

**YALE STUDIES IN ENGLISH: XXIX.
THE DEVIL IS AN ASS. EDITED
WITH INTRODUCTION, NOTES
AND GLOSSARY BY WILLIAM
SAVAGE JOHNSON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649561544

Yale Studies in English: XXIX. The Devil Is an Ass. Edited with Introduction, Notes and Glossary by William Savage Johnson by Ben Jonson & William Savage Johnson & Albert S. Cook

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BEN JONSON & WILLIAM SAVAGE JOHNSON & ALBERT S. COOK

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YALE STUDIES IN ENGLISH

ALBERT S. COOK, EDITOR

XXIX

THE DEVIL IS AN ASS

BY

BEN JONSON

Edited with Introduction, Notes, and Glossary

BY

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A Thesis presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of Yale University
in Candidacy for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy



NEW YORK
HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY

1905

E. H.

TO MY MOTHER

PREFACE

In *The Devil is an Ass* Jonson may be studied, first, as a student; secondly, as an observer. Separated by only two years from the preceding play, *Bartholomew Fair*, and by nine from the following, *The Staple of News*, the present play marks the close of an epoch in the poet's life, the period of his vigorous maturity. Its relations with the plays of his earlier periods are therefore of especial interest.

The results of the present editor's study of these and other literary connections are presented, partly in the Notes, and partly in the Introduction to this book. After the discussion of the purely technical problems in Sections A and B, the larger features are taken up in Section C, I and II. These involve a study of the author's indebtedness to English, Italian, and classical sources, and especially to the early English drama; as well as of his own dramatic methods in previous plays. The more minute relations to contemporary dramatists and to his own former work, especially in regard to current words and phrases, are dealt with in the Notes.

As an observer, Jonson appears as a student of London, and a satirist of its manners and vices; and, in a broader way, as a critic of contemporary England. The life and aspect of London are treated, for the most part, in the Notes; the issues of state involved in Jonson's satire are presented in historical discussions in Section C, III. Personal satire is treated in the division following.

I desire to express my sincere thanks to Professor Albert S. Cook for advice in matters of form and for inspiration in the work; to Professor Henry A. Beers for painstaking discussion of difficult questions; to Dr. De Winter for help and criticism; to Dr. John M. Berdan for the privilege of consulting his copy of the Folio; to

Mr. Andrew Keogh and to Mr. Henry A. Gruener, for aid in bibliographical matters; and to Professor George L. Burr for the loan of books from the Cornell Library.

A portion of the expense of printing this book has been borne by the Modern Language Club of Yale University from funds placed at its disposal by the generosity of Mr. George E. Dimock of Elizabeth, New Jersey, a graduate of Yale in the Class of 1874.

W. S. J.

YALE UNIVERSITY,
August 30, 1905.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	PAGE
A. EDITIONS OF THE TEXT	xi
B. DATE AND PRESENTATION	xvii
C. THE DEVIL IS AN ASS	xix
I. THE DEVIL PLOT	xx
1. The Devil in the pre-Shakespearian Drama	xxii
2. Jonson's Treatment of the Devil	xxiii
3. The Influence of Robin Goodfellow and of Popular Legend	xxvi
4. Friar Rush and Dekker	xxvii
5. The Novella of <i>Belfagor</i> and the Comedy of <i>Grim</i>	xxx
6. Summary	xxxiv
7. The Figure of the Vice	xxxiv
8. Jonson's Use of the Vice	xxxvii
II. THE SATIRICAL DRAMA	xli
1. General Treatment of the Plot	xli
2. Chief Sources of the Plot	xlvi
3. Prototypes of the leading Characters	lii
4. Minor Sources	liii

III. SPECIFIC OBJECTS OF SATIRE	liv
1. The Duello	liv
2. The Monopoly System	lviii
3. Witchcraft	lxii
IV. PERSONAL SATIRE	lxv
Mrs. Fitzdottrel	lxvi
Fitzdottrel	lxx
Wittipol	lxxi
Justice Eitherside	lxxi
Merecraft	lxxii
Plutarchus Guilthead	lxxiii
The Noble House	lxxiv
D. AFTER-INFLUENCE OF THE DEVIL IS AN ASS	lxxiv
APPENDIX—EXTRACTS FROM THE CRITICS	lxxvi
TEXT	I
NOTES	123
GLOSSARY	213
BIBLIOGRAPHY	237
INDEX	243