A STUDY OF THE PROLOGUE AND EPILOGUE IN ENGLISH LITERATURE, FROM SHAKESPEARE TO DRYDEN

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649065653

A Study of the Prologue and Epilogue in English Literature, from Shakespeare to Dryden by G. S. B.

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

G. S. B.

A STUDY OF THE PROLOGUE AND EPILOGUE IN ENGLISH LITERATURE, FROM SHAKESPEARE TO DRYDEN

Trieste

A STUDY OF THE PROLOGUE AND EPILOGUE IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

्रम्

- 92

3

8.00 98

64°

FROM SHAKESPEARE TO DRYDEN

A STUDY

OF THE

25

PROLOGUE AND EPILOGUE IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

FROM SHAKESPEARE TO DRYDEN

вч G. S. B.

L O N D O N KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH & CO., 1, PATERNOSTER SQUARE 1884

267. e. 4.



(The rights of translation and of reproduction are reserved.)

÷2

•

23

PREFACE.

THIS little volume contains the substance (considerably enlarged and carefully revised) of five articles contributed to a monthly periodical. Though the outcome of vacation moments, it will, I hope, be found to represent a thorough investigation of the subject, so far as it extends. I shall be well pleased, if the facts collected and opinions arrived at during my excursion through a not uninteresting by-way of literature should hereafter prove useful to writers undertaking more ambitious researches into the wider domains of dramatic or social history, and still more if they should succeed in affording occasional entertainment to the general reader.

G. S. B.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER L.

PAGE

CHAPTER II.

The various matters with which the prologue and epilogue dealt— Description of the play—Commendation of the author—Abuse of rival authors—Prologues written by veterans for the first plays of young poets—Prologues by or on behalf of actor-authors— "Lacy's fiddle"—Ben Jonson's prologues attacking Shakespeare, Dekker, etc.—Dekker's counterblasts—Dryden's prologues in justification of theories of dramatic composition—His abandonment of the rhymed couplet—"Love and Honour" plays—Spanish plots of domestic intrigue—References in prologues and epilogues to excessive scenic embellishments; to the opera; to Jeremy Collier; to Sir Richard Blackmore—Dryden's recantation … 34

34

CHAPTER III.

Epilogues depart from their primitive intention—*The Rehearsal* on the prologues and epilogues of "Poet Bayes "—Prologues acquire an independent status—Prologues printed separately—Prologues

CONTENTS.

reviling the actors-Ben Jonson and the actors of his plays-Ravenscroft-Dryden's and Massinger's indulgence to the players, as expressed in their prologues-Heywood's prologue on Marlowe and "sweet Ned Alleyn "-The revival of The Jew of Malta-Audiences as subjects of prologues-Massinger's deference to them -Ben Jonson's contempt and vilificatory prologues-George Peele -Dryden's view : "A civil prologue is approved by no man "-His open abuse of his audience's ignorance and want of taste-Various classes of playgoers ridiculed and denounced in prologues of Ben Jonson, Jasper Mayne, and Dryden-The "Hectors of the pit "-The "tavern-wits "-The "civet-wit"-" Tom Dove's brotherhood "-Abuse of the censors and critics; of the coldly applauding gallants-Appeals to the "judging few "-Professional damnation of plays-Denunciation of " prattlers" in the audience-Critics compared by Dryden in various prologues to thieves turned hangmen; to butchers excluded from a jury; to scriveners; to wolves; to bankrupt gamesters; to vultures; to fleas; to locusts; and to whips-Middleton and Heywood on critics-"Court bespeaks "-Prologues at court: "to the King and Queen "-Heywood, Jasper Mayne, and Massinger's prologues and epilogues "at Whitehall "-The "town" and "the city" contrasted in prologues; also London and the Universities-Dryden and Oxford audiences : "Oxford to him a dearer name shall be, than his own mother-university"-The "Athenian judges " ... 1.00 140

65

PAGE

CHAPTER IV.

Information as to stage-usages contained in prologues and epilogues— The various parts of the theatre, and their respective tenants— Allusions to the tariff of the playhouse—The "sinful sixpenny mechanics"—The "twopenny gallery"—The "scaffolders"—The stools on the stage—The "yard"—The "understanding gentlemen of the ground "—The "private room"—The half-crown pit of the Restoration—Allusions to the curtain—The "Naples silk" of the "Red Bull"; "Banding tile and pear" against it "to allure the actors "—The curtain before the stage-balcony—The "three blasts of the trumpet" summoning the "quaking Prologue"—The incidental music—The duration of a play—The "two hours" traffic of our stage "—Allusions in prologues and epilogues to the

х