

**SHAKESPEARE'S
COMEDY OF THE MERRY
WIVES OF WINDSOR**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649703166

Shakespeare's Comedy of the Merry Wives of Windsor by William Shakespeare & Israel Gollancz

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & ISRAEL GOLLANCZ

**SHAKESPEARE'S
COMEDY OF THE MERRY
WIVES OF WINDSOR**



THE
TEMPLE SHAKESPEARE



*By the kind permission of Messrs Macmillan & Co.
and W. Aldis Wright, Esq., the text here
used is that of the "Cambridge" Edition.*



The Chandos Portrait.
from the Engraving by J. Goussier.

* * * * *

He was not of an age, but for all time!
And all the MUSKS still were in their prime,
When like APOLLO he came forth to warme
Our eares, or like a MERCURY to charme!
Nature her selfe was proud of his designe,
And joy'd to weare the dressing of his lines!
Which were so richly spun, and woven to fit,
As, since, she will vouchsafe no other wit.
The merry GREEK, tart ARISTOPHANES,
Nest TERENCE, witty PLAUTUS, now not please;
But antiquated, and deserted lye
As they were not of Naturea family.

* * * * *

BEN. JONSON.

*

Lives
1564-1616
SHAKESPEARE'S
COMEDY OF THE
MERRY WIVES OF
WINDSOR. & &



WITH PREFACE
GLOSSARY &c; BY
ISRAEL GOLLANCZ
M.A.



MDCCLXXIV: PUBLISHED BY J. M. DENT
AND CO: ALDINE HOUSE LONDON E.C.

*"But Shakespear's play in fourteen days was writ,
And in that space to make all just and fit,
Was an attempt surpassing human wit.
Yet our great Shakespear's matchless muse was such
None ever in so small time perform'd so much."*

"THE COMICAL GALLANT,"

JOHN DENNIS, 1702.

5. M. 4. 10. EMU.
Rec. class. G. S. J. 12-3-79

Preface.

The Editions. The earliest known edition of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* is a Quarto printed in 1602, with the following title-page:—

“A most pleasaunt and excellent conceited Comedie, of Sir *John Falstaffe* and the merrie *Wives of Windsor*. Entermixed with sundrie variable and pleasing humors of Sir *Hugh* the Welch Knight, Iustice *Shallow*, and his wise Cousin *M. Slender*. With the swaggering valne of Auncient *Pistol*, and Corporall *Nym*. By *William Shakespear*. As it hath bene diuers times Acted by the right Honorable my Lord Chamberlaines Seruants. Both before her Maiestie, and elsewhere. London Printed by T. C. for Arthur Iohnson, and are to be sold at his shop in Powles Church-yard, at the signe of the Flower de Leuse and the Crowne” (reprinted in the Cambridge Shakespeare and in Hazlitt’s *Shakespeare’s Library*; a facsimile is included in Dr Furnivall’s *Shakespeare Quartos*, Quaritch). A second Quarto, a mere reprint of the first, appeared in 1619.

In the first Folio the play occupies pp. 39-60; its length there is more than double that of the Quartos, from which it differs to such an extent as to give the impression of being a revised and expanded version of a mere garbled and pirated sketch.

Date of Composition. The first Quarto was entered in the Stationers’ Registers under date 18th Jan. 1602; the play was probably written after Henry V., i.e. after the middle of the

170401