

PRESS CORRECTIONS IN *THE SQUIRE OF ALSATIA*, 1688, Q1

TWO EDITIONS of Thomas Shadwell's comedy *The Squire of Alsatia* appeared dated 1688, one collating A⁴ B–M⁴ and the other A⁴ B–I⁴, their texts being in english and pica respectively.¹ In both editions the preliminaries, sheet A, were printed from the one setting of type, with minor differences in A4^v but no change to the titlepage. The priority of the english-fount edition is established by the correctness of its pagination, [8] 1–88, whereas whenever the other is wrong ([8] 1–16 25 18–19 28–29 22–23 32–72) it matches the number associated in the other edition with the material being set.

Collation of twenty-one copies of Q1, identified in the Appendix, unearthed a relatively large number of press-variants. In the following list the numbers in brackets are the line-numbers on the type-page, in the corrected state, excluding titles and running-titles; the scene-numbering is my own; and the page-number in brackets is that in Vol. IV of Montague Summers' edition of *The Complete Works of Thomas Shadwell* (London, 1927). The abbreviation S.D. is used for 'stage-direction'.

Inner A

Uncorrected: IU.

A1^v (34–35) An Explanation of the Cant (p.201) : which has but two | Chances upon it.

A2^r (4) dedicatory epistle (p.202) : *by You, ought*

(8–11) ditto : *Your | Approbation . . Judgement have | ever . . to go | on:*

Corrected: all others.

A1^v (34–35) : which will run but two or three | Chances.

A2^r (4) : *by Your Lordship, ought*

(8–11) : *Your | Lordships Approbation . . Judgement | have ever . . to | go on:*

Outer A

Uncorrected: CLUC, LU, MH, O, PBL, TxU1.

A2^v (10–11) dedicatory epistle (p.202) : *re- | gulariy*

(24) ditto (p.203) : *Noble and*

A4^v (35.1) dramatis personae (p.207) : three type-ornaments, in direction-line, centred at foot of text.

Corrected I: CSmH, CtY, DFo1, DLC, EN, ICN, L, LeUB, MiU, MWiW–C, NNC, OW, TxU2.

A4^v : type-ornaments absent.

(Variant state : CSmH, MiU, TxU2) A1^r (2) : *Alsati a.*

Corrected II: IU

(Additional) A2^v (10–11) : *re- | gularity*

(24) : *Noble, and*

Inner E

Uncorrected: LU, PBL.

E4^r (38) II, ii (p.234) : *Colp. Ly'r*

Corrected: all others.

E4^r (38) : *Lolp. By'r*

Inner H

Uncorrected: CtY, DFo1, DFo2, DLC, NNC.

H1^v (22) III, iv (p.250) : well; we

H2^r (26–29) ditto (p.251) : curly bracket separating S.D. *They . . start.* from text is absent.

Corrected: all others.

H1^v (22) : well we

H2^r (26–29) : bracket present.

Outer H

Uncorrected: CLUC, EN, LeUB, MWiW–C.

H1^r (19) III, iv (p.249) : Isle of Man-shire: A Treatise on the Sabbath-Break-|

(27) ditto : S.D. *Enter Ruth behind them.* is absent.

(34–35) ditto : *Teres. 'Tis sweet Poerry [sic.]* : There is a pleasing Charm [space] *Snatches* | in all he writes. [space] *the Book.*

Corrected: all others.

H1^r (19) : Isle of *Man*, or *Man-shire*: A Treatise on Sabbath-Break- |

(27) : S.D. *Enter Ruth behind them.* is present.

(34–35) : *Teres. 'Tis . . Charm* in all he | writes. [space] *She snatches the Book.*

Inner I

Uncorrected: ICN, MiU.

I1^v (31) IV, ii (p.257) : *Murder: The Whore en- | deavours to hold Sir William still.*

I2^r (1) ditto : S.D. *Sir . . again.* follows Sir William's speech 'And you . . . Actions?'

