

Philotus an The Assemblie: twa plays

'Philotus' an 'The Assemblie' are twa plays in Scots. Philotus wis scrievit around the late 16th century, an The Assemblie (or 'The Phanaticks' as it wis also kent) in the late 17th century. Baith lie atween post-Reformation austerity an the hin-end o the religious strauchles that steered in Scotland ower the seeventeenth century.

Naebodie kens who scrievit Philotus, Scotland's ainly survivin Renaissance play. It is an ootrageous comedie o mainers whaur an 80 year-auld carle ettles tae mairry a 14 year-auld quine. Thru enticements tae riches an whiles thortit in intentions bi cantrips in cross-dressin the tale unfaulds.

The Assemblie has been attributit tae Edinburgh physician Archibald Pitcairne. The play, wi its Episcopalian sympathies, is a scarcely guised dingin agin the 'haly wullies' o Presbyterian authority in the effircome o the Glorious Revolution an handselin o King William III tae the British throne.

Philotus

1. Can ye think o ony similarities atween Philotus an ony o Shakespeare's plays? Mak a leet ablow:

Shakespeare play	Similarities wi Philotus

2. Whit daes this tell ye aboot baith Scottish an English Renaissance society?

3. Whit would a Renaissance audience hiv enjoyed aboot Philotus?
4. Is there onything a modren audience wouldnae lik about this play? Gie raisins fir yer answer.
5. Whit wirds are yaised bi Emilie tae express her scunneration at the thocht o bein mairrit tae Philotus?
6. Is there onythin in the play tae suggest that Scottish Renaissance society wis superstitious?
7. Is there a moral tae the tale?

The Assemblie

1. Whit wis ootrageous about the line in the Prologue: 'We have a Play, the Pulpit turn'd a stage'?
2. Why did the kirk disapprove o theatre?
3. Whit wis the difference atween a Whig an a Jacobite, a Presbyterian an an Episcopalean?

Whig	Jacobite

Presbyterian	Episcopalean

4. Hou wis Edinburgh a dividit city?
5. Is Edinburgh still a dividit city the day? Explain yer answer.
6. Whit daes the play hae tae say about the Presbyterian meenisters o the time?
7. Hou is Scots yaised in the play?
8. Whit maks the play pro-Episcopalean?
9. Whit daes the play tell ye about religion an politics o the time?