

Oxford Bodleian Library

MS Rawlinson Poetry 16 – Bound volume containing a presentation manuscript by Jane Cavendish and Elizabeth Brackley (nee Cavendish)

I was interested in seeing this after looking at the Nottingham Cavendish papers. I did not find any reference to the Deptford school there, but it is interesting the girls would collaborate on a dramatic piece for presentation.

Description: Modern binding, dark blue, embossed with W * N on the front and back covers. Inside front cover has Rawlinson book plate, old shelf mark of 14509 and the Bodleian's mark, MS Rawl, Poet. 16. Folio size, paginated in pencil: vii + 168 pages.

iii-iv – a table of contents. Appears to be on different paper than the rest, or at least has been more used, shows discoloration and much wear and creasing along the edges of the page. Includes items such as “On my sweete brother Charles,” “Passions Contemplation”

v – Title page:

Poems

Songs

~~and~~ a

Pastoral

[interlined] and a play

by the

R^t Hon^{ble} the

Lady

JANE CAVENDISH

and

Lady

ELIZABETH BRACKLEY

1 – Poems, written in clear italics with ruled margins and divisions between poems on the same page. Titles appear in ruled box. Looks like Rolleston was the scribe for this copy.

9 – “To her most sacred Ma:^{tie},”

When Mary's named, what life it giues

And makes each one, if dyeinge for to liue;

[...]

...Mary of Henry fourth of Fraunce...

16 – “An answeare to my Lady Alice Egertons Songe of I prithy send mee back my Hart”

I cannot send you back thy hart

For I haue but my owne

And that as Centry stands apart

See Watchman is alone

Now I doe leaue you for to spy
Where I my Campe will place
And if your Scouts, doe bringe alye
May bee your selfe will face

Then if you challenge mee the feild
And would mee batle satt
I then as Maister of the feild
Perhaps may proue your nett

23 – “The Carecter”

names...

Mr. Butler; Mr. whitehead; Captaine Ogle; Mr. Bamford; modest Daniell; Nan Wooley; Bess Burden; Judyth; Nan Boukett

44 – “On my worthy freind Mr. Richard Pypes,” “On my Worthy Freind Mr Haslewood”

49 – Jane Cavendish’s dedication to her father

50 – Elizabeth Brackley’s dedication to her father

51 – blank

52 – “A Pastorall” Antimasque is 5 witches who have ‘meatomorphize[d] euery body’ so that brother hates brother, sister hates sister, etc...

87 – “A Prolgue to the Stage”

Ladys I beseech you blush not to see
That I speake a Prologe being a Shee
[...]

“The second Prologe spoke by a Woman”

Though a second Prologe spoke to our Play
I will speake trueth, ‘tis woman all the way
For you’ll not see a Plott in any Act
Nor any ridged, high, ignoble fact
Fearing you’ll sensure mee now full of Tongue
It is not fitt, that I should speake too longe./

90 – “The Actors” rest of page is blank

91 – “The Concealed Fansyes”

159 – Contents

The greate example
Passions letter to my Lord my Father
On my sweete brother Charles
On my sweete Brother Henry

On my lord the Marquess of Newcastle my Father
On my Noble Uncle Sr Charles Cavendish Knt
Passions contemplation
The truth of Pensell
A song in answer to you Lordships satyre
On an Acquaintance
On a Noble Lady
Passions debate
The Revive
On a false report of your Lordships landing
On his most sacred Majesty
On her most sacred Majesty
On his Highnes the Prince of Wales
A Songe
On my sweete Nephew Henry Harpur
On my sweete sister Brackley
On my sweete sister Fraunces
[160]
The Pert one or otherwise my Sister Brackley
On her sacred Majesty
Loves Torture
The Quintessence of Cordial
A Songe
An answer to the verses Mr Cary made to ye Lay Carlise on the least finger of her hand
Thanks letter
Passions invitation
An answer to my lady Alice Egertons song of I prithee send me back my heart
On a chambermaid
Four copies of verses on an Acquaintance
three copies of verses on a noble lady
on the lord viscount brackley
on my sweet sister brackley
loves universe
the captive burial
a song
fairings monkey
on my sweet sister brackleys picture
on my sister Fraunces picture
on a worthy friend
the character
a song – I would loves language tell but so e&
the angry curse
[162]
A song – a man and a wife when they marry
a discursive ghost
lifes weather glass