(8–9) ditto : S.D. *She . . Whore.* follows Sir Edward's speech 'This is . . . appease them.' Lineated: ap- | pease them. [space] *She runs out, the Rabble run after, and [sic.] tear her, | crying, a Whore, a Whore.*

(22) IV, iii (p.257) : Befond.

I3^v (7–9) : S.D.s *Brother . . her.* and *Enter . . Termagant.* follow in succession after Brother's speech 'Where is . . . watch her.'

(16–17) IV, v (p.260) : S.D. *She pulls out a Silver Strong-Water Bottle.* is absent.

(22–24) ditto : lineated: . . but I | hope your Charity will interpret it as well as you can on my | side. [short space] *Ruth.* Go on: Thou need'st not fear.

(28–30) ditto : lineated: . . great re- | sort in the Evenings at their Houses. [short space] *Ruth.* Good: Proceed.

Corrected: all others.

I1^v (31) : *Murder.*

I2^v (1) : S.D. *Sir . . again.* follows Lolpoop's speech 'He is . . . Captain *Hackum.*'

(8–9) : S.D. *She . . . Whore.* follows Sir William's speech 'You cou'd . . . Whore.'
 Lineated: . . . A Whore, A Whore, A Whore. [space] *She runs out, | the Rabble run
 after, and tear her, crying, a Whore, a Whore.*

(22) : Belfond.

13^v (7–9) : S.D.s *Brother . . . her.* and *Enter . . . Termagant.* follow in succession after
 Termagant's speech 'Now . . . comes out.' and S.D. *Scrapeall passes over the Stage.*

(16–17) : S.D. *She . . . Bottle.* is present. Lineated: . . . | thee . . . Bottle. [space]
She pulls out a Silver | Ter. Thou art safe. [space] *Strong-Water Bottle.*

(22–24) : lineated: . . . but I hope | your . . . my side. | *Ruth.* Go on: Thou need'st
 not fear.

(28–30) : lineated: . . . great re- | sort in the Evenings at their Houses. | *Ruth.*
 Good: Proceed.

Inner K

Uncorrected: CLUC, CtY, LU, MH, O, TxU1.

K4^f (15) V, i (p.268) : somewhat

Corrected: all others.

K4^f (15) : somewhat

Inner L

Uncorrected: EN, L, LeUB, MiU.

L2^f (16) V, iii (p.271) : I watch'd

(19) ditto : I am asham'd

Corrected I: CSmH, ICN, LU, MH, MWiW–C, OW, PBL, TxU1, TxU2.

L2^f (16) : I watch'd

Corrected II: CLUC, CtY, DFo1, DFo2, DLC, IU, NNC, O.

(Additional) L2^f (19) : I am asham'd

Outer L

Uncorrected: CLUC, DFo1, DFo2, DLC, IU, LU, MH, NNC, OW, PBL, TxU1.

L1^f (1) V, i (p.269) : to the twelve

(36) V, ii (p.269) : Come, come, out Cousin. [small space] *Leads in Isab.*

L3^f (3) V, iii (p.272) : I'll pawn

(13) ditto : I have . . . I'll in

(14) ditto : Brothers, | and expect

(16) V, iv (p.273) : I value

L4^v (32) V, vii (p.276) : stricter

Corrected I: O, CtY.

L1^f (1) : to twelve

(36) : Come, Come, Cousin. [small space] *She Leads in Isab.*

L3^f (14) : Brother, | and expect

L4^v (32) : strictest

Corrected II: CSmH, EN, ICN, L, LeUB, MiU, MWiW–C, TxU2.

(Additional) L3^r (3) : I'll pawn
 (13) : I have . . . I'll in
 (16) : I value

Outer M

Uncorrected: CLUC, DLC, LU, MH, O, OW, PBL, TxU1.

M4^v(22) advertisement-heading : Books Printed for, and are to be Sold by

Corrected: all others.

