

Stanley Edgar Hyman, The Armed Vision, a study in the methods of modern literary criticism
(1947, 1955)

"The most distinguished and extensive scholarship, for obvious reasons, has been inspired by the most important works of literature, specifically the Bible, Homer, and Shakespeare. With the miracles of Biblical and Semitic scholarship, chiefly the so-called 'higher criticism', which has largely succeeded in unraveling the innumerable documents, revisions, and editings that go to make up our Sacred Books, and the only slightly less miraculous feats of Homeric and Greek scholarship that have done a comparable job in identifying the medley of fragments and incrustations we know as Homer, we need not concern ourselves here. A very brief glance at a few aspects of Shakespeare scholarship the specific tradition in which Miss Spurgeon worked, however, should be in order."
(page 180)

(3.81) "Dover Wilson is a typical case; an intelligent and conservative textual critic, one of the editors of the valuable (sometimes weird) new Cambridge edition, who has been one of those to make an exhaustive study of Elizabethan handwriting as a basis for reconstructing Shakespeare's manuscripts through compositers' misreadings, he frequently goes wild when he gets to critical interpretation, and relies on no evidence more objective than his own pipe dreams. Theories like the conjecture in The Essential Shakespeare that the great last poems Shakespeare undoubtedly wrote after his retirement were destroyed by his Puritan son-in-law, or the view in What Happens in Hamlet that Shakespeare chose Denmark as a setting because of its Lutheranism, make Greg's statement that Wilson's theories are the "careerings of a not too captive balloon in a high wind" seem surprisingly moderate." (page 184)

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