Edmund Spenser Home Page
Annotated Census of Spenser Editions, 1569 – present

http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/spenser/bibliography/

SECTION 1: EDITIONS OF SPENSER'S WORKS, 1569-1679

[Note: throughout the quasi-facsimiles below, italic face is represented by italic, black-letter by boldface, and rubrication by red face. Occasional reference is made to the following works:
These works are cited parenthetically by editor and reference/page (e.g. McKerrow, No. 234). Because Johnson's descriptions and formulations are in many cases so precise and correct, I have seen no reason to change them; in many cases, the first section amounts to a summary or simple elaboration of his work, for which I am respectfully grateful.]

1. Jan van der Noodt, A Theatre, first published 1569.

[Within a rule, within a border of type ornaments, within a rule] A THEATRE | wherein be repre- | sented as wel the miseries & ca- | lamities that follow the vo= | luptuous Worldlings, | As also the greate ioyes and | plesures which the faith= | full do enioy. | An argument both profitable and | delectable, to all that sincerely | loue the word of God. | Devised by S. Iohn van- | der Noodt. | [floret] Seene and allowed according | to the order appointed. | ¶ Imprinted at London by | Henry Bynneman. | Anno Domini. 1569. | CVM PRIVILEGIO. [octavo]

[Spenser contributed to this volume xx translations of works by Du Bellay and Petrarch, later revised for publication in his own Complaints of 1591. The translations are not attributed to Spenser anywhere within van der Noodt's text; the attribution is based upon their reappearance in Complaints, where they are noted as 'formerly translated.]


(a) THE | Shepheardes Calender | Conteyning tvvelue Æglogues proportionable | to the twelue monethes. | Entitled | TO THE NOBLE AND VERTV- | ous Gentleman most worthy of all titles | both of learning and cheualrie M. | Philip Sidney. | [triple dot enclosed in parentheses] | [square printer's ornament] | AT LONDON. | Printed by Hugh Singleton, dwelling in | Creede Lane neere vnto Ludgate at the | signe of the gylden Tunne, and | are there to be solde. | 1579. [quarto]


4. Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, 1590 (Q), 1596 (Q), 1609 (F).

(a) THE FAERIE | QVEENE. | Disposed into twelue books, | Fashioning XII. Morall vertues. | [device of John Wolfe: McKerrow, No. 242] | LONDON | Printed for William Ponsonbie. | 1590. [quarto]

(b1: 1596 I-III) THE FAERIE | QVEENE. | Disposed into twelue bookees, | Fashioning XII. Morall vertues. | [device of Richard Field: McKerrow, No. 222] | LONDON | Printed for VVilliam Ponsonby. | 1596. [quarto]


(c) THE | FAERIE | QVEENE, | DISPOSED INTO | XII. BOOKES, | Fashioning twelue Morall Vertues. | [device of Humphrey Lownes: McKerrow, No. 335] | AT LONDON. Printed by H. L. for MATHEW LOWNES. | 1609. [folio]


[within a woodcut border: McKerrow and Ferguson, No. 117] Complaints. | Containing sundrie small Poemes of the Worlds Va- nitie. | Whereof the next


[A second edition of *Daphnaïda* was published in 1596, at the back of the first edition of *Fowre Hymns*]


AMORETTI AND Epithalamion. Written not long since by Edmunde | Spenser. [device of Peter Short: McKerrow, No. 278] Printed for William | Ponsonby. 1595. [octavo]


Prothalamion Or A Spousall Verse made by Edm. Spenser. IN HONOVR OF THE DOV ble mariage of the two Honorable & vertuous Ladies, the Ladie Elizabeth and the Ladie Katherine Somerset, Daughters to the Right Honourable the Earle of Worcester and espoused to the two worthie Gentlemen M. Henry Gilford, and M. William Peter Esquyers. [diamond-shaped printer's ornament] AT LONDON. Printed for VVilliam Ponsonby. 1596. [quarto]
11. Collected works, 1611, 1617.

