

**A DUCHES OF
PADUA: A PLAY**

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A Duches of Padua: a play by Oscar Wilde

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OSCAR WILDE

**A DUCHES OF
PADUA: A PLAY**

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THE
DUCHESS OF PADUA

A PLAY

BY

OSCAR WILDE

AUTHORISED EDITION

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THE MUSSON BOOK COMPANY, LTD.

TORONTO

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BOSTON

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NOTE

The Duchess of Padua was written in 1882, and finished in March 1883. It was produced in New York on November 14, 1891, at Hammerstein's Opera House. Twenty prompt copies were printed for private circulation and use in the theatre. One of only two copies known to exist contains the author's corrections, and on it the present edition is based. Certain passages were found to have been bracketed, or deleted in pencil. Whether these passages were omitted for stage presentation, or were intended to be omitted by the author altogether, there is no evidence to show. They have, however, been retained in the present edition, and are indicated by brackets. The original manuscript was stolen, with other unpublished works, from the author's house in April 1895. The play has been translated by Dr. Max Meyerfeld (Egon, Fleischel and Co., Berlin, 1904). An unauthorised English *prose* translation from the German has been printed in Paris, London, or America, and is offered for sale by unscrupulous publishers and unscrupulous booksellers along with other spurious works ascribed to Oscar Wilde. The dramatic rights for America belong to the representatives of Miss Gale and the late Laurence Barrett. The dramatic rights for England, the Colonies, and the Continent are vested in the author's literary executor, and administrator of his estate,
Robert Ross.



TO
A. S.

MADAM,

A few months before his death Mr. Oscar Wilde expressed to me a regret that he had never dedicated any of his works to one from whom he had received such infinite kindness and to whom he was under obligations no flattering dedication could repay. With not very great sincerity, because I knew he was a dying man, I suggested he might still write a play or book which you would accept. He answered with truth, 'There is nothing but *The Duchess of Padua* and it is unworthy of her and unworthy of me.' With all his egoism and self-complacency you will know, perhaps as well as I do, that he never regarded his works as an adequate expression of his extraordinary genius and his magnificent intellectual endowment; many people hardly believe that in his last years he was the severest critic of his own achievements. In the pages of *De Profundis* there are many references to yourself, and I think I am carrying out my dear friend's wishes in asking your acceptance of a play which was the prelude to a singularly brilliant and, if the last five years are omitted, a very happy life.

ROBERT ROSS

Xmas 1906.

NOTE ON THE LENGTH OF THIS PLAY

THE Play of *The Duchess of Padua* is about 2600 lines long, divided into the following proportions nearly :—

Act I.	. . . .	448 lines.
Act II.	. . . .	642 lines.
Act III.	. . . .	510 lines.
Act IV.	. . . .	564 lines.
Act V.	. . . .	448 lines.

I estimate the acting time of the play at two hours and twenty-five minutes, in the following proportions nearly :—

Act I.	. . . .	25 minutes.
Act II.	. . . .	36 minutes.
Act III.	. . . .	29 minutes.
Act IV.	. . . .	31 minutes.
Act V.	. . . .	25 minutes.

O. W.

THE PERSONS OF THE PLAY

SIMONE GESSO, Duke of Padua

BEATRICE, his Wife

ANDREAS POLLAJUOLO, Cardinal of Padua

MAFFIO PETRUCCI,

JEPPO VITELLOZZO,

TADDEO BARDI,

} Gentlemen of the Duke's
Household

GUIDO FERRANTI, a Young Man

ASCANIO CRISTOFANO, his Friend

COUNT MORANZONE, an Old Man

BERNARDO CAVALCANTI, Lord Justice of Padua

HUGO, the Headsman

LUCY, a Tire woman

Servants, Citizens, Soldiers, Monks, Falconers with their
hawks and dogs, etc.

PLACE: *Padua*

TIME: *The latter half of Sixteenth Century*