

## CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION: THE SATURNALIAN	
PATTERN	
Through Release to Clarification	3
Shakespeare's Route to Festive Comedy	6
charcopeare's Route to restive Comedy	II
2. HOLIDAY CUSTOM AND ENTERTAINMENT	
	16
The May Game The Lord of Main	18
The Lord of Misrule	24
Aristocratic Entertainments	30
0 35103711	3.
3. MISRULE AS COMEDY; COMEDY AS MISRULE	36
License and Lese Majesty in Lincolnshire	
The May Game of Martin Marprelate	37
	51
4. PROTOTYPES OF FESTIVE COMEDY IN A	
PAGEANT ENTERTAINMENT: SUMMER'S	
LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT	-0
"What can be made of Summer's last will and	58
testament?"	
Presenting the Mirth of the Occasion	58
Praise of Folly: Bacchus and Falstaff	61
Festive Abuse	67
	73
"Go not yet away, bright soul of the sad year"	79
5 THE FOLLY OF	
5. THE FOLLY OF WIT AND MASQUERADE IN	
LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST	87
"lose our oaths to find ourselves"	88
"sport by sport o'erthrown"	93
"a great feast of languages"	95
Wit	99
Putting Witty Folly in Its Place	103
"When Then "-The Seasonal Songs	113

## CONTENTS

6. MAY GAMES AND METAMORPHOSES ON A	
MIDSUMMER NIGHT	110
The Fond Pageant	12
Bringing in Summer to the Bridal	13:
Magic as Imagination: the Ironic Wit	130
Moonlight and Moonshine: the Ironic Burlesque	148
The Sense of Reality	15
7. THE MERCHANTS AND THE JEW OF VENICE:	
WEALTH'S COMMUNION AND AN INTRUDER	163
Making Distinctions about the Use of Riches	166
Transcending Reckoning at Belmont	174
Comical/Menacing Mechanism in Shylock	177
The Community Setting Aside Its Machinery	184
Sharing in the Grace of Life	186
8. RULE AND MISRULE IN HENRY IV	192
Mingling Kings and Clowns	195
Getting Rid of Bad Luck by Comedy	205
The Trial of Carnival in Part Two	213
9. THE ALLIANCE OF SERIOUSNESS AND LEVITY	
IN AS YOU LIKE IT	222
The Liberty of Arden	223
Counterstatements	226
"all nature in love mortal in folly"	229
O. TESTING COURTESY AND HUMANITY IN	
TWELFTH NIGHT	240
"A most extracting frenzy"	242
"You are betroth'd both to a maid and man."	245
Liberty Testing Courtesy	248
Outside the Garden Gate	257
IDEX	263