## 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

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## 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



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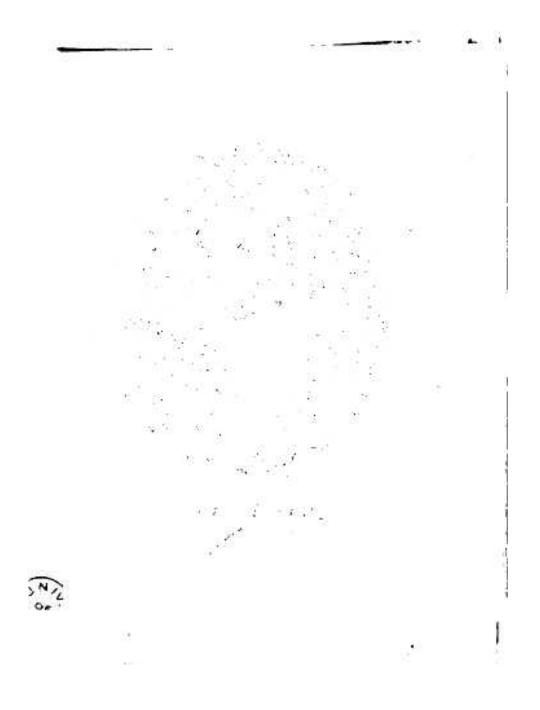
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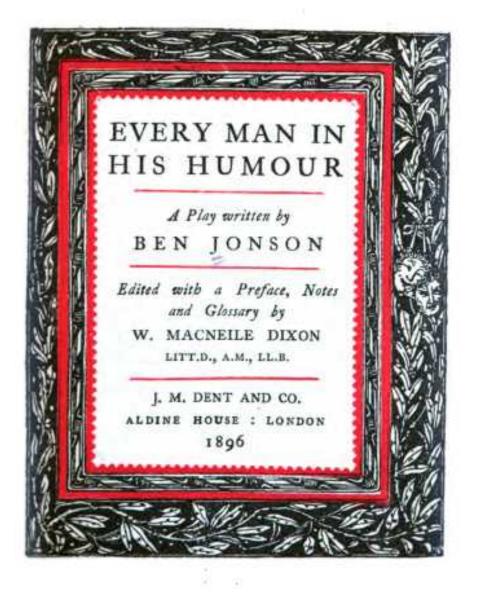
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O rare Ben Jonson." Epitaph in Weitminster Abbey.

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'Ah Ben I 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 wino.' HERRICK, Hesperider.

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Lir Front the aber 1 of Edward C. Boil lach higher PREFACE

Date of the Play. Every Man in his Humour, states Ben Ionson, 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 Allered, was produced before it, 8**4** - 3 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  $\widehat{\mathcal{O}}$  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.

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