NARRATIVE AND DRAMATIC SOURCES OF SHAKESPEARE

Edited by
GEOFFREY BULLOUGH

Volume VIII

ROMANCES:
CYMBELINE
THE WINTER'S TALE
THE TEMPEST



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I. EARLY COMEDIES, POEMS, ROMEO AND JULIET

II. THE COMEDIES (1597-1603)

III. EARLIER ENGLISH HISTORY PLAYS: HENRY VI, RICHARD III, RICHARD II

IV. LATER ENGLISH HISTORY PLAYS: KING JOHN, HENRY IV, HENRY V, HENRY VIII

V. THE ROMAN PLAYS:

JULIUS CÆSAR

ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

CORIOLANUS

VI. OTHER 'CLASSICAL' PLAYS:

TITUS ANDRONICUS

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA

TIMON OF ATHENS

PERICLES, PRINCE OF TYRE

VII. MAJOR TRAGEDIES:
HAMLET
OTHELLO
KING LEAR
MACBETH

VIII. ROMANCES:

CYMBELINE

THE WINTER'S TALE

THE TEMPEST

To my wife Margaret

PREFACE

WHEN many years ago I expressed a wish to make a large collection of Shakespeare sources and analogues I was reproved by two senior scholars of the highest repute. One said that it was supererogatory; the other that it must lead to what he called 'Teutonic pedantry'. Those were the days of textual 'revisionism', bibliographical discovery, psychoanalytic plumbing, and symbol-clashing, all useful as well as fashionable activities. 'Source-hunting' was disparaged as futile in the main, since Shakespeare's artistry did not 'abide our question'. With this I could not agree, and some excellent critics were already making new approaches to Shakespeare's reading and dramatic inheritance. So when the chance came, I seized it, though the task took much longer than, in my primal ignorance, I anticipated.

The aims of these volumes have been, not to discover new sources but to make those already known accessible to Shake-speare lovers, and in the introductory essays to indicate (however distantly) the imaginative process informing his dramatic structures. The method adopted was: to sketch the conditions in which each of the plays was written, to relate Shakespeare's treatment of plot and character to earlier versions of the same basic material, and to illustrate in some detail (more fully for the later, more complex plays) how he adapted, combined, and transcended his sources.

I confess, however, that a major driving force, besides delight in the plays themselves, has been the selfish impulse which the youthful Henry More admitted when his tutor at Christ's asked him: "What is the Reason... that you so earnestly desire to know Things?" To which I instantly returned: "I desire, I say, so earnestly to know, That I may know."

In the present volume I relate the last three comedies both to the major direct sources and, more broadly, to the romance

tradition as it survived in the Elizabethan period in such translated works as The Mirrour of Knighthood and Amadis de Gaule. and their derivants both narrative and theatrical. All three plays are shown to have had some topicality, not only by their inclusion of masque-elements but also by the choice of material bearing on events of interest to courtiers and citizens in 1600-II.

As I worked I came to admire the detective insight and wide reading of earlier editors and critics, whether Teutonic, Gallic, or Anglo-Saxon, and I hope to write something on the history of Shakespeare source-study to supplement the few remarks on the subject in my concluding essay. This essay touches mainly on problems such as Shakespeare's method of plotweaving, his 'thematic' choice of ancillary material, the growth of his ethical interests, his discovery of the 'developing' hero', the influence of imagery from the sources.

My thanks go out to my predecessors in the field, including Professors W. Clemen, F. Kermode, G. Wilson Knight, K. Muir, J. M. Nosworthy, J. H. P. Pafford, F. Pyle, E. Schanzer, V. K. Whitaker, and G. Wickham; also to Mrs M. Pavne and Mr N. H. MacMichael (Keeper of Monuments, Westminster Abbey); to the Malone Society; and to the Trustees of the Folger Shakespeare Library for permission to print a passage from their copy of Pandosto (1592).

Finally I wish most cordially to thank the publishers and printers of these volumes, the compositors who have had to set some difficult texts, the editors, proof-readers, and others involved in their production, and especially Mr Colin Franklin (who planned the series), Mr Andrew Wheatcroft, and Mr

