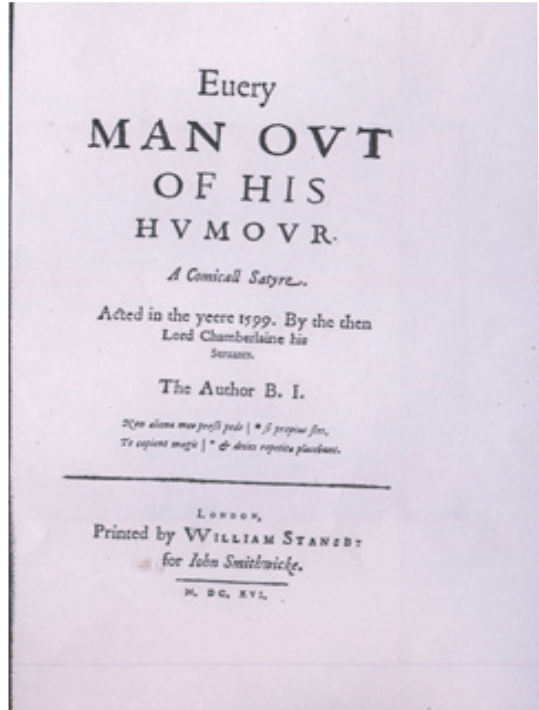


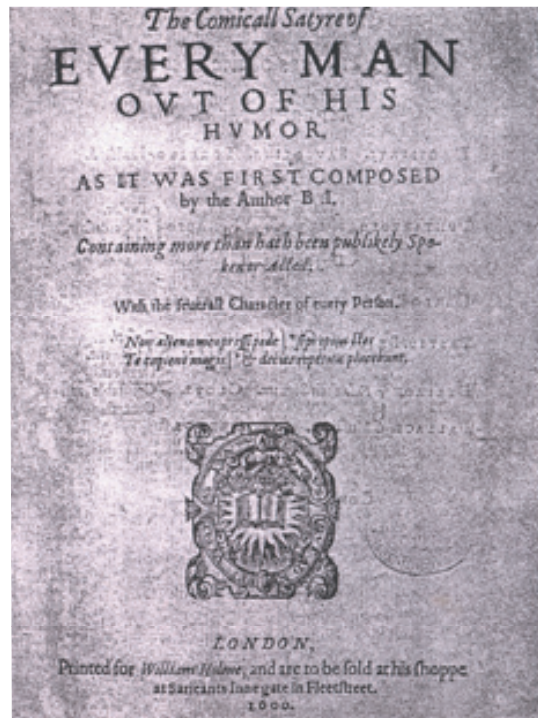
**PUNTARVOLO or PUNTARUOLO ?**  
**Noemi Magri explains a matter of Italian vocabulary**



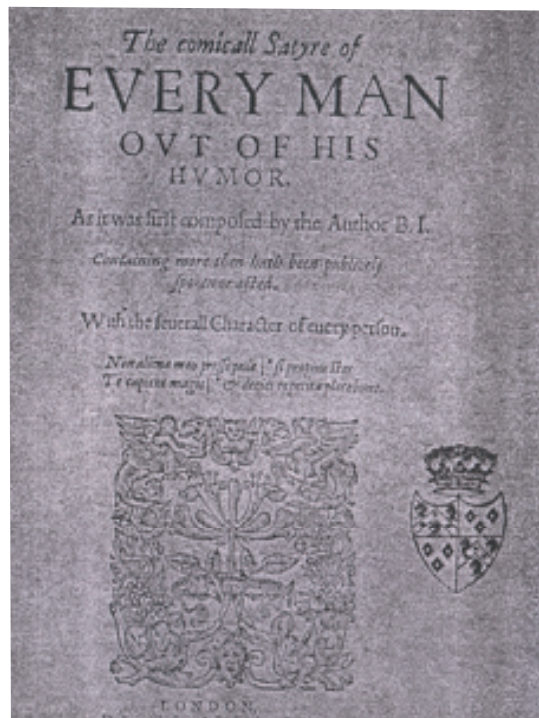
Title-page of the 1616 Folio, with ornamental border



Title page in the First Quarto



Title-page in the Second Quarto



Title page in the Third Quarto

"A Vaine-glorious knight" – as Ben Jonson describes his creation – is one of the characters in **Everyman Out of His Humour**. It is generally agreed that the Knight is a caricature of Edward De Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford.

The name of that character is spelt differently in the quarto and folio editions of the play, as follows:

Throughout F1 and F2, the prevailing spelling is PVNTARVOLO.

Qp 1,2,3 give both Puntaruolo (Some examples of it are present also in F1) and Puntarvolo (some examples also in F2).

Q3 also has Puntaruollo.

In the title on the front-pages of both Folios and Quartos, in the stage Directions and Speech Headings of Ff, the letter U is printed as V so we have: OVT. HVMOVR / HVMOR, PVNTARVOLO.

Therefore, by comparing the different spellings of the Knight's name in Ff and Qq, we can see that

the prevailing form is Puntaruolo. Given that the names of many characters in the play are actually Italian words, either adjectives or nouns (Sordido, Macilente, Fungoso, Fallace; Cinedo, Buffone), one may suppose that also the Knight's name has an Italian origin.

In fact, puntaruolo is an Italian word - the stress falling on the second to last syllable. Puntaruolo (first recorded use 1402) derives from Medieval Latin 'punctirolus' (1250) and is formed by punta (English: 'point') and the suffix -aruolo. (Variant forms: punteruolo and punterolo)

A puntaruolo is a T-shaped pointed tool with a short wooden handle used for making holes in leather or wood: the English equivalent would be 'awl' or 'bradawl'.

Ben Jonson's choice of that Italian word evidences his intent to ridicule the 'Vaineglorious Knight'.

#### Bibliography:

*Ben Jonson*, ed. C.H. Hereford & P. Simpson. Oxford. 1954. 4 Vols

*Grande Dizionario Italiano dell'Uso*, ed. Tullio Di Mauro. UTET, Torino. 1999. 7 Vols

N.M.

**GREAT OXFORD  
ESSAYS ON THE LIFE AND WORK OF  
EDWARD DE VERE  
17TH EARL OF OXFORD, 1550 - 1604  
ENDORSED AND WITH A FOREWORD BY  
SIR DEREK JACOBI**

**GENERAL EDITOR: RICHARD MALIM  
EDITORIAL TEAM: EMMA JOLLY, KEVIN  
GILVARY, ELIZABETH IMLAY**

**£ 14.00 ISBN: 1-898594-79-1**

**375 PAGES 189x246MM  
26 B&W ILLUSTRATIONS PAPERBACK**

**BUY DIRECTLY FROM PARAPRESS LTD.  
9 FRANT ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS TN2 5SD**

**TEL/FAX 01892 512118  
office@parapress.eclipse.co.uk  
www.parapress.co.uk**

### **Oxford's letters** **The Letters of Edward de Vere, Seventeenth Earl of Oxford-1563-1604**

**Read by Sir Derek Jacobi  
with quotes from  
additional letters by contemporaries and  
music thought to be composed by de Vere**

*Narration by Joan Walker*

*Narrative and editing of letters by Stephanie  
Hopkins Hughes*

*2CD set produced by Malcolm Blackmoor and  
Susan Campbell*

*Madrigals sung by the Fulham and Hammersmith  
Choral Society, Christopher Bracewell, Conductor*

*EFS Motivation Sound Studios & Gloria/Magnificat  
Location Recordings, recorded and edited by  
Malcolm Blackmoor*

*Contact: susancampbell\_1@hotmail.com*