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# SHAKESPEARIAN AND OTHER ESSAYS

JAMES SMITH

*Emeritus Professor of English Language and Literature  
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## CONTENTS

	<i>Prefatory note</i>	page vii
1	<i>As you like it</i>	1
2	<i>Much ado about nothing</i>	24
3	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	43
4	<i>All's well that ends well</i>	69
5	<i>Measure for measure</i> – a fragment	104
6	<i>The Winter's Tale</i>	125
7	<i>The Tempest</i>	
	I Life is a dream	159
	II Antonio de Esclava	167
	III The Virginia narratives	173
	IV Caliban	188
	V The spirits	203
	VI Ferdinand and Miranda	220
	VII Prospero	229
	VIII Prospero and Caliban	243
	IX 'Be cheerful, Sir!'	256
8	On metaphysical poetry	262
9	Wordsworth: a preliminary survey	279
10	Baudelaire	301
11	Croce	322
12	On William Empson's <i>Seven Types of Ambiguity</i>	338
	James Smith (1904–1972)	343

## PREFATORY NOTE

This book contains a selection of James Smith's published essays, together with such additional studies of Shakespeare's comedies as were to be found after his death. The published essays from *Scrutiny* and the review from *The Criterion* of Professor William Empson's first book are reprinted with very few corrections. The unpublished studies required a considerable labour of collation and of deciphering; for the most part they consisted of carbon copies, copiously emended in long hand and occasionally by handwritten inserted leaves that were very difficult to read. Where I have felt uncertain of my interpretations I have enclosed doubtful words and phrases in square brackets. Some evidence about the dates of composition of the unprinted essays will be found in the memoir of James Smith at the end of the book. The footnotes added by me are initialled E. M. W.; the others are Smith's own.

I must thank Sir Geoffrey Keynes and Dr Philip McNair for their kindness in helping me to check one quotation from Donne and two from *Il Paradiso*. I must also thank Mr Michael Black for his support, encouragement and criticism in a task perhaps too rashly undertaken.

EDWARD M. WILSON