



A History of English Dramatic Literature, Vol. 3

By Adolphus William Ward

Atlantic Publishers & Distributors (P) Ltd, 1997. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. ? the most exhaustive and important in its field.? Thus, the judgment of an outstanding 19th century literary figure (see below on Ward?s masterly History of English Dramatic Literature). It is a judgment that has stood up remarkably well in the passing of almost a century since the work was first published. Students and scholars alike will find this famous history an invaluable source book on English literature. Ward?s lucid survey starts with the origin of the drama in England and the beginnings of regular drama. After an excellent account of Shakespeare?s predecessors there is a long and astute section on Shakespeare himself, including a discussion of the dramatist?s early influence on the Continent, especially in Germany. Volume II also covers Ben Jonson and the later Elizabethans, concluding with the ?merits and defects? of Beaumont and Fletcher. Volume III ends the work with an examination of the later Stuart drama ? when prose had become permanently the vehicle of dramatic speech in English comedy ? and the decay of tragedy. From an early review by Richard Burton in The Dial : . the work is beyond all compare the...

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