M4^v(22) : Books newly Printed for

This array can be categorized as:

(1) Elimination of literal errors, e.g. of 'samewhat', 'well; we'. (The two in A2^v, found in one copy only, and so, presumably carried out very late in the run, are otherwise found in Q2 in association with an n/u correction ('Mrs. *Hackum.*') and the addition of two lines of copy following 1.18: '*Ruth.* [space] A precise Governess to *Teresia and Isabella.* | Mrs. *Cory.*', both on A4^v, which create a kind of third corrected state.)

(2) Cosmetic changes, to improve appearance or lucidity, the most curious being the re-adjustment of small capital I's in sheet L (introduced to make up for a shortage of the large capitals), so as to minimize discordance in height with surrounding letters. I should include the M4^v alteration here.

(3) A grey area of alterations possibly due either to detection of compositor-error or to authorial intervention. These include the addition of two stage-directions at H1^r, 1.27, and I3^v, 11.16–17, re-lineation of *Teresia's* speech and the stage-direction at H1^r, 11.34–35, and the removal of 'the' and 'out' on L1^r. The addition of '*Man*', or on H1^r, 1.19, which improves the reference to *The Isle of Man: Or, The Legal Proceeding in Man-shire against Sinne*, by R.B. (Richard Bernard, first printed 1626), and a compensating deletion of 'the' on the same line, was probably though not certainly an authorial emendation.

(4) Manifest authorial changes of intention. The most amusing are the last-minute shifts on A2^r from '*You*' and '*Your*' to '*Your Lordship*' and '*Your Lordships*', i.e. from polite friendliness towards his patron the Earl of Dorset, to complete propriety.² More substantial are those affecting stage-directions on I2^r and I3^v, which merit further examination in their contexts.

(i) I1^v(31) – I2^r(9)

Here Sir William has unexpectedly met his missing son's servant Lolpoop, walking along in the street leading a whore '*under the Arm*'. He has already struck them several times, and attracted the rabble with his shouting. The uncorrected version reads:

Sir *Will.* Villain, Rogue, Dog, Toad, Serpent! Where's my Son? Sirrah, you have Robb'd him, and murder'd him.

He beats Lolpoop, who roars out Murder: The Whore endeavours to hold Sir William still.

Lolp. Hold hold; your Son is alive, and alive like: He's in *London*.

Sir *Will.* What say you, Sirrah? In *London*? and is he well? Thanks be to Heaven for that: Where is he Sirrah?

Lolp. He is in *White-Fryers*, with Mr. *Cheatly*, his Cousin *Shamwell*, and Captain *Hackum*.

Sir *Will.* And you Rogue, you damn'd Dog, wou'd you suffer him to keep such Company, and commit such villanous Actions?

Sir William *pauses, as amaz'd: Then beats him again.*

Lolp. Hold, hold, hold, I pray you, Sir: I am but a Servant, how cou'd I help it, marry?

Sir *Will.* You cou'd not help being with a Whore your self: Sirrah, Sirrah, Sirrah. Here honest Mob, course this Whore to some purpose. A Whore, a Whore, a Whore.

Sir *Edw.* This is wisely done! If they murder her, you'll be hang'd: I am in Commission for *Middlesex*; I must see to appease them. *She runs out, the Rabble run after, and tear her, crying, A Whore, a Whore.*

The words *The Whore endeavours to hold Sir William still*, deleted in the corrected state, indicate a bit of stage-business that would improve the motivation for Sir William's subsequent, potentially lethal, vindictiveness towards her. Probably, with experience of the play in rehearsal and performance, it had been judged too messy, and hard to end. The other two directions were shifted so as to precede the speeches they initially followed.

(ii) I3^v (6–8)

The uncorrected state of lines 4–14 reads:

Term. Now is the time, the Door opens; pursue me with a drawn Dagger, with all the seeming Fury imaginable, now as the Old Man comes out. *Scrapeall passes over the Stage.*

Bro. Where is the Jade? Deliver her to me, I'll cut her in piece meal: Deliver her, I say. Well, you will not deliver her: I shall watch her.

