

**EVERY MAN IN HIS
HUMOUR. A PLAY
WRITTEN BY BEN JONSON**

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Every Man in His Humour. A Play Written by Ben Jonson by W. Macneile Dixon

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W. MACNEILE DIXON

**EVERY MAN IN HIS
HUMOUR. A PLAY
WRITTEN BY BEN JONSON**



THE TEMPLE DRAMATISTS
Ben Jonson's EVERY MAN IN HIS HUMOUR



The text is that of Jonson's edition of
his own works, published in 1616



Ben: Jonson

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OF



EVERY MAN IN
HIS HUMOUR

A Play written by
BEN JONSON

*Edited with a Preface, Notes
and Glossary by*
W. MACNEILE DIXON
LITT.D., A.M., LL.B.

J. M. DENT AND CO.
ALDINE HOUSE : LONDON
1896

'O rare Ben Jonson.'

Epitaph in Westminster Abbey.

'Ah Ben!

Say how, or when

Shall we thy guests

Meet at those lyric feasts,

Made at the Sun,

The Dog, the Triple Tun?

Where we such clusters had,

As made us nobly wild, not mad;

And yet each verse of thine

Outdid the meat, outdid the frolic wine.'

HARRISON, Hesperides.

L. 15
From the library of
Edmund C. (Bill) L. L.
5-10-44
replaced 190749

PREFACE

Date of the Play. *Every Man in his Humour*, states Ben Jonson, in his own edition of his works, published in 1616, was first acted by the Lord Chamberlain's Servants in 1598. This, indisputably one of the finest, was almost certainly then the author's first drama. There is no evidence to prove that the comedy, *The Case is Altered*, was produced before it, though it is mentioned by Nash in 1599. A quarto edition published in 1601 gives *Every Man in his Humour* in an early version, which differs considerably from that of the 1616 edition, and in which the characters bear Italian names. Gifford and others were of opinion that 'the Comodey of Umers,' mentioned by Henslowe as acted eleven times between November 1596 and May 1597, was the first draft of the drama as we possess it. According to this view, encouraged by its popularity and guided by his maturer judgment, the author revised the play, transferred the scene from Florence to London, substituted English for the original Italian names, made some alterations in the text, and offered the new version to the company of players above mentioned, of which company Shakespere was at the time a member. The evidence for this identification of *Every Man in his Humour* with the earlier play must, however, be regarded as quite inconclusive, and the early or Italianised version of the quarto was in all probability not acted before the date given by Jonson, 1598.