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978-0-521-17503-6 - The English Faust Book: A Critical Edition Based on the Text of 1592

Edited by John Henry Jones

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This first scholarly edition of a major Renaissance text is edited and introduced by John Henry Jones, a leading expert on the Faust legend. The English translation of the best-selling *German Faust Book* of 1587 has long been known as Marlowe's principal source for *Doctor Faustus*. The earliest surviving edition of this translation, published in 1592, is here presented complete, in modern spelling and with a line register for reference, together with full details of all alterations and omissions from the German source. Textual comparisons with *Doctor Faustus* and with later editions of *The English Faust Book* provide crucial information on the development of the Faust theme in England and Germany. In an introduction making full use of hitherto unpublished research, Dr Jones offers new arguments both on the dating of Marlowe's play, and on the personal history and probable identity of the original translator of *The German Faust Book*, known only as 'P. F. Gent'.

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Preface

Despite its crucial role in the transmission and development of the Faust legend, both in England and, indirectly, in Germany, the English Faust Book has received little scholarly attention in comparison with either its German precursor or its immediate (and ultimately eclipsing) offspring, Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*. As a translation it has escaped consideration either as an English prose romance or as a literary creation in its own right, perhaps because the author's achievement in rendering and modifying his German source has not been fully appreciated. Nor has it been much honoured as the starting point for other literary developments, notably the prose romance of 'Friar Bacon', source for Greene's play and much of Prospero's magic. And while there have been a number of 'modern' reprintings of Orwin's 1592 edition, annotations and critical assessments have been modest and the bibliography wholly ignored. Only Rohde (1910) and D'Agostini & Silvani (1978) have attempted to discover sources for the author's departures from the German text and only the former has given serious attention to the identity of the author. The date of the lost first edition, crucial as a *terminus ab quo* for *Doctor Faustus*, has been the subject of often ill-founded speculation; and the printing history has been muddled by Greg's partisan interpretation of the evidence. The present edition attempts to redress this situation.

In my edition of William Empson's *Faustus and the Censor* (Basil Blackwell, 1987) I promised as forthcoming a parallel-text edition of the German and English Faust books in which the EFB would have been printed in parallel with an exact translation of the German Faust Book of 1587. In the event, this proved too ambitious a publication project. However, its aims are met by the present edition which clearly indicates which parts of the EFB text deviate substantially from the German and supplies exact translations of the German passages excluded, thus managing to convey the contents of both works. I hope that this

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will also reveal the skill of the English author and the extent of his commitment to the work.

In 1989, a Research Fellowship from the Leverhulme Trust enabled me to investigate the bibliography of the early editions of the EFB, its printing history and its relationship to the prose romance of 'Friar Bacon'. My findings, hitherto unpublished except for a note on Marlowe's source, are incorporated in the textual notes and in my introduction to the text, which thus contains a great deal of 'new' material. The effect is a swing in favour of an early date for the publication of the EFB and the composition and performance of *Doctor Faustus*, though I cannot suppose that contrary arguments will die. The recognition of a late text of 'Friar Bacon' as representative of the common source for Greene's *The Honourable History of Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay* and some parts of *The Tempest* is crucially significant for dating the EFB and I trust this justifies the space I have accorded it and the 'shoulder of mutton' incident. In any case, it is interesting material and deserves exposure.

With regard to the identity of the EFB author, the elusive 'P. F. Gent', I make no extravagant claim for the candidate I propose. It is quite probable that no absolute proof will ever be discovered, but the man has the right initials, crops up at the right time in the right place and has precisely the right smell. I have enlisted the help of many German and Polish archivists and librarians in an attempt to trace him in Europe, but without success. Nevertheless, those kind helpers have provided many significant details relating to the EFB travel chapter which are incorporated in the commentary. Whoever 'P. F.' was, he deserves far greater recognition than he has been accorded, and it is a great pity that he did not extend his literary activities.

Possibly in response to the 400th anniversary of Marlowe's death, a number of other books concerning *Doctor Faustus* are currently either in preparation or in the press. Routledge are issuing a volume on Marlowe's sources, edited by William Tydeman and Vivien Thomas, and incorporating an edition of the EFB (I thank Ms Thomas for showing me her introduction to this part and for some stimulating correspondence). Regrettably Eric Rasmussen's *A Textual Companion to 'Doctor Faustus'* (Manchester University Press, 1993) had not appeared when the present work was ready for the press. Also forthcoming in the Revels Plays series is Greene's 'Friar Bacon', edited by David Kastan of Columbia University.

