

**BODENHAM'S
BELVEDÈRE: OR, THE
GARDEN OF THE MUSES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649075638

Bodenham's Belvédère: Or, the Garden of the Muses by John Bodenham

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Cover @ 2017

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JOHN BODENHAM

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REPRINTED FROM THE ORIGINAL EDITION OF
1600

PRINTED FOR THE SPENSER SOCIETY

1875



PRINTED BY CHARLES SIMMS,
MANCHESTER.

INTRODUCTORY NOTICE.

BODENHAM'S *Belvédère, or Garden of the Muses*, may be said to be the last of the series of early poetical collections, extending from Tottel's *Miscellany* to Davison's *Poetical Rhapsody* which remains to be reprinted, and accordingly, as promised in the preface to Kendall's *Flowers*, it forms the subject of the present issue. Notwithstanding the amusing attack of the witty author or authors of *Returne from Parnassus*, and the disparaging remark of the excellent editor of the edition of Dodsley's *Plays*, now in progress (see note, vol. ix. p. 111), it is conceived that it possesses sufficient interest and attraction to be worthy of a place in the series above referred to, and in which it may be taken as a fitting introduction to Bodenham's next poetical collection, the charming *England's Helicon*. The limitation of the extracts to one and two lines may perhaps give it too uniformly axiomatic a character for continuous reading; but the praise of *Belvédère* by the editor's elegant panegyrist A. B., in

the lines prefixed to the second work, was surely, on the whole, not undeserved :

" In the Muses Garden gathering flowers
Thou mad'st a nosegay as was never sweeter,
Whose sent will savour to Time's latest howres,
And for the greatest Prince no Poesie meeter."

The address "to the Reader," omitted, for what reason it is hard to conjecture, in the second edition, which enumerates the authors from whom the extracts were made, has a peculiar value in its connection with the history of Elizabethan poetry, and will always be read with pleasure. To trace back to each author on the list the lines in the following collection, which he might have claimed as his property, would be no easy task even to those most conversant with our early poetry. It is, however, sufficiently obvious on the most cursory perusal of the book, that amongst the writers whom he laid under most frequent contribution, Shakespere, Spenser, Marlowe and Daniel have, at all events, not been neglected.

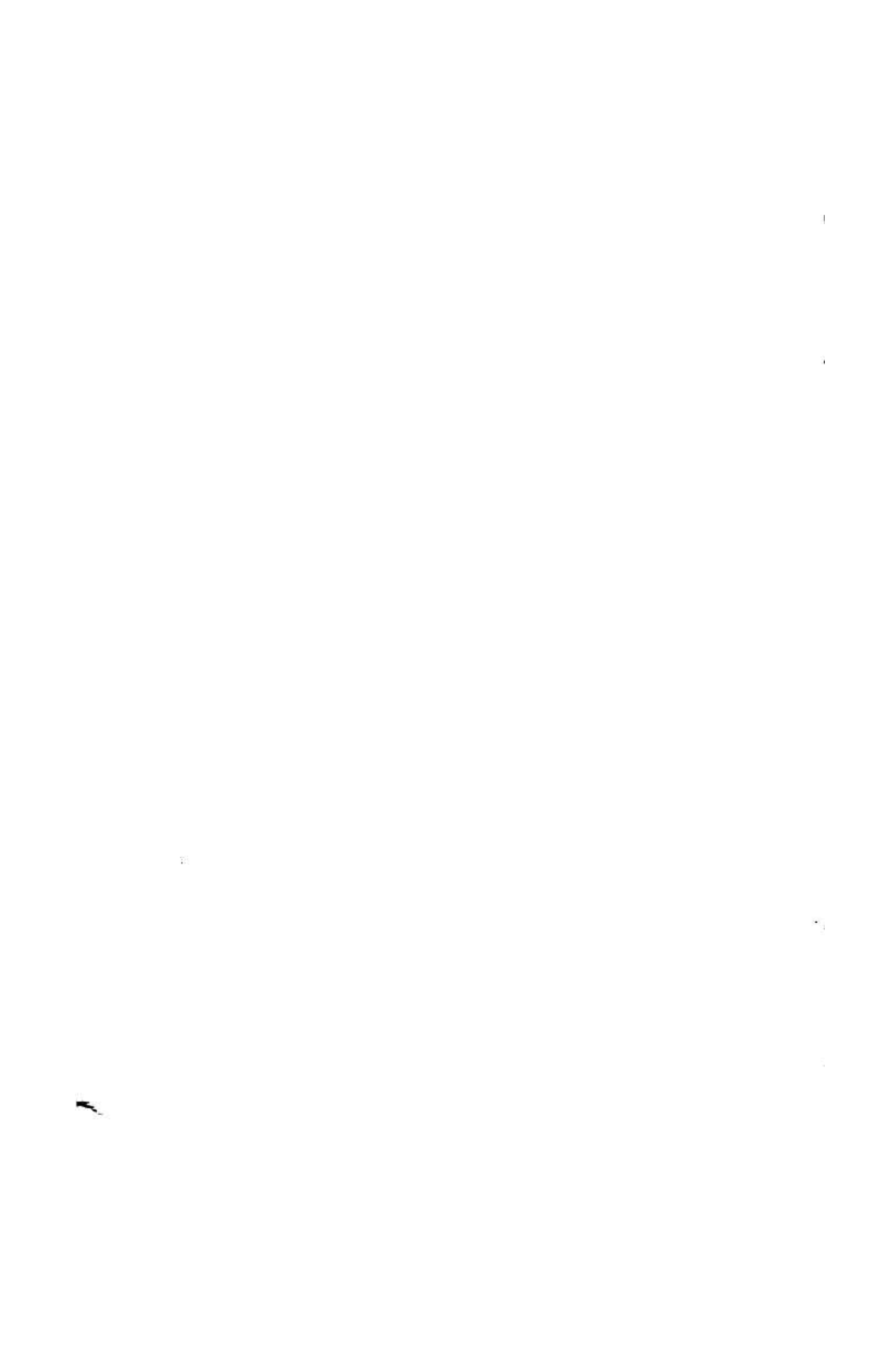
Of John Bodenham, whose merits as a literary collector and compiler were considerable, nothing positively seems to be known beyond the fact of his being the editor of *Politeuphuia, Wil's Commonwealth* 1598, *Wil's Theatre of the Little World* 1599, *Belvedere* 1600, and *England's Helicon* 1600.

