

## **PLAY FORTY-FOUR (A) - The Funeral of Mary/ "Fergus"**

### **(The Linen-weavers)**

No text entered in the Register. The Golden Legend, a collection of early Christian myths, collects several versions of the story in which Mary's bier is attacked. The attacker, known in the York plays as Fergus, loses his hand in retaliation by the disciples. Repenting, his hand is miraculously reattached.

The source story is explicitly anti-Semitic, although the name of Fergus is due to the medieval city's anti-Scottish sentiment.

The play was abandoned by the Masons, who complained over many years that it inspired "more laughter than devotion". It was then taken up by the Linenweavers in 1476, although there is no record of the script as it existed.