

Brotherton Lt q 17 – Satire on named Justices of the Peace in Northamptonshire

Catalogue (BCMSV) description:

Start	(Neighbour Lister by)
First lines	Neighbor Leister by your leave Your peacekeepers wee perceave
Last lines	All I wrott is but to true And soe I byd you all adue
Author	Anonymous
Date	1606 ?
Length	284
Verse form	Couplets
Content	Detailed satire on the character and behaviour of some thirty named justices of the peace and other Northamptonshire gentry, including Robert Cecil, Earl of Exeter; Sir Arthur Throckmorton; Sir Anthony Mildmay; and Sir Richard Knightley.
Bibliographic references	Crum N104
Manuscript	Lt q 17
Pages	ff.1r-3r
Physical features	Three stitched leaves in narrow folio format containing only this item
Record number	2608

The hand is secretary and uses a distinctive form for 'for' which appears at first to be only two letter forms, 'be' but is unmistakably 'for'. The medial miniscule 'd' is quite distinctive with its ascender leaning sharply to the left while initial 'd' resembles a scrunched up 'g'. Miniscule 'a' has a sharply angled ascender to the right and 'w' has a pronounced ascender on the initial stroke that curves to the left. 'I' is also fairly distinctive, crossing over itself and with an almost circular mark on top. Spelling is inconsistent and punctuation is nonexistent except for backslashes sometimes placed at the end of stanzas. Until the last few stanzas, correction is rare and this looks like a fair copy. Near the end however, there are more frequent corrections of the type that could be caused by misreading a source text/eye skip (see devotion / ~~de~~ promotion, p8, and ~~of Ten~~ often, p9, for example). The hand deteriorates in the final folio and what had been a consistently spaced hand becomes larger and more irregularly spaced. A watermark is present, cut off in the gutter of the spine. It is the bottom half of a pot and it looks as though the letter 'B' is present and clearest on f3. The mark is cut off before the handle(s) begin(s). Stanza breaks are present, but sometimes poorly defined. The stanzas are not of a consistent length. Physically, the MS is in fair shape, though the ink on f1 is distinctly lighter than that inside the booklet. The MS has been folded into what looks like 16ths, with the most pronounced crease in the center. A hole has formed all the way through the three folios along this central crease, resulting in some loss of text. There is some spotting from water damage in the bottom right hand corner of f1.

Enclosed with the MS are two copies of letters relating to the MS, a copy of a catalogue listing for the MS and what appears to be an article or a newspaper/magazine item about the MS. I have photographed all four inclosures.

1. Letter, typed, Xerox copy

Lamport Hall, Northampton

24th June, 1967.

Librarian and Keeper,
Brotherton Collection,
The Brotherton Library,
University of Leeds

Dear Mr. Page,

Thank you for your letter of June 23rd. Naturally we regret that this document is not going to find a permanent home in its county of origin and more particularly that it will not be published originally in our journal. However, we are glad to know that it is in such safe hands, and that its publication in a learned periodical is assured. There were several mistakes regarding the personalities mentioned in Peter Murray Hill's catalogue and no doubt these will be remedied. I feel sure that our local experts in this field will be glad to offer assistance in the way of identification etc., before the article is published.

Yours sincerely,

Gyles Isham

President of Northamptonshire Record Society

2. Letter, typed
Brotherton Collection
DIM/CAH

27th June, 1967

Dear Professor Cawley,

MS Poem on Northamptonshire J.P.'s

I enclose a xerograph of Sir Gyles Isham's reply to Mr. Page, to go with our extra carbon of Mr. Page's letter [NOT present in the file]. Note Sir Gyles's last two sentences. Perhaps a tactful compromise may be found in the way of getting the Society to vet local references and biographical details, and this could be acknowledged in the article? Besides, they might then be disposed to give their "public" advance notices, or at least a relatively favourable review, of it.

Yours sincerely,

David I. Masson,
Sub-Librarian

Prof. A.C. Cawley,
School of English.