In the context of recent publications on *Doctor Faustus*, I hope I may be excused for securing this opportunity to refute certain charges. Empson's *Faustus and the Censor* inevitably raised a lot of flak and there is sure to be more. Recently some of this has been directed at me as his editor; in particular, Richard Dutton (*Yearbook of English Studies* 23 (1993), p. 11) has unwarrantedly accused

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me of complicity in Empson's censorship thesis. I wish to make it clear that my involvement with the essay was strictly editorial; I had no hand in its composition and I do not support, nor ever have, Empson's contentions, though I do not regret promoting the publication of such a stimulating example of Empson at his most entertaining.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the very willing cooperation of the many persons who have aided me in my researches. My especial thanks go to Dr Heeg-Engellart of the Würzburg Staatsarchiv, O. A. Targiel, City Archivist at Frankfurt on the Oder, Professor Dr Jan Pirozyński of the Biblioteka Jagiellońska, Krakow, and Dr Władysław Stępnik, Director of the Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych, Warsaw, for topographical and historical details; to Mr James Lawson, Librarian of Shrewsbury School Library, for supplying me with a facsimile of the Shrewsbury fragment and information regarding its provenance; and to Ms Frances Palmer of the Horniman Museum, London, for help in identifying Elizabethan instruments. I am also grateful to Dr P. J. Becker of the Berlin Staatsbibliothek, Christian Hogrefe of the Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, and Professor Dr Zbigniew Nowak of the Biblioteka Gdanska, for their cooperation in respect of editions of the German Faust Book. I should also like to express my sincere appreciation of the courtesy and assistance rendered to me by librarians and staff at the many libraries I have visited or contacted, especially at the British Library, where most of the work was done.

I am indebted to Kevin Taylor of Cambridge University Press for his kindness and determined commitment, and to the reader, commissioned by the Press, for his painstaking checking of the text and his helpful suggestions, of which many have been implemented.

Finally, I wish to thank Dr John Haffenden for his tireless encouragement, constructive criticism and ever open ear, and Hetta, Lady Empson, for her unfailing friendship and support. The last word should go to William Empson who first awakened my interest in Faustus.

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Principal abbreviations

(For critical apparatus see p. 89, and for additional abbreviations and symbols used in the commentary, see p. 185.)

- Agrippa *Henry Cornelius Agrippa, of the Vanitie and Uncertaintie of Arts and Sciences*, Englished by Ja. Sa[nford]. Gent, London 1575
- Arber E. Arber: *A Transcript of the Register of the Company of Stationers of London 1554–1640 AD*, London 1875
- Bennett H. S. Bennett: *English Books and Readers 1558–1603*, Cambridge University Press 1965
- Butler *Magus* E. M. Butler: *The Myth of the Magus*, Cambridge University Press 1948
- Butler *Rit.* E. M. Butler: *Ritual Magic*, Cambridge University Press 1949
- COT* G. Braun and F. Hohenberg: *Civitas Orbis Terrarum*; facs. edn, Cleveland & New York (World Publishing Co.) 1966. 5 vols. The publication dates of the 1st Latin edn of each volume are: I: 1572; II: [1575]; III: [1581]; IV [c. 1588]; V: [1598]
- D’Agostini Maria Enrica D’Agostini, Giovanna Silvani (eds.): *Analisi comparata delle fonti inglesi e tedesche des Faust dal Volksbuch a Marlowe*, Napoli (Tullio Pronti) 1978. (This work is a comparison of the texts of the Wolfenbüttel MS, the Spies *Historia* and the EFB, Orwin 1592)
- Dec John Dec: *The Private Diary*, ed. James O. Halliwell, Camden Society Publications, Vol. 19, London 1842
- Dr F* Marlowe’s *Doctor Faustus*, see Greg. References are by line number to the Greg edition, prefixed with A or B to indicate 1604 and 1616 texts respectively.
- E EFB present text. In citations, e.g. [E: 1027], the numbers

