



GIFT FROM HENRY N. PAUL

By MATTHIAS A. SHABER

The Library has recently received from Mr. Henry N. Paul a gift of forty-five interesting and valuable books, to be added to the collection of the Horace Howard Furness Memorial.

An important part of the gift is made up of eighteen Restoration and early eighteenth-century editions of Shakespeare's plays and stage adaptations of them. The earliest is the Dryden-Davenant *Tempest* of 1670; the latest, a *Macbeth* of 1710. With these additions, our collection of Restoration stage versions is nearly complete. Long despised by literary critics as sacrilegious perversions of the plays, these Restoration adaptations have recently been studied more objectively and more charitably for the light they throw on the history of Shakespeare on the stage, and on the taste which called them forth. Their importance to the history of Shakespeare's vogue makes them a valuable addition to a Shakespeare library.

An interesting part of Mr. Paul's gift is the first American printings of Shakespeare—*Hamlet* and *Twelfth Night*, Boston, 1794. These texts were printed to be sold at the theater where the Powell troupe, the first company to perform in Boston, was acting. They antedate by two years the first complete American edition of Shakespeare published at Philadelphia under the aegis of Joseph Hopkinson in 1795-6.

Edward Phillips's *Theatrum Poetarum*, 1675, and Giles Jacob's *Poetical Register*, 1719, also included, contain early lives and critical appreciations of Shakespeare. *Poems on Af-*

fairs of State, volume iv, 1707, contains the earliest eighteenth-century reprints of *Venus and Adonis* and *Lucrece*. Several plays with prompter's notes are also included in Mr. Paul's gift.

Another interesting portion consists of fifteen volumes, most of them of Shakespeare's plays, printed at The Hague by Thomas Johnson, 1710-30. These volumes include all of the plays of Shakespeare issued in Johnson's *Collection of the Best English Plays*, (12 volumes), of which only one complete set of the first printing is known to exist. The interesting story of Johnson's publications, issued with a T. J. monogram which the casual book-buyer would not be likely to distinguish from that of Jacob Tonson, the aggressive London bookseller who claimed ownership of the copyrights to all of Shakespeare's plays, is not well known. Mr. Paul has done more to recover it than any one else and it will be detailed fully in the long-awaited bibliography of eighteenth-century editions of Shakespeare which he and Dr. Dawson of the Folger Library will some day publish. In the meantime, the facilities for studying the interesting textual variants in Johnson's editions are available in our library.

The donor of these books, a lifelong student of Shakespeare and dean of the Shakspeare Society of Philadelphia, has befriended our library in various ways before now and has a place of his own in our grateful appreciation. The Friends of the Library will recall the thoughtful paper on *The Tempest* which he read at a meeting on November 14, 1938. An attorney who has turned to the study of Shakespeare, and especially of the editions of his plays, as an avocation, Mr. Paul has made himself so thoroughly a master of the subject that many professional scholars have been glad to draw on his fund of knowledge. His collection of American editions of Shakespeare, the greater part of which he has presented to

the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, is the most nearly complete ever assembled. Mr. Paul belongs to the same class of students of Shakespeare as did Dr. Furness himself and carries on the tradition which the latter established in Philadelphia. As he himself is aware, it is peculiarly fitting that some of his books should become a permanent part of the Furness Memorial, where their association interest as well as their intrinsic usefulness will be recognized and remembered.