3. Catalogue record (perhaps the Peter Murray Hill Catalogue referred to by Isham)
34. MANUSCRIPT POEM, UNPUBLISHED, ca. 1605-1606. OUTSPOKENLY SATIRIZING THE FOIBLES OF HIS MAJESTY'S JUSTICES OF THE PEACE FOR NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, AMONG THEM ROBERT CECIL, EARL OF EXETER; SIR ANTHONY THROCKMORTON, RALEIGH'S BROTHER-IN-LAW; LORD STANHOPE, PRISONER IN THE TOWER FOLLOWING THE "GUN-POWDER PLOT"; SIR ANTHONY MIDLMAY, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE; AND SIR RICHARD KNIGHTLEY, NOTED PURITAN AND PATRON OF THE "MARPRELATE" PRESS.
4. Article cut to same folio size as the MS. Is this the article mentioned by Isham? Maybe an effusive sale catalogue entry? Someone has penciled in next to one citation 'NO. This is Tanfeld, later in the poem.' He is correct, whoever he is... I have a photocopy of this item.

[Untitled Poem]

Neighbor Leister by yo^r leave
 yo^r peace keepers wee perceave
 by yo^r Letter late sente oute
 w^{ch} yo^r Justices did floute
 Whereof mucche yo^u were to blame
 b^le yo^r rules for to shame
 we will more modeste men
 now soe blacke wth Inke & pen
 noe suche sleight synnes are yo^{rs}
 most of ours are past cures
 fyrste our Lorde must leade the waye
 for they all doe r<unne> astraye

Exeter is Growne to greate
 to take care for Maulte or Wheate
 his faire howses and his Landes
 wth his ba<g>es that by hym standes
 and his Brother pretty Bratte
 hath his earldome st<ro>ken Patt
 and nowe he thinkes but on his playe
 and wth a pryme weres tyme awaye
 South that ruled once in Wales
 he that whipped the welshmens tayles
 for kyssinge but once more then needes
 synce that good well never speedes
 fayne he woulde be counted holye
 but he cannot hyde his follye

¹ having a lot of trouble with this first letter – could be a misshapen ‘w’[if so, it must be a slip of the pen because it doesn’t match any other ‘w’s, or possibly the word is ‘for’ it’s quite unclear and I don’t think that ‘b’ fits the sense, though it sort of looks like the closest letter form...

he doth noe good unto our shire
but makes lande and howses <.>eere [could this be deere?]

Stanhope he is nowe start uppe
by swallowinge Sande<.>s att a suppe [look at this again]
proude he is as all his race
heare god sende hym noe longe space
neyther did he any good
fyrme for frinde he neaver stood
smyles and sympers like <my²> Aunte
and yet will geve a wayward taunte

Vaux that ympe of haradon
his wyfe mother hath undon
w<.>e where women wyseste be
holye seemes yet hollowe shee
Loves a Pryste and is confeste
but I will not tell the reste/.

Mordante ys a syllye man
he must be medlinge nowe and than
as his Ladye likes it beste
for the w^{ch} in fleete he reste
fooles doe ever longe remayne
in the Towre for their payne

Rowe our Lorde that gaue soe much
for his Lordshippe to speake douch
he woulde fayne beare greatest swaye
yf his braynes woulde beare awaye
any thinge but woolle and Lambe
and a wenche that costlye came
his own pattren is soe ylle
as his Children it doth spille

Monntagu our newe made knight
bathed for goulde wth ribonde dight
thinkes hymselfe noe mean man
for a wyse worde nowe and than
fayne he woulde be presyse
better yt were for to be wyse

Gryffin the Attornes sonne
he a rybon to hath wone
not for any vertue sake

² a hole in the crease of the paper makes this only partially legible

but because the Scoth[s?] woulde take
 coninglye aman of Lawe
 for the eldest hath a dawe
 fayne this foole woulde haue promotion
 yet cannot Leave the popes devotion

