THE BOOK OF SHAKESPEARE, THE PLAYMAKER

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The Book of Shakespeare, the Playmaker by Various

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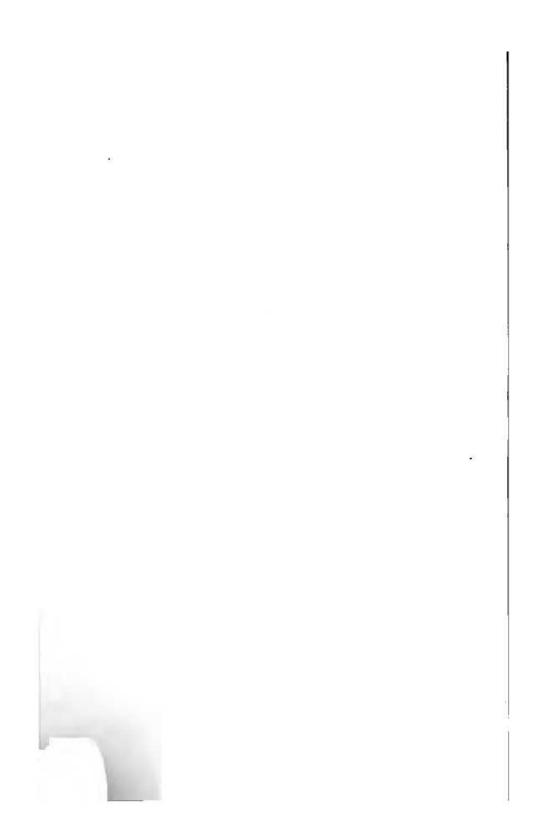
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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

"He was a happy imitator of nature, was a most gentle expresser of it: his mind and hand went together; and what he thought, he uttered with that easiness, that we have scarce received a blot in his paper." John Heminge

From the address of the aditors prefixed to the folio adition of Shakespears, 1923

HENRY CONDEL



THE BOOK OF

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Shakespeare, the Playmaker

WRITTEN IN COLLABORATION BY TWENTY STUDENTS OF

The Aniversity of North Dakota

Under the Direction of PROFESSOR FREDERICK H. KOCH of the Department of English



DESIGNED FOR THE

Shakespeare Tercentenary Commemoration

by

The Bork and Buskin Boriety

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For Presentation at

THE BANKSIDE THEATRE

on the Campus of

The Aniversity of North Dakota

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TO FRANK LE ROND MCVEY PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA with Appreciation and Affection

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Shakespeare, the Playmaker

Commendatory Verses

Prefixed to the First Folio Edition of Shakespeare's Works Published in 1623

"To the memory of my beloved, the author, Master William Shakspeare, and what he hath left us.

Sweet Swan of Avon, what a sight it were To see thee in our waters yet appear, And make those flights upon the banks of Thames, That so did take Eliza and our James! But stay; I see thee in the hemisphere Advanc'd, and made a constellation there: Shine forth thou star of poets, and with rage Or influence chide or cheer our drooping stage; Which, since thy flight from hence, hath mourn'd like night, And despairs day, but for thy volume's light." Ben Jonson

"To the memory of Master W. Shakespeare

We wonder'd, Shakespeare, that thou went'st so soon From the world's stage to the grave's tiring-room: We thought thee dead; but this thy printed worth Tells thy spectators that thou went'st but forth To enter with applause. An actor's art Can die, and live to act a second part: That's but an exit of mortality, This a re-entrance to a plaudite."

I.M. (James Mabbe)

Communal Play Making

Shakespeare, the Playmaker, is a communal masque designed and written by a group of twenty students at the University of North Dakota to commemorate the tercentenary of the death of William Shakespeare.

The idea is original in conception. Perhaps, as our Professor of History exprest it, when it was first suggested, it is "audacious, but thoroly Elizabethan!" Its aim is to suggest, first, something of the earliest efforts of Shakespeare as an unknown craftsman, and the possible beginnings of his "Players' Scenes" of Λ *Midsummer Night's Dream.* It aims, further, to suggest the mature achievement of the playmaker, gathering from returning voyagers wondrous tales of new-found lands beyond the sea, and translating them into a magical play, *The Tempest*—a play embodying the poet's own vision of the new world of America.

In manner of composition, likewise, the idea is original. The same unique plan of communal authorship by which *A Pageant of* the North-West was composed two years ago, has been followed in the preparation of Shakespeare, the Playmaker. It marks another contribution to the new pageantry of the people, and suggests a still further development of coöperative authorship in making community drama. It has reassured us that literary as well as histrionic talent may be cultivated by a group of earnest workers, that not only can the people participate as actors in a community play, but, by collaboration under proper leadership, can actually create a drama democratic—a new art-form of the people, embodying their own interpretation of life.

But this form of democratic composition is not new; it suggests the very beginnings of literature, and foreshadows, perhaps, a revival of native amateur art. It evolves a remarkable working together, and a result enriched with as many viewpoints as there are writers. Most remarkable of all, perhaps, is the artistic unity which may come out of such composite authorship—compelling rhythm of color and sound, of sunlight and shadow, mellowed into poetry, native amateur poetry of genuine appeal.

It may be well for us to remember in our Tercentenary Commemoration that Shakespeare was indeed the consummation of centuries of experimentation by the people, the fulfillment, after all the years, of the amateur spirit in England striving thru generation after generation to perfect itself at length in his timeless poetry.