

**THE FAIRE MAIDE OF BRISTOW:
A COMEDY NOW FIRST
REPRINTED FROM THE QUARTO
OF 1605, VOL. VIII, NO. I**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649421671

The Faire Maide of Bristow: A Comedy Now First Reprinted from the Quarto of 1605, Vol. VIII,
No. I by Arthur Hobson Quinn

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

ARTHUR HOBSON QUINN

**THE FAIRE MAIDE OF BRISTOW:
A COMEDY NOW FIRST
REPRINTED FROM THE QUARTO
OF 1605, VOL. VIII, NO. I**

Publications

OF THE

University of Pennsylvania—

SERIES IN

Philology and Literature

VOL. VIII. No. 1

THE FAIRE MAIDE OF BRISTOW

A COMEDY

NOW FIRST REPRINTED FROM THE QUARTO OF 1605

EDITED WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

ARTHUR HOBSON QUINN

Instructor in English, University of Pennsylvania

Published for the University

PHILADELPHIA

1902

GINN & Co., Selling Agents, Tremont Place, Boston, Mass.

PREFACE.

The editing of this play was undertaken at the suggestion of Professor Josef Schick, of the University of Munich. The translation into German by Ludwig Tieck had appeared in the *Shakespeare Jahrbuch* and it seemed only fitting that the English original should also be published. Circumstances forbade the completion of the work at that time and it was resumed, after my return to this country, under the direction of Professor Schelling, in partial fulfillment of the required work in the Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania.

It is with particular pleasure that I am able to thank, at the same time, my two teachers, Professor Schelling and Professor Schick, for their invaluable counsel and friendly interest. My thanks are also due for helpful suggestions to my colleagues, Professor Clarence G. Child and Professor Hugo A. Rennert, and to my fellow-student in Munich, Professor O. F. Lewis, of the University of Maine. Professor Child very kindly made the index. For my conclusions as to the source and authorship of the play, I am alone responsible.

University of Pennsylvania, May, 1902.

INTRODUCTION.

(s)

I.

The Faire Maide of Bristow was published anonymously by Thomas Pavyer in 1605. No attempt has since been made either to edit the play or to fix the responsibility for its authorship, if we except Collier's surmises with regard to John Day. It has been mentioned in the usual places,¹ Mr. Bullen, Mr. Fleay and Mr. Ward denying Day's claim to authorship, and in Herr Bolte's edition² of Tieck's translation of the play, there is a description of the English original and some speculations in regard to the sources.

The *Stationers' Register*,³ under the date of February eighth, 1605, contains the following entry :

"Thomas Pavyer. Entred for his copy under th[e h]andes
"of the Wardens. A commedy called '*the fayre Mayd of Bristoe*'
"played at Hampton Court by his Maiesties players."

¹ *An Account of the English Dramatick Poets, etc.* Gerard Langbaine. Oxford, 1691. Page 531.

Biographia Dramatica. Baker-Reed-Jones. 1812. Vol. II, p. 211.

History of English Dramatic Poetry. J. P. Collier. 1831. Vol. III, p. 50; also *The Diary of Philip Henslowe*, 1845, p. 220, in the Shakespeare Society's Publications.

A Manual for the Collector and Amateur of Old English Plays. W. Carew Hazlitt. 1892. Page 79.

The Works of John Day. Edited by A. H. Bullen. 1881. Page 10.

A Biographical Chronicle of the English Drama. F. G. Fleay. 1891. Vol. II, p. 329.

A History of English Dramatic Literature. A. W. Ward. Ed. 1899. Vol. II, pp. 219 and 591.

The English Chronicle Play. F. E. Schelling. 1902. Page 171.

² *Shakespeare Jahrbuch.* Jahrgang XXXI. 1895. Page 126.

³ *A Transcript of the Registers of the Company of Stationers of London.* Edited by Edward Arber. 1876. Vol. III, p. 120.

As Mr. Fleay points out, the King was at Hampton Court early in October, 1604, so that we may reasonably conclude that the first performance took place at this time, and as the winter home of the King's company during this period was the Blackfriars' Theater, it seems probable that this was the place where the comedy, if it proved popular, was afterward acted.

There are at present three copies of the play extant. The present edition is based on one of the original quartos of 1605, which is now in the British Museum. It consists of forty-two unnumbered pages and is printed in black letter, the names of the characters being printed in Roman type. There is no list of persons in the play, the scenes are not divided, and there are no stage directions, except the entrances and exits.

Another quarto is in the Bodleian Library at Oxford and there is also, in the Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin, a manuscript copy which Tieck had made for his own use in translation. This has been well and carefully copied, and to all intents and purposes is an exact reproduction of the original, except that the play has been divided into scenes and the capitalization has been somewhat altered.

II.

The first mention of a source for *The Faire Maide of Bristow* was made by Collier in 1847 in his edition of the *Roxburghe Ballads*,¹ where in a note to *Maudlin, the Merchant's Daughter of Bristol*, he says:

"We might suppose from the title that Day's play 'The Fair Maid of Bristow' 1605, was founded on this ballad; but such is not the case, although it is probable that the striking incidents of it were dramatized at the time."

Notwithstanding this explicit denial of any connection between the ballad and the drama, Herr Bolte has devoted

¹ *A Book of Roxburghe Ballads*. J. Payne Collier. 1847. Page 335.