[within a woodcut border, originally cut for the 1593 edition of Sidney's Arcadia; see McKerrow and Ferguson, Title Page Borders, No. 212] The | Faerie Queen: | The | Shepheards Calendar: | Together | With The Other | Works of England's Arch-Poët, | Edm. Spenser: | Collected into one Volume, and | carefully corrected. | Printed by H. L. for Mathew Lownes. | Anno Dom. 1611. [folio]

[it was customary to identify another edition of the Works in 1617 until the findings of F. R. Johnson (1933) showed that independent elements of the composite volume were reset and reprinted on demand, as constituent stocks failed; for information on the printing of the seven separate elements (title page and dedication; Books I to III of The Faerie Queene; Books IV to VI of The Faerie Queene with the Cantos of Mutabilitie; the letter to Ralegh, with commendatory and dedicatory poems; The Shepheardes Calender; Prosopoppoeia or Mother Hubberds Tale; and the rest of the shorter poems), see Johnson (1933), pp. 33-48).

12. Edmund Spenser, A view of the present state of Ireland, 1633.

A View | Of the State | Of | Ireland, | Written dialogue-wise betweene | Eudoxus and Ireneus, | By Edmund Spenser Esq. | in the yeare 1596. | [ornament: a cherub's head] | Dublin, | Printed by the Society of Stationers. | M. DC. XXXIII. [folio]


SECTION 2: EDITIONS OF SPENSER'S WORKS, 1715-1932

[This section does not attempt a complete catalogue of editions of Spenser's works even in this period. Instead it presents an account of the major editions of Spenser's complete works, noticing those distinguished by particular editorial care, scholarly annotation, or lavish publication/wide circulation.]


THE | WORKS | OF | Mr. Edmund Spenser. | IN | SIX VOLUMES. | WITH | A GLOSSARY Explaining the Old and | Obscure Words. | [within a horizontal rule] Publish'd by Mr. HUGHES. | [within a horizontal rule] VOLUME the FIRST. |
2. Ed. T. Birch, 1751.

The Faerie Queene by Edmund Spenser, with an exact Collation of the two Original Editions [by Thomas D. D. Birch], published by himself at London in quarto, the former containing the first three books printed in 1590, and the latter the six books in 1596; to which are now added a new life of the author and also a glossary adorn'd with thirty-two copper plates from the original drawings of the late W. Kent. (London: Printed for J. Brindley in New Bond-Street and S. Wright, Clerk of his Majesty's works, at Hampton-Court, 1751). [3 volumes]


SPENSER'S | FAERIE QUEENE. | A NEW EDITION | WITH A | GLOSSARY, | And NOTES explanatory and critical | BY | JOHN UPTON | Prebendary of Rochester and Rector of Great Rissington | in Glocestershire. | IN TWO VOLUMES. | VOLUME the FIRST. | LONDON: | Printed for J. and R. TONSON in the Strand. | [under a horizontal rule] MDCCCLVIII.

4. Ed. Ralph Church, 1758.


Section 3: Editions of Spenser's Works, 1932-Present

[Note: this section is especially selective. Only those editions with particularly sound texts or especially helpful annotations/appendices have been included.]

*The Faerie Queene*


Ed. by A. C. Hamilton et al. (London: Longman, 2001). [A revised, unmodernised text based on the early quartos, and 1609 folio, of the poem, framed by the same elaborate annotation as the first edition.]

*The Shepheardes Calender*, etc.


individual works; scrupulously edited and copiously annotated. Apart from the pulp-paperback format, this is now the best affordable edition of Spenser's shorter poems.]

A view of the present state of Ireland

A View of the State of Ireland, From the first printed edition (1633), ed. by Andrew Hadfield and Willy Maley (Oxford: Blackwell, 1997). [A faithful edition of Ware's 1633 text, with helpful prefatory material and appendices, including an annotated guide to further reading.]