The Works of Thomas Nashe, ed. Ronald B.

McKerrow, reprinted with corrections and supplementary notes by F. P. Wilson (5 vols., Oxford, 1958). (Referred to in the Commentary by volume- and page-numbers following the title

of individual works.)

Nichols, John Nichols, The Progresses and Public Proces-Progresses of sions of Queen Elizabeth (3 vols., London, 1823).

Queen Elizabeth

Nichols, John Nichols, The Progresses, Processions, and Progresses of Magnificent Festivities of King James the First

King James (4 vols., London, 1828).

O.E.D. Oxford English Dictionary.

Peele The Dramatic Works of George Peele, General

Editor, C. T. Prouty (2 vols., New Haven,

1961–1970).

Porter Henry Porter, The Two Angry Women of

Abingdon, ed. W. W. Greg (Oxford (Malone

Society), 1912).

Price George R. Price, Thomas Dekker (New York,

1969).

Rollins An Analytical Index to the Ballad-Entries (1557-

1709) in the Registers of the Company of Stationers of London, compiled by Hyder E. Rollins (Chapel

Hill, North Carolina, 1924).

Rowley William Rowley, All's Lost by Lust, and A

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Shoemaker, a Gentleman, ed. C.W. Stork (Philadelphia, 1910). The Roxburghe Ballads, ed. W. Chappell and Roxburghe J. W. Ebsworth (9 vols., London and Hertford, Ballads 1871-1897). The Riverside Shakespeare, Textual Editor, G. Shakespeare Blakemore Evans (Boston, 1974). Shakespeare's England: An Account of the Life & Shakespeare's Manners of his Age (2 vols., Oxford, 1916). England Claude M. Simpson, The British Broadside Simpson Ballad and Its Music (New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1966). A Glossary of Tudor and Stuart Words, collected Skeat and by Walter W. Skeat, ed. with additions by A. L. Mayhew Mayhew (Oxford, 1914). The Works of Edmund Spenser, A Variorum Spenser Edition, ed. E. Greenlaw, C. G. Osgood, F. M. Padelford et al. (8 vols., Baltimore, 1932-1947). Short-Title Catalogue. S.T.C. Stow, Survey John Stow, A Survey of London, ed. Charles Lethbridge Kingsford (2 vols., Oxford, 1908). Joseph Strutt, The Sports and Pastimes of the Strutt People of England, A New Edition, Much Enlarged and Corrected by J. Charles Cox (London, 1903). Philip Stubbes, The Anatomy of Abuses, ed. F. J. Stubbes Furnivall (2 parts, London, 1877–1882). Sugden Edward H. Sugden, A Topographical Dictionary to the Works of Shakespeare and his Fellow Dramaiists (Manchester, 1925). Swinburne Algernon Charles Swinburne, The Age of

Centuries (Ann Arbor, 1966).

Shakespeare (London, 1908).

The Three Parnassus Plays, ed. J. B. Leishman

Morris Palmer Tilley, A Dictionary of the Proverbs

in England in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth

The Three

Tilley

Parnassus Plays (London, 1949).



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Tourneur The Works of Cyril Tourneur, ed. Allardyce

Nicoll (London, [1929]). (Quotations from *The Revenger's Tragedy* are based on the edition of

L. J. Ross (Lincoln, Nebraska, 1966).)

Webster The Complete Works of John Webster, ed. F. L.

Lucas (4 vols., London, 1927).

Wheatley and London Past and Present, Its History, Associations, Cunningham and Traditions, by Henry B. Wheatley, based

upon The Handbook of London by Peter

Cunningham (3 vols., London, 1891).

Wright Joseph Wright, The English Dialect Dictionary

(6 vols., London, 1898–1905).