Tony Orme.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

1. Shakespeare's Works and		Per	Pericles
Apa	ocrypha	PhT	The Phoenix and the
A&C Ado	Antony and Cleopatra Much Ado about Nothing	PPil	Turtle The Passionate Pilgrim
AFev	Arden of Feversham	R_2	King Richard the Second
AShrew	The Taming of A Shrew	R_3	King Richard the Third
AWW	All's Well That Ends Well	$R\mathcal{J}$	Romeo and Juliet
AYL	As You Like It		_
CE	Comedy of Errors	Son	Sonnets
Cor	Coriolanus	TA	Titus Andronicus
Cym	Cymbeline	Tem	The Tempest
Ham	Hamlet	TGV	Two Gentlemen of Verona
1H4	Henry the Fourth, Part I	Tim	Timon of Athens
2H4	Henry the Fourth, Part II	$T\mathcal{N}$	Twelfth Night
H ₅	Henry the Fifth	TrC	Troilus and Cressida
1H6	Henry the Sixth, Part I	TSh	The Taming of the Shrew
2H6	Henry the Sixth, Part II	VA	Venus and Adonis
3Н6 Н8	Henry the Sixth, Part III Henry the Eighth	WT	The Winter's Tale
$\mathcal{J}C$	Julius Caesar		•
КJ	King John		
LComp	Lover's Complaint	2. Mode	rn Editions and Other Works
Lear	King Lear	Arden	The Arden Shakespeare
LLL	Love's Labour's Lost		(original)
Luc	The Rape of Lucrece	Camb	The New Cambridge
Mac	Macbeth		edition, edited by
MM	Measure for Measure		J. Dover Wilson,
MND	A Midsummer Night's		A. Quiller-Couch, etc.
	Dream	Coll	Shakespeare's Library, ed.
More	Sir Thomas More		J. P. Collier
MV	The Merchant of Venice	Conf	John Gower, Confessio
MWW	The Merry Wives of	•	Amantis
	Windsor	ELH	English Literary History
NobKin	Two Noble Kinsmen	~222.	(Johns Hopkins Uni-
Oth	Othello		versity, Baltimore)

	J		***
ElSt	E. K. Chambers, The Elizabethan Stage	ShJb	Jahrbuch der deutschen Shakespeare-Gesell-
EngHist	English Historical Soci-		schaft
Soc EngStud	ety Englische Studien	ShLib	Shakespeare's Library, 6 vols. 2nd Edn 1875,
	English Studies		edited by J. P. Collier
FP	Fratricide Punished		and W. C. Hazlitt
Hol.	Holinshed's Chronicles	ShQ	Shakespeare Quarterly
		Sh.Soc. Trans.	Transactions of the New
JEGP	The Journal of English and Germanic Philology	SPhil	Shakespeare Society Studies in Philology
Fest	Shakespeare Jest Books,	SpT	The Spanish Tragedy
Books	edited by W. C. Hazlitt	Sh Survey	Shakespeare Survey
Lee	Sir Sidney Lee, Life of Shakespeare	Texas TFT	University of Texas Studies in English Tudor Facsimile Texts
MalSoc	Malone Society Reprints	TLS	The Times Literary Sup-
MedSt	E. K. Chambers, The		plement (London)
MLN	Medieval Stage Modern Language Notes	TR	The Troublesome Raigne
MLR	The Modern Language	••	of King John
	Review	Var.	The New Variorum edition, ed. H. H. Furness, etc.
MPhil	Modern Philology	WSh	·
New Arden	The Arden Edition of Shakespeare (revised and reset)	wsn	E. K. Chambers, William Shakespeare
\mathcal{N} & \mathcal{Q}	Notes & Queries		
Oxf.	The Oxford Edition of	3. Other Abbreviations	
	Shakespeare, text by	Arg	Argument
	W. J. Craig; Intro- ductory Studies by	Chor	Chorus
	E. Dowden	Prol	Prologue
PhilQ	Philological Quarterly Publications of the Modern Language Association of America	Rev.	Review
<i>PMLA</i>		F	Folio edition
		n.d.	No date
RES	The Review of English Studies	Q	Quarto edition
		S.R.	The Stationers' Register
SEL		STC	A Short-Title Catalogue
oz <u>p</u>	Studies in English Litera- ture (Rice Institute)		of Books printed 1475–1640 (1950)

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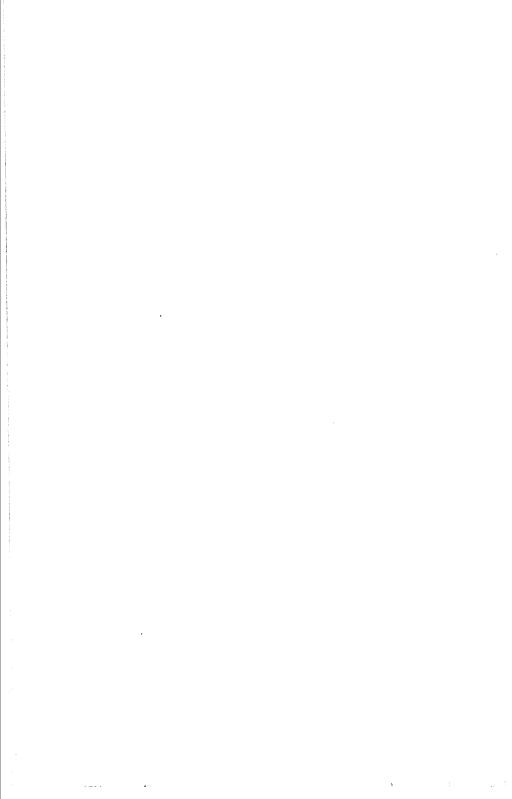
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CYMBELINE



