

**HEATH'S ENGLISH
CLASSICS; THE TRAGEDY
OF JULIUS CAESAR**

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Heath's English Classics; The Tragedy of Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare & Arthur D. Innes

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & ARTHUR D. INNES

**HEATH'S ENGLISH
CLASSICS; THE TRAGEDY
OF JULIUS CAESAR**

Heath's English Classics

THE TRAGEDY
OF
JULIUS CÆSAR

EDITED BY
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BOSTON, U. S. A.
D. C. HEATH & CO., PUBLISHERS
1896

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Handwritten note:
I have received from
the Director of the Department of
Education

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. Aesthetic 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 the several Editors on that of the *Globe* edition: the only omissions made are those that are unavoidable in an edition likely to be used by young students.

By the systematic arrangement of the introductory matter, and by close attention to typographical details, every effort has been made to provide an edition that will prove convenient in use.

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15

16

17

18

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CONTENTS.

	Page
GENERAL PREFACE, - - - - -	3
INTRODUCTION, - - - - -	5
DRAMATIS PERSONAE, - - - - -	20
JULIUS CÆSAR, - - - - -	21
NOTES, - - - - -	84
APPENDIX A.—OUTLINE OF SHAKESPEARE'S PROSODY, 127	
APPENDIX B.—HISTORICAL OUTLINES, - - -	134
GLOSSARY, - - - - -	137
GENERAL INDEX, - - - - -	144

4

200

20

10

5

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20

10 20 30

• 20 30

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INTRODUCTION.

I. LITERARY HISTORY OF THE PLAY.

THE earliest known edition of *Julius Cæsar* is that of the *First Folio*, 1623, in which the plays were for the first time collected. We have no knowledge of the text on which it was based; but the passages which show distinct signs of corruption are few: the readings are rarely open to serious question.

The means of settling the date when the play was written are to be found (1) in references to it, or in parallel passages, in contemporary writers; (2) in phrases here and there in the play which point to some particular period; (3) and in characteristics of scansion, construction, or thought, marking the particular phase of the author's development.

(1) A passage is quoted from Drayton's *Barons' Wars*, 1603, a revised edition of his *Mortimeriados*—

"In whome, in peace, the elements all lay
So mixt," &c.

which bears an obvious resemblance to Shakespeare's

"His life was gentle, and the elements
So mixed in him," &c.

If one of the two authors was borrowing from the other, the borrower was more probably Drayton; but it is quite as probable that the case is merely one of coincidence, and really proves nothing.

But in Weever's *Mirror of Martyrs*, 1601, are the lines—

"The many-headed multitude were drawne
By Brutus' speech, that Cæsar was ambitious.
When eloquent Mark Antonie had shewne
His vertues, who but Brutus then was vicious?"