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- indicate the line number of the present text
- EFB English Faust Book
- Empson William Empson: *Faustus and the Censor*, ed. John Henry Jones, Oxford (Basil Blackwell) 1987
- Eyre *A Transcript of the Registers of the Worshipful Company of Stationers, from 1640–1708*, ed. G. E. Briscoe Eyre, London 1913
- French Peter J. French: *John Dee. The World of an Elizabethan Magus*, London (Routledge, Kegan Paul) 1972
- Fulvius *L'antichità di Roma di Andrea Fulvio ... con le aggiuntioni e annotazioni di Girolamo Ferrucci Romano*. Venetia 1588
- G *Historia von D. Johann Fausten*. . . Frankfurt am Main (Spies) 1587. [edn princeps]. cf. Henning *Historia*. In citations, e.g. [G: 37], the numerals refer to the pagination of the Spies edition
- GFB German Faust Book, see G, and Henning *Historia*
- Greg *Marlowe's 'Doctor Faustus' 1604–1616. Parallel Texts*, ed. W. W. Greg, Oxford (Clarendon Press) 1950
- Greg & Boswell W. W. Greg & E. Boswell: *Records of the Court of the Stationers' Company 1576–1602*, London 1930
- Henning *Bib.* Hans Henning: *Faust bibliographie*, Berlin (Aufbau) 1966 etc.
- Henning *Historia* *Historia von D. Johann Fausten. Neudruck des Faustbuches von 1587*, hrsg.u.eingeleitet von Hans Henning. 2. Aufl., Leipzig (Bibliographisches Institut) 1982
- Hon. Hist.* Robert Greene: *The Honourable History of Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay*, see Ward
- Hoby 'The Travels and Life of Sir Thomas Hoby 1547–1564', *The Camden Miscellany*, Vol. x, London (Historical Society of Great Britain) 1902: an edition of the previously unpublished MS (British Library: Egerton MS 2148), c.1555. The descriptions of Italy refer to 1549
- Johnson 1945 Francis R. Johnson: 'Marlowe's "Imperiall Heaven"', *ELH* 12 (1945), pp. 35–44
- Johnson 1946 Francis R. Johnson: 'Marlowe's Astronomy and Renaissance Skepticism', *ELH* 13 (1946), pp. 241–54
- Kirschbaum Leo Kirschbaum: 'Is *The Spanish Tragedy* a leading case?', *Journal of English & Germanic Philology*, 37 (1938) pp. 501–12
- Logeman *The English Faust-book of 1592*, ed. Henry Logeman: *Récueil de travaux publiés par la faculté de philosophie et lettres de l'université de Gand*, fasc. 24, Gand / Amsterdam, 1900. This edition is the basis for the printing in Palmer & More.
- OED *The Oxford English Dictionary*, Oxford (Clarendon Press) 1933

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- OED*² *OED*, 2nd edn, Oxford 1989
- Palmer & More P. M. Palmer and R. P. More: *The Sources of the Faust Tradition*, New York (Oxford University Press) 1936, repr. 1966
- Petsch *Das Volksbuch vom Doktor Faust. Nach der 1. Ausgabe 1587*, hrsg. v. Robert Petsch, Halle a. S. (Niedermeyer) 1911
- RCP Ann. Annals of the Royal College of Physicians. MS, transcript and translation: London, The Royal College of Physicians
- Rohde Richard Rohde: *Das Englische Faustbuch und Marlowes Tragödie*, Halle a. S. 1910 (L. Morsbach: *Studien zur Englische Philologie*, Heft 43)
- Scot Reginald Scot: *The Discoverie of Witchcraft*, London 1584
- SCR Stationers' Company Register, see Arber, Eyre
- STC* *A Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland & Ireland and of English Books Printed Abroad 1475-1640*, compiled by A. W. Pollard & G. R. Redgrave, revised and enlarged by W. A. Jackson, F. S. Ferguson and Katharine F. Pantzer, London (Bibliographic Soc.) 1986
- STC(w)* *A Short-Title Catalogue ... 1641-1700*, compiled by Donald Wing, 2nd edn, revised and enlarged, New York 1972
- Thomas William Thomas: *The historie of Italy*, London (T. Marsh) 1561.
- Thoms W. J. Thoms: *Early English Prose Romances*, London (Routledge) 1827-8
- Tilley Morris Palmer Tilley: *A Dictionary of the Proverbs in England in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*, Ann Arbor, 1950
- Tisch.* The *Tischreden* of Martin Luther, in *Martin Luthers Werke, Kritische Gesamtausgabe*, Weimar, 1912 etc., Part 2: *Tischreden* (6 vols.)
- Turler *The traueiles of Ierome Turler divided into two bookes*. Imprinted at London by William How, for Abraham Veale, 1575
- w Text of the Wolfenbüttel MS: *Historia vnd Geschicht Doctor Johannis Faustj*, Wolfenbüttel, Herzog-August-Bibliothek, Signatur: 92 Extravagantes, folio; as printed in *Das Faustbuch nach der Wolfenbüttler Handschrift*, ed. H. G. Haile, (Philologische Studien u. Quellen, Hft. 14) Berlin (Erich Schmidt) 1963
- Ward A. W. Ward (ed.): *Marlowe: 'Tragical History of Dr Faustus'; Greene: 'Honourable History of Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay'*, Oxford (Clarendon) 1901 (4th edn). The first edition (1868) does not contain Fleay's appendices on the dating of the plays, present from the 2nd edn (1886-7) onwards
- Widman Georg Rudolf Widman: *Warhafftige Historia von... D. Iohannes*

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Faustus, Hamburg 1599 (three parts with separate pagination),
available as facsimile with a postscript by Gerd Wunder,
Schwäbisch Hall (Oscar Mahl) 1978

Yates

Frances A. Yates: *Giordano Bruno and the Hermetic Tradition*,
London (Routledge & Kegan Paul), University of Chicago
Press 1964