RALEIGH, THE SHEPHERD OF THE OCEAN: A PAGEANT-DRAMA

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Raleigh, the Shepherd of the Ocean: A Pageant-Drama by Frederick Henry Koch

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FREDERICK HENRY KOCH

RALEIGH, THE SHEPHERD OF THE OCEAN: A PAGEANT-DRAMA





PORTEATT OF BALEIGH IN "THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD," 1617

The only portrait of him published during his lifetime

Raleigh

THE SHEPHERD OF THE OCEAN

A Pageant-Drama

BY

FREDERICK HENRY KOCH

Professor of Dramatic Literature in the University of North Carolina



DESIGNED TO COMMEMORATE THE TERCENTENARY OF THE EXECUTION OF SIR WALTER RALEIGH

> With a Foreword by Edwin Greenlaw

PRINTED AT

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To

THE CITIZENS OF THE "CITIE OF RALEGH"

IN NORTH CAROLINA

INHERITORS OF THE BRAVE SPIRIT OF THE PIONEER COLONIZER

SIR WALTER RALEIGH

WHO WROTE JUST BEFORE HIS FALL.

"I shall yet live to see it an English nation"

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The Raleigh Tercentenary

I SHALL yet live to see it an English nation!" So wrote Sir Walter Raleigh, with far-seeing vision, just before his fall, concerning his "Lost Colony" of Roanoke and his Citie of Ralegh in America.

Today the figure of Sir Walter Raleigh appears the more imposing in the perspective of the years—the complete embodiment of the talents of the versatile age in which he lived. Courtier, soldier, sea-captain, statesman, explorer, scientist, historian, poet—he was, perhaps, the most representative man of his time. But chiefly he was the pioneer colonizer of the New World of America.

It is especially fitting that Raleigh, The Shepherd of the Ocean, be produced at this particular time, as the contribution of the State of North Carolina to the celebrations being held conjointly both in England and in the United States in 1920-21, to commemorate the correlated occurrences which mark the beginnings and the development of our free English institutions. In this international celebration the landing on Roanoke Island in July, 1584, of the colonists of Sir Walter Raleigh—the first English settlers in America—holds a unique place. It is the pioneer English settlement in America, a heritage which may well be cherished along with the better known later settlements at Jamestown and at Plymouth Rock.

Raleigh, The Shepherd of the Ocean, is designed, not merely to present some of the shining incidents in the life of the man, but also to suggest something of the larger significance of his contribution. Sir Walter Raleigh is here conceived as representing the struggle of the English people for freedom from tyrant rule, as blazing the way for those who came after him to inherit the fruition of his vision of a brave New World—the proved reality of his dream of a new "English nation" in America.

In writing this play of Raleigh, The Shepherd of the Ocean, I have enriched the text, wherever it was practicable, with the vivid phrases of Raleigh himself—adapting various passages from his principal prose-writings, and including in the final scene his beautiful and haunting verses, Even such is time, etc., found in his Bible in the gatehouse at Westminster, and said to have been written by him the night before his execution.

This Raleigh pageant-drama was devised and written originally for the commemoration of the Tercentenary of the execution of Sir Walter Raleigh on October 29, 1918, as planned by the State Literary and Historical Association of North Carolina. But the original plan was thwarted by the epidemic of influenza, and now it is our purpose to produce it on the evenings of October 19th, 20th and 21st in a spacious Theatre, of Nature in the suburbs of the City of Raleigh.