Brother pursues her with a drawn Dagger, she runs and gets into the House, and claps the Door after her.

Enter within, Ruth, Teresia, Isabella, Termagant.

Term. Oh, Oh! Where is the Murderer? Where is he? I die with fear, I die.

In the corrected state both directions 'Brother. . her.' and 'Enter. . Termagant.' were shifted upward to precede the Brother's speech; but this was still not satisfactory, since it makes the Brother exit and speak offstage. And in Q2 'Enter. . Termagant.' is restored to its position following the Brother's speech. Either the man making the correction in Q1 misunderstood his instructions or else they were ill-thought-out.

The question of how best to spatially relate dialogue and directions when speaking and action were to some degree simultaneous demanded special decisions in each instance. It is interesting to notice that in a manuscript³ of Shadwell's earlier comedy *The Humourists* directions for actions are usually indented into the right side of the text, and roughly enclosed in a three-sided box, in a way that is not always satisfactory, e.g., on opening 58, where Oldpox is climbing over a lady's garden wall:

Oldp. Now my deare I come wer't as high as Paules was
 Id'e contrive it. oh my Shins my Shins Sdeath
 I have broke both my Leggs as she is unlocking the
doore hee leapes downe

In 1678 Shadwell had warned the reader of *A True Widow* that 'Many Faults in the printing have escaped, by reason of my absence, while the third and fourth Acts were in the Press' (Summers' edition, *Complete Works*, III, 288). The inference is that his normal practice was to be present in the printing-house, as his own proof-reader. Against this, his health was deteriorating in 1688; and there is no evidence in press-variants to indicate authorial proof-reading in sheets B – G, K or M, or the inner forme of L. This may however mean that some such corrections were made before printing began, and have left no recognizable trace. All we can say is that he intervened in I and A inner, and probably also in H and L outer.

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¹ The material for this article was extracted from my thesis, 'Critical editions of two plays by Thomas Shadwell, *The Squire of Alsatia* and *Bury Fair*', Ph.D., Birkbeck College, London, 1973. I have to thank particularly Miss Anne Byars, who collated the IU copy, and Dr Brian Opie who checked the EN copy for known variants.

² Clearly the IU copy's sheet A was very near the top of the heap for the printing of the inner forme and very near the bottom during the printing of the outer.

³ This manuscript, the property of the Duke of Portland, is deposited in the Library of the University of Nottingham.

APPENDIX

Copies of Q1 collated

Two of these, CLUC and EN, were checked for known variants only. Press-marks where known are supplied in brackets.

- CLUC William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, University of California at Los Angeles, California.
- CsmH Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California [D/S2874/147616].
- CtY Yale University Library, New Haven, Connecticut [Ij/Sh 12/88].
- DFo1 Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C. [S2874, Copy 1].
- DFo2 *Idem* [S2874, Copy 2]. Lacks sheet A (also L4, sheet M, made-up with Q2's sheet I).
- DLC Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
- EN Scottish National Library, Edinburgh [Bute 470].
- ICN Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois [Case Y 135 S521732].
- IU University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois [822/Sh 1 sq].
- L British Library, London [644.i.36].
- LeUB University of Leeds, Leeds (Brotherton Collection) [Case Lt].
- LU University of London, London ([Durning-Lawrence Library] [xvii] BC [Shadwell]).
- MH Harvard University Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- MiU University of Michigan Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- MWiW-C Chapin Library, Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts.
- NNC Columbia University Library, New York City, N.Y. [Spec. Coll. B823/Sh 1; Acc. No. 208528].
- O Bodleian Library, Oxford [Vet. A3 e. 1006].
- OW Worcester College Library, Oxford [Plays 5.75 (S2874)].
- PBL Lehigh University Library, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania [T/822/S524 S].
- TxU1 University of Texas Library, Austin, Texas (Miriam Lutcher Stark Memorial Library) [Acc. No. 736692].
- TxU2 *Idem* [Acc. No. 736691].

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