[end of f1, start f1v]

yelverton that Jokinge Judge
 thinkes that he is noe small drudge
 to take care for comom good
 but when goulde flows as a flood
 Lord howe how he would be presyse
 but all knowe hym that are wyse

Richard Knightley gapinge Dycke
 never was wthout a tricke
 but yet <...>fayled in the prooffe
 hurt he did but noe behooffe
 proved he was and payed full well
 for that secte as some can tell
 but his headde is far to greate
 to worke any willy feate

Myldmer that comersome knighte
 scornes our warrante for to ritte
 thinkes hymselfe to be to wyse
 for our sessions or our sysse
 yet by his leave he runes astraye
 and played the wanton many a daye
 w^{ch} made his pate soe soone graye

Farmor fayne woulde be a Lorde
 but his wyfe cannot afford
 Money from her hopefull dayes
 when shee thinkes of wanton playes
 Baron he to Barnett wente
 by the waye in in state he spent
 till coulde comferte mett hym there
 Lord howe altered was his cheere
 falne againe unto a farmor
 yet he payed full well the Charmor
 goes to Church and not receaves
 soe the kinge and Lawes deceaves
 and he ever cleaves to those
 w^{ch} for papysts the worlde knowes

and makes gainfull <o>ste by Theeves
and Lyves in dandger of the sheryffes

Throckmorton doth followe nexte
rashe and heddye well to vex
forward still to fynde afaulte
thoughe hymselfe cannot mende ought
but noe man cares for his furye
as wittnes take his **graniurye**
fayne he woulde be thought full wyse
as his father upe did ryse
yet god wot the odes ys greate
wherefore we maye hym intreate
to take paines wthin our shire
for he likes noe thynges we heere
but he loves his ease to muche
much good can doe never suche
whether yt be his deasease
or any humor that doth sease
both his body and his minde
Idell never we hym fynde
but sure the Matter is not greate
he will doe a wonderowes feate

[end f1v, start f2]

Osborne amores in his days
womens maners profeste alwayes
thoughe he bareth not much beard
yet is of the gote she heard
M^{ris} Geordge and many moe
w^{ch} is hi<.>de must never kndoe
good ptes in hym never any
bad and scurvye we knowe many
amongste the reste to keepe hym greate
he doth use the pretty feate
he greate courtiors doth pswade
to be his heire when he doth fade
and in the cuntry castes that hooke
soe Lowe that he doth catche a cooke

Valenyne our knightes sonne
he that w<or>dly soe hath won
hath as sweete a mouth in shewe
as any courtious knight I knowe
but for all his flearinge face

fales he is and wthout grace
 honesty he never knewe
 nor to his frinde howe to be true
 for a ~~thinge~~^{Puritan} he woulde passe
 yet for game woulde goe to Masse

Isham he loves well a hoore
 who hath lessened much his power
 hath witt moughe to keepe a hawcke
 and though he canot wyslye taulke
 Longe he hath byn Londons detter
 and yet I feare tis not much better

Watson he waites on good Ale
 and then he telles a bawdye tale
 but most of all when brookes is by
 both are perfecte in A lye
 and both doth love a bawdye howse
 and stronge sacke for to carouse

What of Androus shall I tell
 sure a foole that thus doth sell
 soe much Lande and non knowes why
 fondly fales to begerlye

Chitwood is an honest man
 much hurte nor much good he can
 faine he woulde haue byn a Lord
 but his purse woulde not affoord
 the highe price of such a thinge
 were great inoughe for his Levinge
 for he woulde ~~at~~ that all were well
 wch waye he canot tell

Samuell not the holye prophett
 but samuell that makes his profitt
 by hordinge upe of all olde endes
 keepinge close what soe god sendes
 he that sayes that all his havinge
 is increaste by ~~many~~^{wary} savinge
 his father was an Auditor
 and he is nowe a purchaser
 Tanfeilde he hath quite turned oute
 and yet doth lyve but like a lowte
 [end of f2, start f2v]
 when any thinge is to be spente

he is from home and forth he wente
 all his men have trades besydes
 to serve att Table or to ryde
 for fewe of them on horsbacke come
 of Foottmen they supply the roome
 never weare there any Shiryffe
 had <f..y..er>^{fewer} hanginge on his slyve
 yet most of them are to hym lente
 to wast was never his intente
 Makes the Justices at theire Meetinge
 fast and praye such are there greetinge

