

**BEN JONSON'S
EVERY MAN IN HIS
HUMOUR**

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Ben Jonson's Every man in his humour by Percy Simpson

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PERCY SIMPSON

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Every Man

In His Humour

Edited by PERCY SIMPSON



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MAIN

P R E F A C E

A COMPLETE edition of Ben Jonson's Works by Professor C. H. Herford and the present editor has long been in preparation; this edition of *Every Man in his Humour* is therefore in the nature of a pioneer volume. Three objects have been kept steadily in view in producing it--to print the authoritative text; to solve the problem of its date and composition; to illustrate its literary relations and its faithful picture of contemporary London. The critical apparatus concentrates on the early issues and so presents, unencumbered, the minuter variants of the 1640 Folio--changes of spelling and punctuation, which, in part at least, are Jonson's. Few conjectures are recorded, for the text is too sound to need any; and it seemed futile to notice such trivialities as Gifford's occasional expansion of the contracted *i'* and *o'*. Jonson used them side by side with the fuller forms, and the precisian who meddles with them is not even precise. Mr. H. B. Wheatley's edition of the play has been consulted for its notes on London topography.

The proofs have been read throughout by Mr. D. Nichol Smith and Mr. G. Thorn-Drury. Both have contributed very valuable criticism, and the latter also collated the text, supplying

some examples of early printer's variants unknown to the editor. Twenty-four years have elapsed since the first crude draft of the commentary was drawn up by a prentice hand ; but the pleasantest memories associated with the work are these informal discussions with friends at the final stage, throwing new light on points of literature and scholarship.

Oxford.

April, 1919.

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SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Conical brackets, as '*<To them.>*' in the heading of v. ii, denote words or letters inserted in the text.

Square brackets, as '*[To them.]*' in the heading of iv. ix, denote words or letters of the original text which ought to be omitted.

<p><i>A. P.</i> = Translation of the <i>Ars Poetica</i>. <i>Alch.</i> = The Alchemist. <i>B. F.</i> = Barthol'mew Fair. <i>C. is A.</i> = The Case is Altered. <i>Cat.</i> = Catiline. <i>C. R.</i> = Cynthia's Revels. <i>D. is A.</i> = The Devil is an Ass. <i>Disc.</i> = Timber, or Discoveries. <i>E. E. T. S.</i> = Early English Text Society. <i>E. H.</i> = Eastward Ho. <i>E. M. O.</i> = Every Man out of his Humour. <i>Epig.</i> = Epigrams. <i>F₁</i> = Folio of 1616. <i>F₂</i> = Folio of 1640. <i>F₃</i> = Folio of 1692. <i>Ff</i> = identical text in <i>F₁</i> and <i>F₂</i>. <i>G</i> = Gifford (edition of Jonson's Works, 1816).</p>	<p><i>Gram.</i> = The English Grammar. <i>M. L.</i> = The Magnetic Lady. <i>N. E. D.</i> = New English Dictionary. <i>N. I.</i> = The New Inn. <i>N. and Q.</i> = Notes and Queries. <i>Poet.</i> = Poetaster. <i>Q.</i> = Quarto of 'Every Man in his Humour', 1601. <i>S. of N.</i> = The Staple of News. <i>S. S.</i> = The Sad Shepherd. <i>S. W.</i> = Epicoene, or The Silent Woman. <i>Sej.</i> = Sejanus. <i>Stage dir.</i> = Stage-direction. <i>T. of T.</i> = A Talc of a Tub. <i>Und.</i> = Underwoods. <i>Volp.</i> = Volpone, or the Fox. <i>W.</i> = Whalley (edition of Jonson's Works, 1756).</p>
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