

**LAELIA. A COMEDY ACTED
AT QUEENS' COLLEGE,
CAMBRIDGE, PROBABLY
ON MARCH 1ST, 1595**

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Laelia. A comedy acted at Queens' College, Cambridge, probably on March 1st, 1595 by G. C. Moore Smith

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G. C. MOORE SMITH

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LÆLIA

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LÆLIA

A COMEDY

ACTED AT QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE
PROBABLY ON MARCH 1ST, 1595

NOW FIRST PRINTED

WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY

G. C. MOORE SMITH, LITT.D.

HON. PH.D. LOUVAIN

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
LIBRARY
SHEFFIELD

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at the University Press

1910

“If you can,
Imagine you were now in the University,
You'll take it well enough, a Scholar's fancy.”

FORD, *Lover's Melancholy*.

1 A 217
L-3
1701-3
1701-4

PREFACE

MY thanks are due to His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury for permission to copy and print the Lambeth MS. of this play, which has an interest above that attaching to other Cambridge comedies from its relation to Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.

In my editorial work I have received some very valuable assistance from my colleague and friend, Professor W. C. Summers, and I am also indebted to the kindness of the Rev. the President of Queens' College, Professor E. C. Clark, and my friends Mr R. B. McKerrow and Mr Charles Sayle. To all these I return my sincere thanks.

Having now completed my work on the three plays for which I received a commission, I should like further to express

my gratitude to the proof-reader of the Press for a vigilance which has saved me, I do not doubt, from a number of minor inaccuracies.

P.S. In my edition of *Fucus* I argued that the performance before King James probably took place at Newmarket. I have recently found confirmation of this view in some lines by H. Molle, Fellow of King's and Public Orator, *On Fucus*, beginning 'The Queenes Colledge Play, from Cambridge away The King to the Court did call.' The lines are preserved in the Bodleian (Rawl. MS. Poet. 147).

G. C. M. S.

SHEFFIELD,
April 1910.

INTRODUCTION

I. THE TEXT

THE text of *Lælia* here given is based on that of the only known MS—No. 838 in the Library of Lambeth Palace. The book, which was left to the Library by Archbishop Tenison¹, contains five plays: *Fucus Histrionastix*, *Leander* (both without title), *Roxana*, *Lælia* and *Labyrinthus*.

The manuscript of *Lælia* is an extremely unsatisfactory one. Three hands were engaged on it. The first is seen as far as Act I. Sc. 3, l. 159; the second from this point to the end of the play, except for the short passage, Act v. Sc. 5, l. 23 'exanimalem' to the end of Act v. Sc. 6, which, together with the indications of the speakers from a rather earlier point, are in a third hand. The bulk of the play is therefore in the second hand—unfortunately that of an exceedingly careless or ignorant scribe: and in consequence a great many emendations have had to be introduced in this edition—most of them slight and obvious, others rather more doubtful. In the preparation of the text, it was however extremely useful to be able to compare our play with the French play on which it was based.

¹ It had belonged to a Wm. Mostyn, and the cover is stamped 'W. M.'