INTRODUCTION

THE date of Cymbeline is uncertain. It was not published until the first Folio, but it was seen by the ex-schoolmaster-magician Dr Simon Forman before 8 September 1611 when he was drowned in the Thames. Other references in Forman's journal (Macbeth, 20 April; The Winter's Tale, 15 May) were to plays seen at the Globe. Probably he saw Cymbeline there too, but the Blackfriars Theatre, which the King's Men took over in 1609, cannot be ruled out, and some authorities have argued that the last comedies, with their ultra-romantic themes and masque-like features, were all written for the private theatre.

It seems likely that Cymbeline was written after Pericles and at about the same time as The Winter's Tale (1610-11), probably just before the latter, since there is a reminiscence of one of the sources of Cymbeline (Boccaccio) in Autolycus's threat that the old Shepherd's son should be 'flay'd alive, then 'nointed over with honey, set on the head of a wasps' nest' (IV. 4. 773-4). Noting that the name Belarius may come from Greene's Bellaria in Pandosto, J. M. Nosworthy concludes that perhaps 'the composition of the two plays was more or less simultaneous'.2

There are resemblances between Cymbeline and Beaumont and Fletcher's Philaster, performed by the King's Men before 8 October 1610, when John Davies of Hereford's The Scourge of Folly was entered in the Stationers' Register. An epigram in that collection compliments Fletcher on his Love Lies Bleeding—the sub-title of Philaster—apparently as a new venture. A. H. Thorndike's thesis that Philaster was written before Cymbeline and influenced Shakespeare's late manner has been much debated. What evidence there is points either way. I suspect that

¹ His notes are given in WSh, ii, pp. 337-41.

² New Arden, p. xvi.

³ The Influence of Beaumont and Fletcher on Shakespeare, Columbia U.P., New York, 1901; opposed by F. P. Wilson, Elizabethan and Jacobean, 1945, pp. 126-8.

Cymbeline came first, and that it was written for performance early in June 1610. This would leave little time for the composition of *Philaster* and for Davies to see it played before October, but that is not impossible. One must suspend judgment in the matter, failing more definite proof.

Shakespeare did not need to read or see Philaster before writing Cymbeline. He had been composing tragi-comedies for years (Ado, AWW, MM); he had used ingredients of the pastoral mode (MND, AYL, TGV), and in touching up Pericles (1608) had anticipated the free-flowing kind of romance he was now to write. In striking out their own formula, Beaumont and Fletcher drew on Shakespeare's earlier successes, on Sidney's Arcadia, and on lessons learned in The Faithful Shepherdess (a theatrical failure).2 There may have been mutual consultation. for in that age of collaboration, when acting-companies would gather in a tavern to read and discuss a new script, there would be nothing extraordinary if the older and the younger playwrights working for the King's Men came together to exchange ideas.4 The result is a certain resemblance in some features. with a general difference of handling. Both Philaster and Cymbeline mingle pseudo-history with romantic invention (but the politics is much more topical in the former); each contains allusions to hunting, the King's favourite sport; each has a girl disguised as a boy, a wicked mischief-making woman, a virtuous lady accused of unchastity, the contrast between a noble hero and an ignoble prince, the forbidden marriage of a princess with a commoner, movement from court to country, elements of the Masque.

A few specific parallels of detail have been noted. The names Belarius and Bellario are alike, but may both come from Bellaria in *Pandosto*, and how unlike the two characters are! There is a similar play on the meanings of 'strange', 'stranger' in *Cym* II. 1. 33-7 and *Phil*. I. 1. 77-9, both in contemptuous

¹ Cf. D. L. Frost, The School of Shakespeare, Cambridge, 1968, p. 212.

² Cf. E. M. Waith, *The Patterns of Tragicomedy in Beaumont and Fletcher*, Yale Studies in English, 120, New Haven, 1952, pp. 15-19; *Philaster*, ed. Andrew Gurr, 1969, xlv-lviii.

³ Henslowe's Diary notes expenditure on such occasions.

