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LITERATURES. NO. 7. SPANISH  
DRAMA BEFORE LOPE DE VEGA**

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**J. P. WICKERSHAM CRAWFORD**

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No. 7

**SPANISH DRAMA BEFORE  
LOPE DE VEGA**

BY  
**J. P. WICKERSHAM CRAWFORD, Ph.D.**  
PROFESSOR OF ROMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES  
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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DEPARTMENT OF ROMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES  
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to  
**MY WIFE**  
**MAY WICKERSHAM CRAWFORD**  
**THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS AFFECTIONATELY**  
**DEDICATED**





## PREFACE

SEVENTY years have passed since the first appearance of Adolph Friedrich von Schack's *Geschichte der dramatischen Literatur und Kunst in Spanien*, the first part of which was devoted to a study of the predecessors of Lope de Vega, and while many critical studies have been written upon individual dramatists and many plays, not mentioned by Schack, have been discovered and published, no attempt has been made since that time to write a history of the earlier Spanish drama. Limitations of space have prevented me from attempting to write a detailed history of the Spanish drama before Lope de Vega, but I have tried to give at least an outline of the development of dramatic literature in that period. I am fully aware of the fact that the picture which I present is incomplete, but it is my hope that I have succeeded in presenting here the results of the studies of my many predecessors, as well as of my own reading, and that this little book will serve as a starting-point for further investigation in a subject that offers so much of interest.

I have limited myself to a consideration of the drama in the Spanish language, and have, therefore, paid little attention to the plays of that period written in Catalan and Valencian. With considerable regret, I have included only the Castilian plays of Gil Vicente, and the plays in which the Castilian element seems to predominate, and I have not even touched upon the many disputed points in the biography of the great Portuguese poet.

I wish to express my gratitude to my friend and colleague, Professor Hugo A. Rennert, for his kindness in reading my manuscript. It is to him that I owe my first interest in this

subject, and the inspiration which I have received from his labours and from our many chats regarding our favourite Spanish dramatic poets has been a powerful incentive to me in my own studies.

J. P. W. C.

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