the cautious man or witts wonder
on my sister brackley
on an honourable lady
on a chambermaid
a recruited joy on a letter from your lordship
on my noble grandfather Charles cavendish
on the lady ogle my dear grandmother
on my dear mother the countess of newcastle
on my dear brothers and sisters
on my grandfather mr Basset
on my grandmother the lady corbet
on my sweet sister the lady harpur
on gilbert earl of shrewsberry
on my honorable aunt Mary countess of shrewsberry
on my good aunt jane countess of shrewsberry
on my good & true friend mr Henry Ogle
On my Honourable grandmother Elizabeth countess of shrewsberry
to heaven, or a confession to god
on christmas day to god
on good fryday
on the 30th of june to god
the minds salvation
hopes preparation
the speaking glass
loves conflict
on my worthy friend mr rich pyper
on my worthy friend mr haselwood
hopes still
dedication of a pastoral by lady jane Cavendish
dedication of the same by Lady Eliz Brackley
A pastorall
A Prologue to the stage
The second prologue spoke by a woman
A particular prologue to your lordship
the concealed fancies a play
three epilogues

MS Rawlinson Poetry 26 – Bound folio volume of MS verse; contains Duke of Buckingham satire (from Cavendish collection?) [also present in Brotherton Ltq 11/11 as Come here lady muses]

f 61v-62 – initial letters are exaggerated, with a looped flourish on the initial descended of ‘A’ extending well below the line of text. ‘C’ likewise extends well above and to the left of the line of text. Generally clean secretary hand with use of italic script in first two words of the poem.

This version is quite different (after the 4th quatrain) from that presented on the ESL site – how does it compare to the Brotherton version? Watermark present – grapes. Just grapes.

Of the Duke of Buckingham

Come listen faire maydens and helpe me to singe
Come loue me where as I lay
Of a Duke that desyrs to be crowned a kinge
The quite contrary way
One Buckingham duke, is the man that I mean
Come loue me ec
On whose shoulders the state of the kingdome doth leane
the quyte ec
Of his deeds and fame we all may sing
Come loue me ec
For his word is a lawe in any thinge
the quite ec
O happie is the kingdome that ever was kynde
Come loue me ec
And happie is the king that hath such a freind
The quite ec
Comissioners into <enly> state hee hath sent
Come loue mee ec
For money unto the king to be lent
the quite ec
Lord Amrall of his fleete he wilbe
Come loue me ec
For of Saylers all beloued is hee
the quite ec
he hathe vowed a ruyne vpon his foes
Come loue me ec
hee will double his fame that last he did loose
the quite ec

And when

[end 61v]

And when he is gone wee will pray <amayne>
Come loue me ec
That he may safe home returne agayne
the quyte ec
And this to end Monseur dukes whole praise
Come loue me ec
Lett us pray for the length of his days
the quite contrary way
And when death hath cllosed up his eyes
Come loue mee ec

God take him up into the skys
the quyte contrary way

f. 72-v – “A praier for the kings five senses”
1623

From such a face whose excellence...[incl seeing, hearing, tasting, feeling, and smelling]

f. 94 – “A Dialogue betweene 2 Zealots concerning &c in the New Oath”
Sr Roger from a zealous peece of freeze
Rays’d to a Vicar of the Childrens three’s;
[...]

MS Rawlinson D 1021 – Bound quarto volume of MS verse; contains version of the Mountebankes Masque

f1 – Suum cuique
Tho. Hearne

The MSS Things contained in this Book were given me by Mr. