

Feb 4. 1929.

## Early English Drama.

### Intro:

One of the most interesting things in the world is to watch a thing grow

1) a child 2) a college 3) a tradition 4) an art - Plays.

Educators concerned with Growth

How did it become like that? —

The question of the ages.  
unrecognizable characteristics develop

Communal interest in Plays

How did they get like that?

Let us trace informally the

Growth of English Drama.

(<sup>countries</sup> others may be quite different)

In general - our interest in dramatic art an early characteristic take child - kindergarten examples People who are childlike have int. in histrionic act.

English Drama began in the Church.

Religion - only edu. in M. Ages.

Church - gateway of all learning

Common people, many illiterate

their only chance for imagination + romance in church services.

Germany Drama 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> Cent

in 1st Easter Service

2nd Christmas Processions

3rd Liturgy. ques. & ans.

mass  
beast days proc.  
mouset & choristers

} nursery of  
histrionic act.

At first plays only in church-

Below the stage.

Names

1. Mystery - medieval religious from French word "mystère" meaning spiritual - called in England plays or pageants
2. Miracle - play about the life of saint or some prodigy wrought in behalf of religion  
A culminating wonder usually.
3. Morality musicals.

(anon)

Then Plays in Churchyard

more audience  
 three tiers to stage } heaven  
 earth  
 here.



Then Plays in Market Place

and grad. moved about  
- cycles were developed.

grad. clergy relinquished  
role of actors

Audience greater.

fees.

Intro. of humor.

break in hist. of miracle  
that made church into town  
boycott end  
13th cent.

It is now we can say came the  
beginning of nat. drama proper.

T. Brooke says: history of  
Eng. drama as distinct national  
type begins with the maturity  
of the guild cycles, a develop-  
ment of earlier cosmopolitan  
church drama, which first  
appears in the 14<sup>th</sup> cent. attaining

(S)

its greatest beauty in the 15<sup>th</sup>  
but continuing with only gradually  
abating splendor until close of  
Reign of Elizabeth.

First showed itself in 14<sup>th</sup> Cent.

Corpus christi Day to be  
celebrated by edict of Pope Clement V  
1311. Transubstantiation

Thurs. after Trinity Sunday.  
early sun. 2. mos after Easter  
10 days after Whitsuntide.

This became pop. time for circle  
mystery plays.

Rise of Guilds. 15 + 16<sup>th</sup> Cent.

Guilds develop cycles

4 hrs 5 left

\*

① York 48 ② Wakefield or

Boweney or Woodville 30

1258  
-earliest

(6)

(3) Chester 24 (4) Coventry 42

Various guilds took special topics:

Bakers - The Creation

Coopers - Man's disobedience to God

Armourers - Adam + Eve driven from Eden.

Shipwrights - Building of the Ark

Fishers - Noah + the Flood.

## Procedure

Summer Time

Town-Crier

Arrival of Stage. 3 or 4

stations in the town. 2 tiers

as a rule. Many actors.

Guilds paid for upkeep.



Equipment was stored from one sea to another.

Rivalry in Plays & Poems.

pageant piece tax for Plays.

Pageant from bagua = plank.

Introduction of Comedy.

(very conservative. not much change or originality)

servant of Cain

wife of Noah.

Pharaoh King of Egypt.

Shepherds of Nativity

Lucifer

demons.

Appearance of Allegorical Form

leads to:

Moralities.

Veritas  
Iustitia  
Pax.

very  
dull.

(5.)

Other Elements - (later products  
of scandal, suppression and  
persecution)

1) licenced burlesques  
monastic feasts.

2) Village Dance - Morris dances

3) Minnies or buffoons.

(also strolling players)

Moralities grad. superseded

Bible stories. Everyman.

VICES + VIRTUES of Pastelboard

Metaphysical Theology.

Thin affairs

Finally became farce.

Just called Paternoster or Creed Plays

The Pride of Life

The Castle of Perseverance

(airman stage on a green outside)



lack of ingenuity in invention of plot

3 dist. Plots { Coming of Death  
Conflict of Vice & Virtues  
Debate of Heavenly virtues

Interludes noblemen's  
entertainments.

Conclu.

mystery - church

mystery { churchyard  
market place

miracle { strolling

Quido Cycles.

moralties

Interludes.

Plays proper. { Comedy  
Tragedy  
Farce.

1550 first English Comedy

Ralph Roister Doister

1571 first Eng. trag. Gorboduc

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