

THE DUCHESS OF PADUA

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A PLAY

BY

OSCAR WILDE

METHUEN AND CO.

36 ESSEX STREET W.C.

LONDON

First Issued by Methuen and Co. in 1908

*This Edition on handmade paper is limited to 1000 copies
for the United Kingdom and America*

NOTE

The Duchess of Padua was written in 1882, and finished in March 1883. It was produced in New York on November 14, 1891, at Hammerstein's Opera House. Twenty prompt copies were printed for private circulation and use in the theatre. One of only two copies known to exist contains the author's corrections, and on it the present edition is based. Certain passages were found to have been bracketed, or deleted in pencil. Whether these passages were omitted for stage presentation, or were intended to be omitted by the author altogether, there is no evidence to show. They have, however, been retained in the present edition, and are indicated by brackets. The original manuscript was stolen, with other unpublished works, from the author's house in April 1895. The play has been translated by Dr. Max Meyerfeld (Egon, Fleischel and Co., Berlin, 1904). An unauthorised English *prose* translation from the German has been printed in Paris, London, or America, and is offered for sale by unscrupulous publishers and unscrupulous booksellers along with other spurious works ascribed to Oscar Wilde. The dramatic rights for America belong to the representatives of Miss Gale and the late Laurence Barrett. The dramatic rights for England, the Colonies, and the Continent are vested in the author's literary executor, and administrator of his estate,
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