⁴ Cf. G. E. Bentley, 'Shakespeare and the Blackfriars Theatre', Sh Survey 1, 1948 pp. 38-50.

comment. Which came first we cannot tell. Another resemblance occurs when Iachimo is defeated by the disguised Posthumus (V. 2. 2-6) and Philaster, having wounded Arethusa, is himself wounded by a Country Fellow. The likeness of both situation and wording suggests influence, and since the Country Fellow is not otherwise involved in the plot but is invented to serve the needs of the moment, this suggests that *Philaster* was the imitation.

Another parallel comes in *Philaster* in the masque-like passage when Bellario introduces Arethusa and Philaster in weddinggarb and speaks of 'this blessed union' and calls them 'two fair cedar branches' who grew together until separated by Fortune but who are now united (V. 3. 20–44). Compare this with the oracle in *Cymbeline* V. 4. 138–43, which is part of a masque-like episode. There is obviously a connection between the two.

It is of course possible that Shakespeare took over and adopted the cedar-image from *Philaster*, but the reverse is more likely. The basic idea of unity broken and regained in Bellario's speech is similar; his treatment of the cedars is different, yet he uses details which may have been suggested by the mountain-scenes in *Cymbeline*, and particularly by III. 3, where Belarius insists on their security and freedom in their cave, and Guiderius, while calling himself and his brother 'beastly', admits, 'Haply this life is best/If quiet life be best' (29-30). Compare 'O, there was none but silent quiet there'. Belarius soon afterwards likens himself to a tree stripped of fruit and leaves by 'A storm

¹ Cym II. 1. 33-7. 1st Lord. Did you hear of a stranger that's come to court tonight? Cloten. A stranger, and I not know on't? 2nd Lord. (aside) He's a strange fellow himself, and knows it not.

Philaster I. 1. 77-80. Megra... there's a lady endures no stranger; and to me you appear a very strange fellow. Lady. Methinks he's not so strange; he would quickly be acquainted.

² Cym V. 2. 2-6. Iachimo says that the air of Britain enseebles him because he has 'belied' its Princess: 'or could this carl/A very drudge of nature's have subdu'd me/ In my profession?'

Philaster IV. 5. 103-4. Phil. The gods take part against me, could this boor/ Have held me thus else?

³ 'These two fair cedar branches,/The noblest of the mountain where they grew/ Straightest and tallest, under whose still shades/The worthiest beasts have made their lairs . . . O, there was none but silent quiet there! . . . /Till never-pleased Fortune shot up shrubs,/Base underbrambles to divorce these branches;/And for a while they did so and did reign/ Over the mountain and choke up his beauty/ . . . And now a gentler gale hath blown again,/That made these branches meet and twine together,/Never to be divided.'

or robbery, call it what you will'. Moreover for Bellario to enter garlanded to play 'a more than human role',¹ though 'wanting a celestial harp', is an extraordinary turn which seems more likely to have been a charming faraway emulation of the divine intervention in Cymbeline than a source of inspiration for the elder dramatist's conventional vision, whose origins we shall find elsewhere. This episode points to Shakespeare as the leader and Beaumont and Fletcher as his followers. But it is not decisive.

A reading of the two plays soon shows that their differences in aim, tone, and technique are more important than their likenesses. As H. S. Wilson wrote, Cymbeline is 'more old-fashioned in method, more complicated, and altogether more ambitious', dependent on dramatic irony, 'the gratification of expectancy rather than of the shock of surprise'; and it uses more traditional stage devices. Philaster is simpler in outline and characterization, melodramatic, dependent on 'swift emotional dialogue and clever plot', sudden turns of situation and of motives not always consistent with what has gone before. Obviously Philaster, if not a source, is an analogue of Cymbeline; but I have not thought it necessary (even if there were space) to give long excerpts from it here, since it is easily accessible in a modern edition.

The theatres were closed because of plague from August 1608 to December 1609. The great event of 1610 at Court was the investiture of Prince Henry as Prince of Wales, which took place between 31 May and 6 June amid great rejoicings and many entertainments, including Daniel's masque Tethys' Festival, in which the royal family took part and the Queen as Tethys said that she had visited Milford Haven,

The happy Port of Union, which gave way To the great hero Henry and his fleete—

referring to Henry Richmond's landing there when he came to dethrone Richard III. Shakespeare's use of Milford Haven as the landing-place for Posthumus and the Roman army may be

¹ Cf. Gurr, op. cit., V. 3. 41n. ² H. S. Wilson, 'Philaster and Cymbeline', English Inst. Essays, 1951, New York, 1952, pp. 162-3. Quoted by Gurr, p. xlix.