# BARTHOLOMEW FAIR, VOL. XXV

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Bartholomew Fair, Vol. XXV by Ben Jonson & Carroll Storrs Alden & Albert S. Cook

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# BARTHOLOMEW FAIR, VOL. XXV



## YALE STUDIES IN ENGLISH

ALBERT S. COOK, EDITOR

### XXV

## BARTHOLOMEW FAIR

BY

BEN JONSON

EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION, NOTES, AND GLOSSARY

BY

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NEW YORK
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1904

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#### PREFACE

Bartholomew Fair has a twofold interest. It furnishes a picture, inimitable in its varied realism, of one of the most characteristic scenes of Elizabethan London. It also reflects not a little the personality of Jonson as he moved, a man among men, and enjoyed to the full the rough, hearty life of the middle and lower classes of the metropolis. Consequently, though the play is not artistic in the highest sense, and is avowedly light in character, it holds a place of importance in Jonson's work and in the Elizabethan drama.

Of the playwrights of his time, Jonson especially made London his province; and of all his plays Bartholomew Fair is the most local in atmosphere. This quality, though constituting the chief excellence of the comedy, is to-day the greatest hindrance to an intelligent appreciation of it. Accordingly, in the Introduction and the Notes I have dwelt particularly on what concerned the life and thought of the people. In such a study contemporary literature, as well as later scholarship, is of course invaluable, and much of the Introduction and Notes will be found to be but a restatement, and a bringing together, of what is not new, nor altogether unfamiliar. My aim has been to present data of unquestionable authority, and to make easy of access

materials which will assist the scholar to enter into the spirit of London and of the Smithfield Fair at the time of our play.

A portion of the expense of printing this thesis 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.

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## INTRODUCTION

### I. EDITIONS OF THE TEXT.

The only edition of Bartholomew Fair of real importance is that of the second volume of the first folio of Jonson's Works, the title-pages in which are dated 1631, 1640, or 1641. This volume has caused not a little confusion to scholars, because it is made up of several parts originally designed for separate sale, and variously arranged in different copies. Thus Miss Bates in her English Drama¹ gives the date of the second volume of the first folio as 1631, reprinted in 1640, and again in 1641; and Ward in his History of the English Drama² gives the same. But Brinsley Nicholson,³ after a careful collation, comes to the conclusion that although title-pages in different copies vary, and certain minor dissimilarities occur, these three volumes belong to the same edition. Hazlitt⁴ re-affirms this.

As the copy of the Yale Library on which the present work is based differs in several particulars from the copies collated by Nicholson and Hazlitt, it has seemed worth while to give a somewhat detailed collation.

There is no general title-page, although in some copies that of the first volume of the 1640 folio is inserted.\*

Folio. Signatures in fours.

1. Bartholomew Fair has a title-page as follows:

BARTHOLMEW | FAYRE: | A COMEDIE, | ACTED IN THE | YEARE, 1614. | By the Lady ELIZABETHS | SERVANTS. | And then dedicated

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> p. 78.

<sup>2. 296.</sup> 

<sup>\*</sup> Notes and Queries, 4th Series, 5. 573.

<sup>\*</sup>Bibliographical Collections and Notes (1882), 320.

<sup>\*</sup>Cf. Hazlitt.