

Lantern and Candlelight Thomas Dekker



EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION & ANNOTATIONS BY
VIVIANA COMENSOLI

Thomas Dekker was among the most prolific and talented of Shakespeare's contemporaries. He authored approximately seventeen plays and collaborated on more than fifty others with leading dramatists such as John Webster, Thomas Middleton, Henry Chettle, and John Ford. Dekker was also one of early modern England's finest and best-known pamphleteers. *Lantern and Candlelight* belongs to the genre variously known as the rogue book, beggar book, or cony-catching pamphlet, which developed in the mid-sixteenth century and was popular until the eighteenth. Modern counterparts are fiction and films that showcase underworld characters and their secret language, codes, and practices. *Lantern and Candlelight* was one of the most popular rogue books of its time. This is the first complete modernized edition of the pamphlet's first edition (1608). Comensoli's introduction situates it within literary and social contexts and illustrates Dekker's unique contributions to early modern print culture.

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