The sonnet addressed "to the Vniuersitie of Oxenford," prefixed to the following work, was probably his own composition, and, if so, tends to prove that he was himself a respectable poet.

Belvédère has been noticed by various critics and bibliographers, references to whom will be found in Mr. Corser's valuable *Collectanea Anglo-Poetica*, part ii. p. 298, where he gives a full and accurate description of the two editions of the work. The second edition appeared under the title of "*The Garden of the Muses. Quem referent Musæ viuet dum robora tellus, Dum cœlum stellas, dum vehet amnis aquas.*" Printed at London by E. A. for John Tap, and are to be sold at his shop at Saint Magnus corner, 1610." Sm. 8vo, pp. 260. The type appears to be the same as that used in the first edition, but the book is contained in fewer pages. The result of a careful collation of the two editions, which is given afterwards, serves to show that, with frequent differences in the spelling, there are no material variations in the text besides the omission in the second edition of the address "to the Reader," and the addition therein of two lines, in laudation of queen Elizabeth, not contained in the first.

The members are indebted to R. F. Ainsworth, esq., M.D., for kindly affording an opportunity of collation by the loan of his beautiful copy of the second edition.

JAS. CROSSLEY,
PRESIDENT.



*The following discrepancies appear in the first
and second editions of Belvedere, published
in 1600 and 1610:*

<i>First Edition.</i>	<i>Second Edition.</i>
<i>To Bodenham:</i> Line 12, friends; l. 13, renouwe; l. 16, hereafter	friend; renouwe; hereafter
<i>Of this Garden of the Muses:</i> l. 3, flowres, shal; l. 4, find; l. 10, sents; l. 12, comprize	flowers, shall; finde; sent; comprize
<i>Sonnet to the Muses Garden:</i> l. 2, sweets; l. 4, honey; l. 6, echoes; l. 10, flowres; phyticke; l. 14, sickneffe, mind; l. 15, find; l. 16, thee; l. 19, heart; l. 20, thee; l. 22, mind	twoets; hony; echo; flowers; phiticke; sicknes, minde; finde; she; heatt; she; minde
<i>Of the Booke:</i> l. 3, honey; l. 6, trophee	hony; trophees
<i>To Cambridge:</i> l. 1, vniuersitie; l. 6, mayst; l. 8, flowres; l. 9, plentie; l. 10, attyre, bir, watry; l. 12, daintie; l. 16, gloric	vniuersity; maist; flowers; plenty; attire, her, watery; dainty; glory
<i>To Osenford:</i> l. 1, vniuersitie; l. 3, nurserie; l. 6, happie; l. 8, suck't, homie; l. 10, yeelde, wood; l. 11, supple; l. 15, ne're, dye; l. 16, worlds, they	vniuersity; nurserie; happy; suckt, hony; yeeld, word; supple; ne'r'e, die; world, it
Page 1: Line 6, weight; l. 7, abundance; l. 8, daungerous; l. 15, patient; l. 19, dare	weight; abundance; dangerous; patient; dares
P. 2: l. 3, gifts; l. 5, exceed; l. 13, helpe; l. 14, mercie; l. 17, foone, down; l. 18, quickly; l. 32, dwell	gifts; excede; help; mercy; foone, downe; quickely; dwell
P. 4: l. 4, decay; l. 11, afterward	decay; afterwards
P. 5: l. 17, habitation	habitation
P. 6: l. 5, lampe; l. 7, we; l. 10, follie; l. 14, wherwith; l. 30, fun	lamps; we; folly; wherewith; funne
P. 7: l. 1, lawes; l. 5, in; l. 15, for; l. 16, clothes; l. 20, excells; l. 21, brightneffe	lawe; to; the; cloth; excels; brightnes
P. 8: l. 5, iron walls; l. 19, alwayes	iron wals, alwayes
P. 9: l. 10, worldly; l. 21, shew; l. 24, truly; l. 28, loden; l. 33, fenc'd	worldy; shewe; truly; loden; fenc'd
P. 10: l. 5, despaire, kills; l. 12, walls; l. 23, emplot'd	despaire, kills; walles; implou'd
P. 11: l. 3, embrace; l. 5, make; l. 6, clarks; l. 9, vnspotted; l. 11, feldome	embrace; makes; clarks; vnspotted; fildome
P. 12: l. 17, only	onely
P. 13: l. 15, knowledge	knowledg
P. 14: l. 5, holds; l. 8, truly; l. 14, find a straunger iust; l. 20, aid; l. 27, vpon; l. 32, thee	holdes; truly; finde a straunger to be iust; ayde; vpon; she
P. 15: l. 10, here; l. 11, suite; l. 13, neither; l. 25, hurt	heare; suite; nither; hurts