

**THE TRAGICAL  
HISTORY OF  
DOCTOR FAUSTUS**

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The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus by Christopher Marlowe & Israel Gollancz

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**CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE & ISRAEL GOLLANCZ**

**THE TRAGICAL  
HISTORY OF  
DOCTOR FAUSTUS**





*THE TEMPLE DRAMATISTS*

*Marlowe's* DR. FAUSTUS





*Doctor Faustus.  
after Rembrandt.*



THE TRAGICAL HISTORY OF  
**DOCTOR  
FAUSTUS**

*A Play written by*  
**CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE**

*Edited with a Preface, Notes  
and Glossary by*  
**ISRAEL GOLLANCZ, M.A.**

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**1897**

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✓ A

*Faustus is therefore a parable of the impotent yearnings of the Middle Ages—its passionate aspiration, its conscience-stricken desire, its fettered curiosity amid the cramping limits of imperfect knowledge, and irrational dogmatism. The indestructible beauty of Greek art, whereof Helen was the emblem, became, through the discovery of classic poetry and sculpture, the possession of the modern world. Mediaevalism took this Helen to wife, and their offspring, the Euphorion of Goethe's drama, is the spirit of the modern world.'*

J. A. SYMONDS,  
*Renaissance in Italy*, ii. p. 54.





## PREFACE

**Early Editions.** The earliest extant edition of Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus* bears the following title-page:—'The | Tragicall History of D. Faustus. | As it hath bene Acted by the Right | Hono-rable the Earle of Nottingham his seruants. Written by Ch. Marl. | London. | Printed by V. S. for Thomas Bushell. 1604.'

The only known copy of this edition is to be found among Malone's books in the Bodleian Library.

Similarly, the Hamburg Public Library possesses the only extant copy of the second edition, a reprint of the first, issued in 1609, 'imprinted at London by G. E. for John Wright, and are to be sold at Christ-church Gate.'

A third edition was in all probability published in 1611, but no copy has hitherto been discovered, although it is known that Heber possessed a copy of this issue.<sup>1</sup> It would seem that the edition was a reprint of the earlier quarto of 1609.

The fourth edition, published in 1616, differs in many important respects from the former quartos: it contains entirely new scenes and episodes, as well as different recensions of scenes and passages. Its title-page is as follows:—'The Tragicall History | of the Life and Death | of Doctor Faustus. | Written by Ch. Marl. | (Vignette.) | London, | Printed for John

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Breymann, p. xi.

## PREFACE

## The Tragical History

Wright, and are to be sold at his shop | with-out Newgate, | at the signe of the | Bible, 1616.' A copy of this quarto is to be found in the British Museum. Quartos agreeing substantially with the text of this edition appeared in 1619, 1620, 1624, and 1631.

In 1663 a worthless edition was issued, 'with new additions, as it is now acted; with several new Scenes.'

The various quartos here enumerated may be divided into two main classes:—(i) the editions of 1604, 1609 (represented by A); (ii) the editions of 1616, 1619, etc. (represented by B); the *editio princeps* of each class is primarily referred to in the Notes and Glossary to present edition.

**The Present Text.** The play of *Doctor Faustus*, as here set forth, represents an attempt to blend the two versions of the quartos of 1604 and 1616; it follows neither the one text nor the other, but results from a 'contamination' of both. By the use of italic type for the passages borrowed from the 1616 edition, the editor has been able to differentiate the sources of the text. It cannot be hoped that the experiment has been wholly successful, but the present issue is perhaps more satisfactory than a mere reprint of any one of the quartos, with bulky appendices of the omitted or additional passages. Very little, if anything, of value has been lost in the present process; the one or two passages of worth belonging to the first edition, here replaced by the later text, will be found in the Notes at the end of the volume. The textual work has been greatly facilitated by Dr. Breymann's excellent parallel edition of the two versions (*cp.* Vollmüller's *Englische Sprach- und Litteratur-Denkmale*, No. 5).

## of Doctor Faustus

## PREFACE

Before entering into the relationship between the quartos, it will be necessary to consider the question of the date of composition of the play, and the source of the plot, intimately connected therewith.

**Source of the Plot.** In 1587 there was printed at Frankfurt-on-the-Main, by Johann Spiess, the first edition of the famous '*Historia von D. Johann Fausten, dem weilschreytzen Zauberer und Schwartzkünstler*'; (i.e. 'the history of Dr. Johann Faust, the widely noised conjuror and master of the Black Art'); the book was twice reprinted in the same year, and three editions were issued in 1589.

Marlowe evidently founded his tragedy on an English translation of the 'History,' made in all probability in the year 1588 or early in 1589;<sup>1</sup> no copy of the original edition has come down to us, and no entry of it is to be found in the Stationers' Registers; the earliest extant translation bears the date 1592:—

*'The Historie of the damnable life and deserved death of Dr. John Faustus, Newly imprinted; and in convenient places imperfect matter amended: according to the true copie printed at Franckfort, and translated into English by P. F. Gent.'*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Zarncke, *Anglia*, ix. 621, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Thoms, in his *Early English Romances*, has printed the text of the English 'History of Faustus' from a copy of the 1666 edition; the text is not altogether satisfactory. It is impossible to determine in what respects the 1592 edition was amended. Some critics have tried to detect the influence of Marlowe's phraseology here and there in P. F.'s 1592 version.

In 1504 there was published '*The Second Report of Dr. John Faustus, containing his appearances, and the deeds of Wagner. Written by an English Gentleman student in Wittenberg, an University of Germany, in Saxony. Published for the delight of all those which desire novelties by a friend of the same Gentleman*' (v. Thoms, *Early Prose Romances*, iii.).