

**THE DRAMATIC WRITINGS OF RICHARD  
EDWARDS, THOMAS NORTON AND  
THOMAS SACKVILLE, COMPRISING  
DAMON AND PITHIAS, PALAMON AND  
ARCYTE (NOTE), GORBODUC, OR FERREX  
AND PORREX, NOTE-BOOK AND WORDLIST**

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The dramatic writings of Richard Edwards, Thomas Norton and Thomas Sackville, comprising Damon and Pithias, Palamon and Arcyte (Note), Gorboduc, or Ferrex and Porrex, Note-book and wordlist by John S. Farmer

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**JOHN S. FARMER**

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EDWARDS, THOMAS NORTON AND  
THOMAS SACKVILLE, COMPRISING  
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ARCYTE (NOTE), GORBODUC, OR FERREX  
AND PORREX, NOTE-BOOK AND WORDLIST**



**THE**  
**TRAGEDIE OF GORBODVC,**

whereof three Actes were wrytten by

*Thomas Martone, and the two laste by*

*Thomas Sackuyle.*

**Whiche** forthe as the same was shewed befoze the  
**QVENS** most excellent Maiestie, in her highnes  
Court of Whitehall, the xvij. day of January,  
*Anno Domini. 1561.* By the Gentlemen  
of Chymner Temple in London.



**IMPRINTED AT LONDON**

in fletestrete, at the Signe of the  
Faucon by *William Gressib:* And are  
to be sold at his Shop in Saincte  
Dunstones Churchyarde in  
the West of London.

*Anno, 1565. Septemb. 22.*

[A reduced facsimile of the title-page of the first edition  
(unauthorised) of "Gorboduc": see pages 177-8.]



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Early English Dramatists

[Vol. 10]

The

*Dramatic Writings*

of

RICHARD EDWARDS

THOMAS NORTON

AND

THOMAS SACKVILLE

COMPRISING

*Damon and Pythias—Palamon and Arcyte (Note)—  
Gorboduc (or Ferrex and Porrex)—Note-Book and  
Word-List*

EDITED BY

JOHN S. FARMER

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PR  
2499  
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1906



[Reduced Facsimile of Title-page of "Damon and Pithias," by Richard Edwards from a copy now in the British Museum.]



**The Speakers' Names:**

ARISTIPPUS, A PLEASANT GENTLEMAN

CARISOPHUS, A PARASITE

DAMON }  
PITHIAS } TWO GENTLEMEN OF GREECE

STEPHANO, SERVANT TO DAMON AND PITHIAS

WILL, ARISTIPPUS' LACKEY

JACK, CARISOPHUS' LACKEY

SNAP, THE PORTER

DIONYSIUS, THE KING

EUBULUS, THE KING'S COUNCILLOR

GRONNO, THE HANGMAN

GRIM, THE COLLIER



## DAMON AND PITHIAS

### THE PROLOGUE.

ON every side, whereas I glance my roving eye,  
Silence in all ears bent I plainly do espy : [see,  
But if your eager looks do long such toys to  
As heretofore in comical wise were wont abroad  
to be, [you sought  
Your lust is lost, and all the pleasures that  
Is frustrate quite of toying plays. A sudden  
change is wrought : [delight,  
For lo, our author's muse, that masked in  
Hath forc'd his pen against his kind no more  
such sports to write.  
Muse he that lust (right worshipful), for chance  
hath made this change,  
For that to some he seemed too much in young  
desires to range : [did offend,  
In which, right glad to please, seeing that he  
Of all he humbly pardon craves : his pen that  
shall amend. [dare avouch,  
And yet (worshipful audience) thus much I  
In comedies the greatest skill is this, rightly to  
touch [person so,  
All things to the quick ; and eke to frame each  
That by his common talk you may his nature  
rightly know.  
A roister ought not preach, that were too  
strange to hear ;

But as from virtue he doth swerve, so ought  
 his words appear :  
 The old man is sober, the young man rash, the  
 lover triumphing in toys ;  
 The matron grave, the harlot wild, and full  
 of wanton toys.  
 Which all in one course they no wise do agree ;  
 So correspondent to their kind their speeches  
 ought to be. [lively framed,  
 Which speeches well-pronounc'd, with action  
 If this offend the lookers on, let Horace then  
 be blamed,  
 Which hath our author taught at school, from  
 whom he doth not swerve,  
 In all such kind of exercise decorum to observe.  
 Thus much for his defence (he saith), as poets  
 erst have done,  
 Which heretofore in comedies the self-same  
 race did run.  
 But now for to be brief, the matter to express,  
 Which here we shall present, is this : Damon  
 and Pithias. [legend-lie,  
 A rare ensample of friendship true—it is no  
 But a thing once done indeed, as histories do  
 descry—  
 Which done of yore in long time past, yet  
 present shall be here,  
 Even as it were in doing now, so lively it shall  
 appear.  
 Lo, here in Syracuse th' ancient town, which  
 once the Romans won,  
 Here Dionysius' palace, within whose court this  
 thing most strange was done.  
 Which matter mix'd with mirth and care, a  
 just name to apply, [comedy.  
 As seems most fit, we have it termed a tragical