

THE WOMEN IN LYLY'S PLAYS

An Honors Essay

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and sensitive to the exact-gauge activities of the age. His drama appeared in "that brilliant and artificial phase of the English Renaissance when its activities were largely confined to an Italianized court around the Queen,"¹ and was merely a drama of the group to which Lyly belonged. Before the appearance of Lyly's first play in 1584, the English drama had already succeeded in branching out in directions other than those suggested by the medieval morality plays and Miracle Plays. Actually, the secularized morality was still accepted, but there had appeared new and more exciting developments in the theatre. By the beginning of the sixteenth century the English academic world had adopted the language of the Renaissance, and shortly thereafter the English drama began to progress toward a new vitality.

¹ John Dover Wilson, "Faulstich's *Jean d'Alcy*," *ibid.* 1911, 1911-12.