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by José Ángel García Landa

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# James Shirley (1596-1666)

(English dramatist, b. London; st. Oxford and Cambridge; curate at Hertfordshire; teacher at St. Alban's grammar school, turned Catholic 1624; then London, playwright for Cockpit theatre; 1630s l. at Gray's Inn, servant to Queen Henrietta Maria; twice married, several children; 1637 playwright in Dublin, Royalist soldier and assistant to the Duke of Newcastle during Civil Wars; teacher at Whitefriars during the Commonwealth; well off but ruined in Great Fire, died then)

**Works**

Shirley, James. *Love Tricks.* Drama. c. 1625.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Witty Fair One.* Comedy. 1628.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Love in a Maze.*

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Traitor.* Tragedy. 1631.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Ball.* Drama. 1632. (With George Chapman).

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Ball.* Drama. In Chapman, *Plays.* Ed. R. H. Shepherd. 1874.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Hyde Park.* Comedy. 1632.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Gamester.* Comedy. 1633.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Bird in a Cage.* Drama. 1632-3.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Example.* Drama. 1634.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Triumph of Peace.* Masque. Performed Gray's Inn 1634.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Lady of Pleasure.* Comedy. 1635.

\_\_\_\_\_. *St. Patrick for Ireland.* 1640.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Cardinal.* Tragedy. 1641.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Contention of Ajax and Achilles.* Dramatic poem.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Poems.* London: Humphrey Moseley,1646.

\_\_\_\_\_. "To his Mistris confined." From *Poems,* 1646. In *The Oxford Book of Seventeenth Century Verse.* Ed. H. J. C. Grierson and G. Bullough. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1934. Rpt. 1938, 1942, 1946. 408-9.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. "Io." From *Poems,* 1646. In *The Oxford Book of Seventeenth Century Verse.* Ed. H. J. C. Grierson and G. Bullough. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1934. Rpt. 1938, 1942, 1946. 409-10. 409-10.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Garden." From *Poems,* 1646. In *The Oxford Book of Seventeenth Century Verse.* Ed. H. J. C. Grierson and G. Bullough. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1934. Rpt. 1938, 1942, 1946. 410-11.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Cupid and Death.* Masque. 1650. Performed at London, 1653, 1659.

\_\_\_\_\_. "(Victorious men of Earth)." From *Cupid and Death,* 1650. In *The Oxford Book of Seventeenth Century Verse.* Ed. H. J. C. Grierson and G. Bullough. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1934. Rpt. 1938, 1942, 1946. 411-12\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Imposture.* 1652.

\_\_\_\_\_. "(O fly my soul)." From *The Imposture,* 1652. In *The Oxford Book of Seventeenth Century Verse.* Ed. H. J. C. Grierson and G. Bullough. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1934. Rpt. 1938, 1942, 1946. 412-13.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Honoria and Mammon.* Pub. 1659.

\_\_\_\_\_. "(The glories of our blood and state)." From *Ajax and Ulysses,* 1659. In *The Oxford Book of Seventeenth Century Verse.* Ed. H. J. C. Grierson and G. Bullough. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1934. Rpt. 1938, 1942, 1946. 412-13.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. Assistant to Ogilby in his trans. of Homer's *Iliads and Odysses.*

Fletcher, John. *The Night-Walkers* (rev. by James Shirley).

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Noble Gentleman.* (Completed by James Shirley).

\_\_\_\_\_. *Love's Pilgrimage.* (Completed by James Shirley).

**Biography**

Hazlitt, William. "James Shirley." In *The Lives of the British Poets.* London: Nathaniel Cooke, 1854. 1.240-42.\*

**Criticism**

Bowers, Fredson T. *Elizabethan Revenge Tragedy 1587-1642.* 1940. Gloucester (MA): Peter Smith, 1959.

\_\_\_\_\_. From "The Decadence of the Revenge Tragedy." (Shirley). From Bowers, *Elizabethan Revenge Tragedy: 1587-1642.* 1940. 228-34. Rpt. in *The Critical Perspective: Volume 3: Elizabethan-Caroline.* Ed. Harold Bloom. (The Chelsea House Library of Literary Criticism). New York: Chelsea House, 1986. 1606-8.\*

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Levin, Richard. From "The Triple Plot of *Hyde Park."* (Shirley). *Modern Language Review* (Jan. 1967): 17-27. Rpt. in *The Critical Perspective: Volume 3: Elizabethan-Caroline.* Ed. Harold Bloom. (The Chelsea House Library of Literary Criticism). New York: Chelsea House, 1986. 1611-13.\*

McGrath, Juliet. From "James Shirley's Uses of Language." *Studies in English Literature* (Spring 1966): 323-32. Rpt. in *The Critical Perspective: Volume 3: Elizabethan-Caroline.* Ed. Harold Bloom. (The Chelsea House Library of Literary Criticism). New York: Chelsea House, 1986. 1608-11.\*

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Internet resources

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<https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Catholic_Encyclopedia_%281913%29/James_Shirley>

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Dryden, John. *Mac Flecknoe.* Satirical poem.