

**MASQUES AND DANCES,  
BOOK II: THE  
GARDEN OF MANY  
WATERS, A MASQUE**

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Masques and dances, Book II: The Garden of many waters, a masque by A. M. Buckton

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**A. M. BUCKTON**

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## Masques and Dances

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### SECOND BOOK

## THE GARDEN OF MANY WATERS

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BY THE SAME AUTHOR

THROUGH HUMAN EYES  
THE BURDEN OF ENGELA  
A BALLAD-EPIC

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST  
A MASQUE

THE PASTOR OF WYDON FELL  
A BALLAD

KINGS IN BABYLON  
A DRAMA

EAGER HEART  
A CHRISTMAS MYSTERY PLAY

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# The Garden of Many Waters

El Masque

BY

A. M. BUCKTON

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ELKIN MATHEWS, VIGO STREET

1907

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JULY 6TH, 1906.



# The Garden of Many Waters

## A MASQUE

TIME: *Morning*

PLACE: *A Garden*

**STAGE:** *Lower stage—some two feet high, three or four feet deep, and twenty feet or more wide. Upper stage—one or two steps higher, and about fourteen feet deep. Of this depth, about three feet are screened off along the whole width of stage by curtains which draw to either side by invisible cords over pulleys, leaving a central gap of some six or seven feet, to discover the closing picture. These curtains are also so hung as to divide in two other places, and to allow entrance from the back on to the upper stage—about three feet off the end on either side.*

*Water flows in three divergent streams from a fern-grown gold-fish bowl (at back centre of upper stage). The streams can be indicated by use of blue and white chalk in curves on the floorcloth. Pebbles may be placed in them.*

*Central steps go up from the floor of the hall to the lower stage—the steps are surrounded with growing plants, ferns, and flowers of*

one or two colours. Trailing ivy outlines this stage. A clump of tall white lilies growing in pots on left among greenery is balanced by one large bay tree, in tub, at right corner of lower stage. Two smaller bay trees, in tubs, stand on upper stage, marking the limits of the parting curtain when disclosing the last scene: all bay trees have a few red-checked apples tied on the twigs. A beehive half hid in vine leaves, or other greenery, is seen under the small bay tree on the left. Clusters of opening water lilies and green leaves lie in groups in the track of the streams, and particularly on the edge, where the waters drip over from the higher to the lower stage, and are lost in ferns.

**LIGHTING:** One lime-light (central) from back of hall is usually sufficient. In a large hall two lights are better, placed at sides of walls.

**COLOUR:** Before play begins a pale blue light is over the scene; this to change during Prelude to sunlight amber. (The make-up of the players must be delicate and of the slightest: a little vaseline and pink powder and a little rouge are sufficient; but it is imperative that the hands and arms, where bare, should be well whitened with "wet white" or "grease paint.")

**VOICES:** The speaking must be low and clear, and full of inflexion; and great attention be paid to the final consonants.

**DRESSES** should be plainly draped, of sober tints and of the same fashion throughout, relieved by jewels and worked girdles.\*

The Masque may suitably be given in a Garden.

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\* The above recommendations are made for the sake of young producers.

### Personages

**THE SPIRIT OF THE HOUR**, in white and silver tunic, sandalled, with small wings sprouting on shoulders, bearing gold wand.

Two **CHILDREN**, boy and girl, in simple holland or other short dress, girdled, bearing watering-pot, gardening tools, scissors, bast, beans and other large seeds; also five folded packets of seed in a basket.

**HUSBANDRY**, bearing a crook, and sheaf of wheat and barley on right arm.

**HANDICRAFT**, bearing a distaff in right hand, a small hammer, copper pot, and strips of leather hanging from girdle.

**COMMERCE**, bearing a ship with a large sail on left arm.

**SCIENCE**, bearing a pair of balances in right hand, long (sculptor's) calipers hanging to girdle.

**LAW**, bearing a scroll with hanging seal in left hand.

**POETRY**, bearing a lyre, or psaltery, on the left hip.

**PHILOSOPHY**, bearing a large crystal ball, or abacus or astrolabe, in left hand.

*For closing picture :*

**PEASANT FATHER**, in rough dress, bearing spade and hay rake over shoulder.

**MOTHER**, in simple Puritan dress and cap, sitting at her spinning wheel, distaff in hand, and rocking a child in wooden cradle with her foot.

Two mute Attendants, or Amazons, to guard the stage at corners, in hunting dress and buskins, bearing spears or partisans, wreathed in laurel and olive boughs, which are bound up with a golden sickle and ears of corn.

Unseen singers and small string orchestra.

*NOTE.*—Most, if not all, of the above can be represented by players of either sex.