

**THE WORKS OF
SHAKESPEARE: LOVE'S
LABOUR'S LOST. THE
ARDEN SHAKESPEARE**

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The Works of Shakespeare: Love's Labour's Lost. The Arden Shakespeare by William Shakespeare & H. C. Hart & W. J. Craig

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & H. C. HART & W. J. CRAIG

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THE ARDEN SHAKESPEARE
GENERAL EDITOR: W. J. CRAIG

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST .

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THE WORKS
OF
SHAKESPEARE

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST

EDITED BY

H. C. HART



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INTRODUCTION

DATE OF PLAY

Love's Labour's Lost first appeared in print, in Quarto, in 1598, with the following title:—

A | PLEASANT Conceited Comedie | CALLED, | Loues
labors lost. | As it was presented before her Highnes | this
last Christmas. | Newly corrected and augmented | By W.
Shakespere. | [Ornamental device] | Imprinted at London by
W. W. | for Cutbert Burby. | 1598.

Two points may be noticed at once—that this is the earliest play published with Shakespeare's name on the title; and that the words "newly corrected and augmented" seem to imply an earlier edition from which this differs appreciably. They can hardly be held with fairness to refer merely to the manner in which the manuscript or prompter's copy, or copies, had been dealt with. And the corrections and augmentations, we are distinctly told, are by W. Shakespeare.

The next publication of *Love's Labour's Lost* was in the First Folio of 1623, where it is the seventh in order among the comedies. This text is distinguished from the Quarto by a considerable number of mostly unimportant variations generally for the better. These will be dealt with later in the present Introduction. Sidney Lee classes this Quarto amongst those in which "comparatively few faults are visible," in his Introduction to the Folio facsimile. The Folio divides the play into Acts, which is not done in the Quarto. The Folio is the more carefully printed. It is also the most authoritative. In 1631 a second edition of the Quarto was printed from the Folio, "by W. S. for Iohn Smethwicke"; "As it was Acted by