

**THE CASE IS ALTERED.
EDITED WITH
INTRODUCTION NOTES,
AND GLOSSARY, LVI**

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The case is altered. Edited with introduction notes, and glossary, LVI by Ben Jonson & William Edward Selin

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BEN JONSON & WILLIAM EDWARD SELIN

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YALE STUDIES IN ENGLISH

ALBERT S. COOK, Editor

LVI

THE CASE IS ALTERED

BY

BEN JONSON

EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION, NOTES, AND GLOSSARY

BY

WILLIAM EDWARD SELIN, Ph.D.

A Dissertation presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School
of Yale University in Candidacy for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy



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PREFACE

An edition of *The Case is Altered* will naturally include a discussion of three subjects—the authorship of the play, its date, and the satire on Anthony Munday. Jonson saw fit to ignore the play when he assembled the others in his folio of 1616, and this fact has left the authorship in some doubt. Why did he reject the play? Was he too critical of its faults, or did some one collaborate with him to such an extent that he could not justly claim it as his? Jonson's name on the title-page of the quarto signifies nothing, since there are some copies that omit the name, and the uncorrected condition of the text is fair evidence that he had no hand in the printing. Its exact date, likewise, is uncertain. It was first printed in 1609, but there is a clear allusion to it by Nashe as early as 1598. As this was the year when *Every Man in his Humour* was produced, the question of priority naturally arises. The satire on Anthony Munday complicates the problem of the date, as it gives evidence of being a later addition. Was Meres' designation of Munday as 'our best plotter' a sufficient reason to evoke the satire? Its humorous treatment does not conceal the fact that Jonson seems to have had strong provocation for the attack. Such, in brief, are some of the problems discussed in the Introduction. Other questions will be found to rise out of these, which are not so important, perhaps, but which are nevertheless full of interest. These too have briefly been considered.

My sincere thanks are due to Mr. W. A. White, of New York City, for his generous loan of the quarto of *The Case is Altered*, and for information about the folios; to Professors Richard G. Moulton, John M. Manly, Albert H.

Tolman, and David A. Robertson, of the University of Chicago, for letters regarding the presentation of *The Case is Altered* by students of that university; to Professor C. F. Tucker Brooke for points about Elizabethan printing; to Mr. Andrew Keogh, Mr. Henry R. Gruener, Mr. George A. Johnson, and Mr. Henry Ginter, of the Yale Library, for bibliographical aid. To Professor Albert S. Cook I owe a special debt of gratitude for frequent inspiring conferences, and for his patient criticism of my work.

A portion of the expense of printing this dissertation has been borne by the Modern Language Club of Yale University, from funds placed at its disposal by the generosity of Mr. George E. Dimock, of Elizabeth, New Jersey, a graduate of Yale in the Class of 1874.

YALE UNIVERSITY,
June, 1916.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	
A. EDITIONS OF THE TEXT	
I. The Quarto of 1609	vii
II. Subsequent Editions	x
B. AUTHORSHIP OF <i>THE CASE IS ALTERED</i>	xi
C. DATE	xxix
D. THE SATIRE	
I. Anthony Munday	xxxv
II. Conduct of the Audience	xxxix
E. SOURCES	xlii
F. EVALUATION OF <i>THE CASE IS ALTERED</i>	xlvii
TEXT	I
NOTES	95
GLOSSARY	191
BIBLIOGRAPHY	207
INDEX	212

INTRODUCTION

A. EDITIONS OF THE TEXT

I. THE QUARTO OF 1609

The Case is Altered was published in quarto in 1609. It was not published again, either separately or in any collected edition of Jonson's works, until 1756, when it was included in Whalley's edition. Some¹ have insisted that the play appears in the folio of 1692, but no evidence is given that the writer saw the play in any particular copy of this folio. A careful search, extending over a wide field, has failed to show that the play was ever printed in any of the folios of Jonson. The search included the folios in the libraries of the following: Yale University, 1616, 1631-1640, 1640 (2 copies), 1692; Professor William Lyon Phelps (Yale), 1616, 1640 (2 copies), 1692; Professor John Milton Berdan (Yale), 1640, another issue (undated); Elizabethan Club (Yale), 1616; Boston Athenæum, 1631-1640; Columbia University, 1640-1641 (2 vols.); Cornell University, 1616; Professor Joseph Q. Adams (Cornell), 1616, 1640; Harvard University, 1616-1641 (2 vols.); Peabody Institute, 1616-1641 (2 vols.); Princeton University, 1640 (2 vols.); George D. Smith (bookseller, New York City), 1692; University of Chicago, 1616; University of Pennsylvania, 1616, 1640; Mr. William A. White, New York City, 1616, 1640, 1692. In a letter to Dr. George B. Tenant,² dated November 9, 1906, Mr. W. W. Greg writes, in part, as follows: 'To the best of my belief (and I have

¹ Hazlitt, *Bibliographical Collections*, Second Series, 1882, p. 320; *Dict. Nat. Biog.* (s. v. Jonson); cf. Hart (ed. *Wks.* 1. xxviii).

² Ed. *New Inn* (*Yale Studies* 34. iv).

examined a good many copies of every edition), *The Case is Altered* was never printed in folio at all.' Mr. Horace Hart, Controller of the Oxford University Press, under the date of January 8, 1912, writes: '*The Case is Altered* does not appear in the folio edition of 1692 in the Bodleian Library.'

In preparing the present edition, five copies of the quarto were used. Four were photographic facsimiles, and the fifth was an original copy kindly lent by Mr. W. A. White of New York City. Of the texts that were photographed, one is in the Bodleian Library at Oxford (B), two are in the British Museum (M1, M2), and the fourth was in the library of the Duke of Devonshire (D). The copies have been carefully collated, and all differences in spelling and punctuation have been recorded in the footnotes. There are noticeable differences in the title-pages. The arrangement and reading of one (M1) are, in several respects, unlike the others. The latter are identical, except that one (D) lacks Jonson's name. Reproductions of the title-pages, showing these variations, will be found on pages 3, 5, and 7. Both copies in the British Museum (M1, M2) lack the last page, and in each the last line of the page preceding has apparently been excised.

The text of the present edition is a faithful reproduction of Mr. White's copy. It is one of the more corrected copies, and has the obvious advantage of being an original quarto. An edition such as this is intended for the general student, whose work is not of such a character as to demand the original text, but who would find a reproduction of it of great value, especially since the quarto is not so easy of access. No alterations, therefore, have been made in spelling or punctuation, even when these are obviously incorrect. The quarto does not have the acts and scenes indicated throughout the play. Where these cease, an attempt has been made to supply them. There is no pagination in any of the copies.