

**THE ARDEN SHAKESPEARE.
THE TRAGEDY OF ROMEO
AND JULIET**

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The Arden Shakespeare. The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare & Robert Adger Law & C. H. Herford

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & ROBERT ADGER LAW & C. H. HERFORD

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AND JULIET**

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ROMEO AND JULIET**

THE ARDEN SHAKESPEARE

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GENERAL PREFACE

IN this edition of SHAKESPEARE an attempt is made to present the greater plays of the dramatist in their literary aspect, and not merely as material for the study of philology or grammar. Criticism purely verbal and textual has only been included to such an extent as may serve to help the student in the appreciation of the essential poetry. Questions of date and literary history have been fully dealt with in the Introductions, but the larger space has been devoted to the interpretative rather than the matter-of-fact order of scholarship. *Æsthetic* judgments are never final, but the Editors have attempted to suggest points of view from which the analysis of dramatic motive and dramatic character may be profitably undertaken. In the Notes likewise, while it is hoped that all unfamiliar expressions and allusions have been adequately explained, yet it has been thought even more important to consider the dramatic value of each scene, and the part which it plays in relation to the whole. These general principles are common to the whole series; in detail each Editor is alone responsible for the play or plays that have been intrusted to him.

Every volume of the series has been provided with a Glossary, an Essay upon Metre, and an Index; and Appendices have been added upon points of special interest which could not conveniently be treated in the Introduction or the Notes. The text is based by several Editors on that of the *Globe* edition.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	v
DRAMATIS PERSONÆ	2
ROMEO AND JULIET	3
NOTES	123
APPENDIX A—The Text	187
APPENDIX B—Earlier Versions of the Story . .	193
APPENDIX C—The Dutch Version of 1634 . .	208
APPENDIX D—Metre	213
GLOSSARY	221
INDEX OF WORDS	227
GENERAL INDEX	231

INTRODUCTION

I. HISTORY OF THE PLAY

THE earliest edition¹ of *Romeo and Juliet*, so far as is known, is in quarto form, dated 1597, with the title:

“AN | EXCELLENT | CONCEITED Tragedie | OF | Romeo and Iuliet, |
As it hath been often (with great applause) | plaied publicquely, by
the right Ho- | nourable the L. of *Hunsdon* | his Seruants. | LON-
DON, | Printed by Iohn Danter. | 1597.”

A second Quarto was issued two years later, bearing the title:
“THE | MOST EX- | cellent and lamentable | Tragedie, of Romeo
| and Iuliet. | Newly corrected, augmented, and | amended: | As it
hath bene sundry times publicquely acted, by the | right Honour-
able the Lord Chamberlaine | his Seruants. | LONDON | Printed by
Thomas Creede, for Cuthbert Burby, and are to | be sold at his
shop neare the Exchange. | 1599.”

In 1609 a third Quarto appeared, substituting for the Lord Chamberlain's Servants on its title-page, “the King's Maiesties Seruants,” the new name of Shakespeare's company of actors. Probably some years later was published an undated Quarto, on some copies of which appear for the first time the words, “Written by *W. Shakespeare*.” A fifth Quarto was issued in 1637. The play was also printed in the first collection of Shakespeare's plays, made by Heminge and Condell in what is known as the First Folio (F 1), or Folio of 1623, and in all subsequent collected editions.

Careful investigation by many scholars has shown pretty clearly the relationship of these texts to one another. The 1597 Quarto (Q 1) stands alone, and all editors agree that the Quarto of 1599 (Q 2)

¹ Published entire in Furness's *Variorum Edition of Romeo and Juliet*. Parallel texts of the first two Quartos have been published and critically edited by Tycho Mommsen: *Shakespeares Romeo and Julia* (1859), and P. A. Daniel, *New Shakspeare Society, Series II* (1874). Readings of Q 1 which differ most widely from the ac text will be found in Appendix A.