

**SHAKESPEARE'S  
HISTORY OF TROILUS  
AND CRESSIDA**

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Shakespeare's History of Troilus and Cressida by William Shakespeare & William J. Rolfe

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**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & WILLIAM J. ROLFE**

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HISTORY OF TROILUS  
AND CRESSIDA**





TROILUS & CRESSIDA

SHAKESPEARE'S  
HISTORY OF  
TROILUS AND CRESSIDA.

EDITED, WITH NOTES,

BY

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*WITH ENGRAVINGS.*



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*Ajax.* O thou damoed cur! I shall— (ii. 1. 84).



HOMER.

INTRODUCTION  
TO  
TROILUS AND CRESSIDA.

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I. THE HISTORY OF THE PLAY.

*Troilus and Cressida* was first printed, so far as we know, in 1609, when two quarto editions appeared. The title-page of one of these is as follows:

The | Historie of Troylus | and Cresseida. | *As it was acted by the Kings Maiesties* | seruants at the Globe. | *Written by William Shakespeare.* | LONDON | Imprinted by *G. Eld* for *R. Bonian* and *H. Walley*, and | are to be sold at the spred Eagle in Paules | Church-yard, ouer against the | great North doore. | 1609.

The other quarto was printed from the same type, with the first lines of the title modified thus:

The | Famous Historie of | Troylus and Cresseid. | *Excellently expressing the beginning* | of their loues, with the conceited wooing | of Pandarus Prince of Licia. | *Written by William Shakespeare* | [the rest exactly as above].

This edition also differs from the other in having a preface, apparently from the publisher, with the heading: "A neuer writer, to an euer reader. Newes." The play is called a new one, "neuer stal'd with the Stage, neuer clapper-clawd with the palmes of the vulger." It has hence been inferred that this edition was earlier than the other; but the Cambridge editors are perhaps right in their conclusion that the title we have given first was the original one, and that after some copies had been issued this was cancelled, and the second title with the preface inserted instead. They say: "The title-page of the edition with the preface is printed from the same form as the other title-page, as is evident from a comparison of the parts in each, from 'Written by William Shakespeare' to the end, which are absolutely identical. As the running title, 'The history of Troylus and Cresseida,' corresponds with the first-quoted title-page, we believe that the copies with this title-page were first issued for the theatre, and afterwards those with the new title-page and preface for general readers. In this case the expression, 'neuer stal'd with the Stage, neuer clapper-clawd with the palmes of the vulger' must refer to the first appearance of the play in type, unless we suppose that the publisher was more careful to say what would recommend his book than to state what was literally true."

As the text of the two quartos is the same, they are virtually one edition, and it does not matter much which was the earlier.

The play does not appear to have been reprinted until the publication of the folio of 1623. There it stands between