

**THE WORKS OF  
SHAKESPEARE.  
MEASURE FOR MEASURE**

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The Works of Shakespeare. Measure for Measure by H. C. Hart & W. J. Craig

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**H. C. HART & W. J. CRAIG**

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SHAKESPEARE.  
MEASURE FOR MEASURE**



THE ARDEN SHAKESPEARE  
GENERAL EDITOR: W. J. CRAIG

MEASURE FOR MEASURE

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**THE WORKS**  
**OF**  
**SHAKESPEARE**

**MEASURE FOR MEASURE**

**EDITED BY**

**H. C. HART**



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## INTRODUCTION

THE earliest text of *Measure for Measure* is that of the 1623, or First Folio. Thus it was not printed in Shakespeare's lifetime, nor have we any early quarto edition to come to our aid in textual difficulties.

The date of production of the play is somewhat doubtful. It is usually placed at 1603-1604, immediately after the accession of James I. to the throne, from the following considerations.

There is a memorandum of plays performed at Court in 1604 and 1605, among Malone's manuscripts in the Bodleian Library, which was obviously derived from authentic documents that existed in his time at the Audit Office in Somerset House. After Malone's death these documents were removed to the Public Record Office with other Audit Office papers, presumably, but they cannot now be traced. This memorandum gives the date of production as December 26, 1604.

There is an entry in Cunningham's Extracts from *The Revelles Book* (Shaks. Soc., 1842, p. 204) which is on the same footing as one relating to *Othello* (see my Introduction to that play), and which is a forgery, but is probably based on correct information, from Malone's researches. The entry is:

By his Ma<sup>ties</sup> plaiers. On St. Stiuens Night in the Hall  
A Play. Shaxberd. Called Mesure for Mesure.

These entries range from the last of October 1604 to the last of October 1605. The above date is accepted by Professor Ward, and by Sidney Lee. Malone believed the play to have been written in 1603.