

**VICTORIA: A
LATIN COMEDY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649050864

Victoria: A Latin Comedy by Abraham Fraunce & G. C. Moore Smith

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

ABRAHAM FRAUNCE & G. C. MOORE SMITH

**VICTORIA: A
LATIN COMEDY**

VICTORIA,

A LATIN COMEDY

BY

ABRAHAM FRAUNCE.

EDITED

FROM THE PENSHURST MANUSCRIPT

BY

G. C. Moore Smith M.A.

Professor of English Language and Literature
in the University of Sheffield.



LOUVAIN
A. UYSTPRUYST
LEIPZIG
O. HARRASSOWITZ
LONDON
DAVID NUTT
1906

YASRI
SOMUL GORHAKS GMAJIN
YIBSIVIMB

ABHINC TRECENTOS ANNOS
AB AUCTORE SUO
MÆCENATI ILLUSTRISSIMO
UNICO
PHILIPPO SIDNEIO
DEDICATA
HÆC COMOEDIA
IAM PRELO IMPRESSA
SIDNEIANAE ILLIUS DOMUS
HODIERNO ANTISTITI
PHILIPPO
BARONI DE L'ISLE ET DUDLEY
CUIUS VENIA PETITA ATQUE CONCESSA
NUNC TANDEM IN LUCEM EMERGIT
GRATO EX ANIMO
DEDICATUR ITERUM
MCMVI

89562

PREFACE.

The text of *Victoria* is, I hope, a faithful transcript of the manuscript. Two or three places in which I felt some doubt if I had read the manuscript correctly or if Fraunce had written what he intended, I have mentioned in the notes. I have occasionally improved the punctuation and introduced a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence where there was none in the manuscript, but I have not wilfully made any other changes.

In spite of the large number of phrases which have been traced to their source or illustrated from the works of other writers who have used them, a considerable number have still baffled me.

In my excursus on the « Life and Works » of Fraunce, I have tried to show more clearly than has been done before the relation in which his various manuscript works stand to his printed productions. I have also carefully examined the ground on which the events of his life have been built up, and incidentally have been able to correct errors in the accounts of Fraunce given in the *Dictionary of National Biography* and elsewhere. In particular I have shown that he never held the office of Queen's Solicitor in the Court of the Marches of Wales.

I have been much disappointed, however, in not having been able to throw more light on Fraunce's history. I have particulars in regard to Fraunce's family almost sufficient to construct a pedigree covering 150 years, but unfortunately — not having found in any Shrewsbury register the record of Abraham's baptism, — I have not been able to put him himself in his place in the roll. I had hoped to have found his will, or at least a will of some member of his family in which he was mentioned, but this hope failed me. I have not been able to discover any record of his death. The document of 1633, which Hunter seems to have seen at Campsall Hall — the only evidence of Fraunce's existence after 1595 — would, I hoped, yield me even more than Hunter found in it. But though Mr F. Bacon Frank, the present owner of Campsall Hall, kindly spent a considerable time in searching for it, he had to tell me at last that the paper was not forthcoming.

VIII

Imperfect as my work is, it would have been more so but for the kind help given me in many quarters. In the first place I must thank Lord de L'Isle and Dudley, the owner of the manuscript, for his great kindness in twice allowing me access to the manuscript at Penshurst and in further allowing the manuscript to go to the British Museum for a time for my use there.

My friend and colleague, Professor W. C. Summers of the University of Sheffield, has repeatedly assisted me in tracing classical quotations. I am similarly indebted, though in a less degree, to another friend and colleague, Mr E. S. Forster M.A.

In connexion with the facts of Fraunce's life I have received help for which I am also very grateful from a number of sources. I will mention especially Mr Sidney Lee whose article on Fraunce in the *Dictionary of National Biography* formed the groundwork of my own erection, Miss C. A. J. Skeel, author of *The Council in the Marches of Wales*, who took much trouble on my behalf, Mr Strachan Holme, librarian to the Earl of Ellesmere, who kindly searched the Bridgewater MSS. for me, unfortunately without result, Mr R. F. Scott, Fellow and Bursar of St John's College, Cambridge, Dr Edward Calvert of Shrewsbury, Mr A. H. Bullen, Mr F. Bacon Frank of Campsall Hall, and Mr F. Madan of the Bodleian Library.

Lastly, for a number of kind services, I owe my thanks to my friend, and collaborator in the present series, Mr R. B. Mc KERRON.

G. C. MOORE SMITH.

The University, Sheffield
May 1906.

INTRODUCTION.

I. VICTORIA.

Abraham Fraunce's comedy is now published for the first time by the kind permission of Lord De L'Isle and Dudley, the owner of the manuscript. The manuscript, which has probably been at Penshurst from the day on which it first came into the hands of Philip Sidney, is written throughout in Fraunce's beautiful hand on paper in folio, the margins on every page being ruled off. It is contained in a cover of soft vellum tied with strings of green riband. The pages and lines are unnumbered, but every page contains the same lines as the corresponding page of the present edition. The cover is inscribed « Comœdia Latina per Abrahamum Fransum ad Philippum Sydneium ».

The character of the play leads one to suppose that it was written before Fraunce left Cambridge in 1583, and the fact that Sidney is not described as « Knight » that it was written before 13th January 1583. There is no evidence to show if it was acted.

Every academic play of the Elizabethan age may be said to have points of interest. It throws a certain light on the history of English universities and the nature of the studies and amusements pursued in them : it may have some bearing on the history of the popular drama. *Victoria* has the special interest that it is the work of a man otherwise known in the history of literature and that it was laid at the feet of the peerless Philip Sidney. But it cannot be said to be a work of much intrinsic value. It is inordinately long, its plot is complicated and absurd, its characters uninteresting, and though it is crammed with quotations and allusions, they are introduced with little point or humour : and only confirm our impression that Fraunce was a « dull dog ».

Fraunce draws his quotations (1) from the leading Latin authors (whether at first hand or through schoolbooks such as Lily's Grammar and the *Sententiae Pueriles*), especially (and in the order here