

PART ONE: TEXT

Waiting for Godot

3 NOTE ON THE TEXT

As *En attendant Godot*, the text was first published in 1952 (Paris: Les Editions de Minuit). Its first publication in English was in 1954 (New York: Grove Press). The first English edition was published in 1956: it has many minor variations from the American text and some bowdlerising, to meet the demands made by the Lord Chamberlain when the text was first staged in London.

The definitive edition of the English text was published by Faber and Faber (London, 1965) and is the text to which reference is made in this volume. (Note that the text included in *Samuel Beckett: the Complete Dramatic Works* (London: Faber and Faber, 1986) is the superseded text of 1956, not the edition of 1965.) Beckett has since revised the play as a result of directing it. A 'performance text' edition of the English version, edited by Dougald McMillan and James Knowlson, is in preparation. It will be published by Faber and Faber and Grove Press (New York), in a series under the general editorship of James Knowlson, with *Krapp's Last Tape*, edited by James Knowlson and *Endgame*, edited by Stanley Gontarski.

4 THE SITUATION

It is evening on a country road. Vladimir and Estragon (nicknames, Didi and Gogo) invent ways to pass the time