

**THE INFLUENCE OF
MOLIÈRE ON
RESTORATION COMEDY**

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The Influence of Molière on Restoration Comedy by Dudley Howe Miles

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DUDLEY HOWE MILES

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THIS monograph has been recommended by the Department of Comparative Literature as a contribution to the literature of the subject worthy of publication.

J. B. FLETCHER,

Professor of Comparative Literature.

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ON
RESTORATION COMEDY

BY

DUDLEY HOWE MILES, PH.D.



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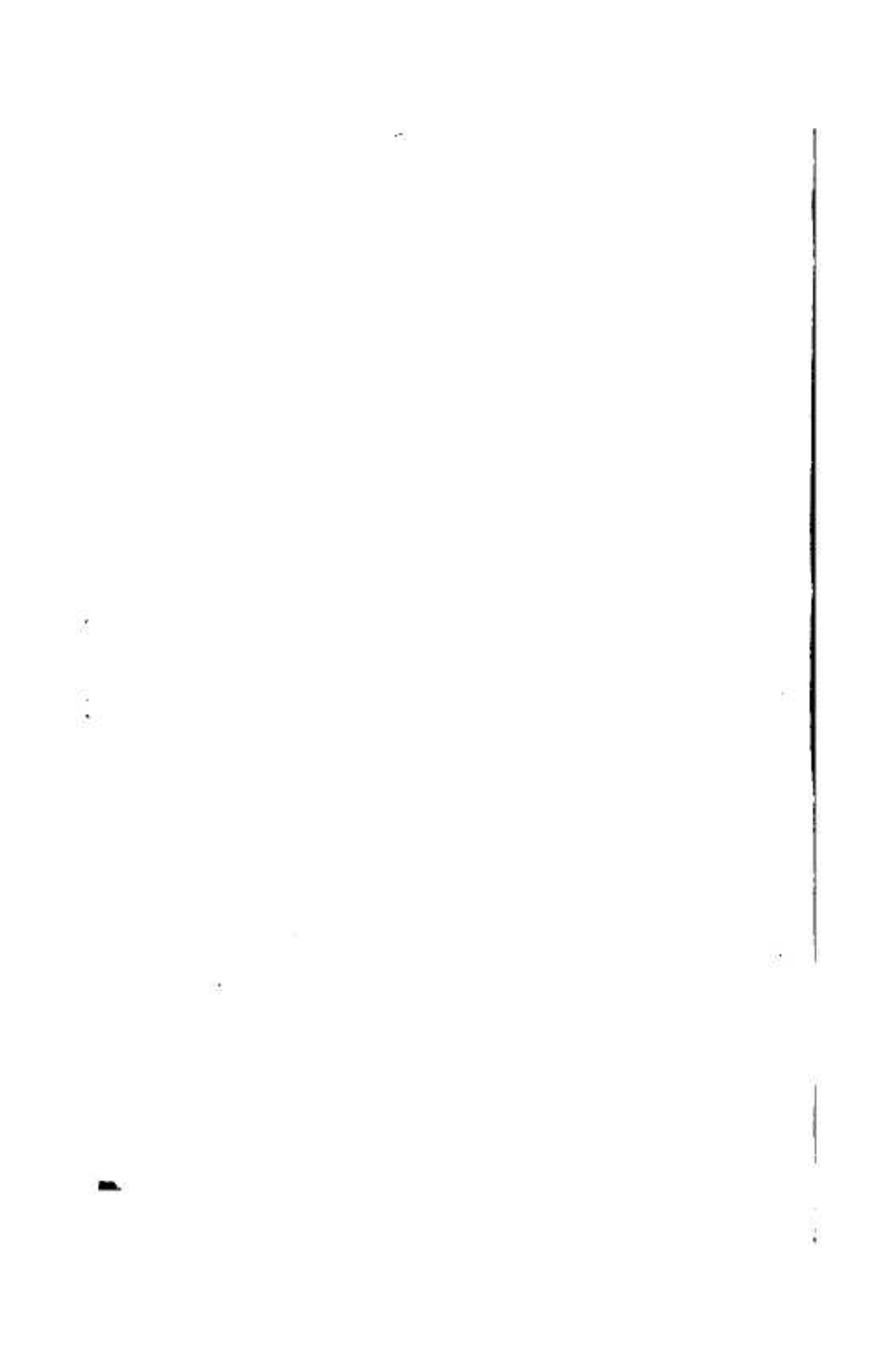
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TO
THE MEMORY OF
MY MOTHER

321866



PREFACE

THIS essay in comparative literature attempts to determine the nature and extent of the influence exerted by Molière on English comedy from 1660 to 1700. Its purpose is not so much to identify particular cases of indebtedness to the French master as to study the general features of his influence on the art and outlook of the period. I shall be gratified if it contributes in any way to a better understanding of Restoration comedy, or to a more extended appreciation of the greatest comic genius of France.

The book in its present form is the outcome of a series of studies of individual writers, begun some years ago at the University of Chicago and carried out in an effort to approach the scientific accuracy and thoroughness for which Dr. J. M. Manly is so well known. I have therefore examined nearly every Restoration comedy that was accessible to me. The results, indicated in the appendix, represent

my personal opinion after careful deliberation over doubtful points. Those who have preceded me in the field have relied so largely on second-hand information or have been so much carried away by the desire of establishing indebtedness that a searching personal investigation was prerequisite to any safe generalizations. I do not pretend to have discovered every trace of influence in the period, but I think so few direct borrowings have escaped me that my results are a basis for valid induction.

In mechanical details the volume conforms to the series in which it appears. I have tried to make quotations exact, but without reproducing peculiarities in the use of italics, small capitals, and similar matters. Full titles to all references in the notes will be found in the bibliography.

In the preparation of the work I have contracted many obligations: to Professor Myra Reynolds of the University of Chicago for starting me on the subject; to Dr. J. M. Manly for generous advice and criticism; to Mr. A. E. Hill of the English Library of the University of Chicago, to Mrs. Margaret McKennon, Librarian of Southwestern University, to the librarians and attendants of Har-