Werk

Titel: Englische Komödianten in Frankfurt a. M.

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filled the world? Nothing so childish, nothing so vaine, nothing so wanton, nothing so ydle, which is not both boldly printed, and plausibly taken. So that herein we have fulfilled the wickednes of our forefathers, and overtaken them in theyr syns. They had their spiritual enchauntmentes, in which they were bewytched, *Bevis* of Hampton, *Guy* of Warwike, *Arthur* of the round table, *Huon* of Burdeaux, *Oliver* of the Castle, the foure sonnes of *Amond*, and a great many other of such childish follye. And yet more vanitie then these, the witles devices of *Gargantua*, *Howleglas*, *Esop*, *Robyn Hoode*, *Adam Bel*, Frier *Rushe*, the Fooles of *Gotham*, and a thousand such other. And yet of all the residue the most dronken imaginations, with which they so defiled their Festival and high holydaies, their *Legendawry*, their Saintes lyves, their tales of *Robyn Goodfellow*, and of manye other Spirites, which Satan had made, Hell had printed *(N. B.)*, and were warranted unto sale under the Popes priviledge, to kindle in mens hartes the sparkes of superstition, that at last it might flame out into the fire of Purgatorie. These were in the former daies the subtile sleightes of Satan to occupye Christian wyts in Heathen fansies. And we as men that can not learne wisedom by anye examples to keepe our selves from harme, but as though the wickednes of our forefathers were not yet full, we wyll make up their measure, and set up shrines to the woord of God, and the wrytinges of all hys Saintes, which our forefathers had cast out of all honor, that their own dreames and illusions might be had in price. To thys purpose I trow we have multiplied for our selves so many new delightes that we might iustefy the idolatrous superstition of the elder world. To this purpose we have printed us many bawdy songes (I am lothe to use such a lothsome woord, save that it is not fyt inough for so vile endevours), to this purpose we have gotten our Songes and Sonets, our Pallaces of pleasure, our unchaste Fables and Tragedies, and such lyke Sorceries, moe then any man may recken. Yea some have ben so impudent, as new borne *Moabites*, which wallow in their own vomit, and have not bene a shamed to entitle their bookes, The Court of *Venus*, The Castle of Love, and manye such other as shameless as these. O that there were among us some zealous *Ephesians* (Act. 19. 29), that bookes of so great vanity might be burned up etc. etc.

Cape Town. H. R. D. Anders.

Englische Komödianten in Frankfurt a. M.

Der englische Reisende Fynes Moryson (1566—1630) besuchte zu Ende des Sommers 1592 auf dem Wege von Heidelberg nach Hamburg auch Frankfurt und sah dort englische Komödianten spielen. Er legte seine Reiseeindrücke in umfänglichen Aufzeichnungen nieder, die zum Teil 1617 gedruckt wurden, zum Teil aber erst im letzten Jahre durch Charles Hughes unter dem Titel «Shakespeare's Europe» (vgl. Bücherschau). Hier ist auf S. 304 zu lesen:

«Germany hath some fewe wandring Comeydians, more deserving pitty then prayse, for the serious parts are dully penned, and