Chansey can saye nothinge worth
 but howe he did once ride forth
 and bydd a poore man leave his poorse
 as his sonnes hath donn much worse
 whether yt be ned on a varye
 forsed them to doe this knavery
 to fynde it out noe matter greate
 for yt ys a comon feate

With the Chanseys and the Worleys
 soe to lyve by hurly burlies
 on barrs in his pockett dice
 the other hath an Iron vice
 to locke upe a chamber mayde
 but turnes his wyfe to another trade

Nowe to tyte tate Tate
 that soe can<missing text>rly Pratt
 and doth thynke his speeches rare
 wch god wot but tedious are
 bysey still any bee
 in all matters will be hee
 woulde be faynde estemed pure
 yet to them he is on sure
 sets his better leg before
 and stayes for su<..>es at his door

Barnabe that ancient squier
 he that ~~hath~~ doth lett bares to hier
 byndes Theeves over for brawles
 and robbery aquarell caules
 Bar<...³>des nede must beare wth Theeves

³ the middle three letters seem to have been corrected and this has rendered them difficult to decipher. It could be 'woo', 'noe', 'nae', 'mae' basically I don't know...

for they hange on otheres sleeves/

Willy Wake whose craftye pate
 recons all at his owne rate
 thinkes he castes beyonde the Moone
 When he is perceaved soone
 yet he hath a pretty knacke
 well a fury for to packe
 yf yo^u coulde hym well detecte
 papystry most he doth efecte
 soone his consience is but weake
 for he syldome of god dare speake/

[end f2v, start f3]

Daper Draydon soe sprunge upe
 as he scornes a sheppardes Crooke
 Many a tod of woolle seles
 and many a holly tale he telles
 goes to Banbery for devotion
 seemes not to passe for ~~de~~ promotion
 yet is his **deninited**
 all myxed wth mutany
 all his he liues is savinge
 and <.⁴>eetle spendes of all his havinge
 prosper soone canot his Lande
 gotten by soe fales a hand

Hickman seemes a sparke of fier
~~of Ten~~^{often} he is proved a Liar
 in aleginge wth wordes^{bookes} of Lawe
 w^{ch} god knowes he never sawe
 he and R[B]utler thinkes to beare
 errors out and us to feare
 wth acquamas sublia sleights
 and they dances othe dreights
 all for sooth to prope up pope
 for the w^{ch} god sende them rope

As for pevishe Protherowe
 he is adunce we all doe knowe
 awelshman that for game will doe
 bad knav sh<...> <...> or two⁵

⁴ something has been written over here and the ink has spotted – perhaps a correction to ‘l’ for leetle?

⁵ this line has been folded over and there is a hole obliterating what looks like two words. The whole line, except ‘or two’ is suspect.

sayes it is a comon Lawe
 still to stumble at a strawe
 for gaine to lett the greatons goe
 and houlde the meanest still in woe
 for he for ~~payne~~^{pence} takes every purdge
~~alwayes~~^{alwes} the ~~←...→~~^{←...→} of every drudge⁶

All the rest we will put together
 and packe them all in Calu[n?]'es Ledger
 well they maye unjustified be
 for their ~~ins~~ insufficiencie
 unworthy for my pen to touche
 Crowners maye be made of such
 and synce this place ys yet to good
 for such bastardes by the Roode
 from a Justice to a Jury
 Let them passe for all there fury
 search not for me abyd in doubte
 for youll never fynde me out
 Mende yo^r Maners be made newe
 all I wrott is but to true
 and soe I byd yo^u all Aduē/
 [end f3]

⁶ again, a small hole obscures the crossed out word and that written above it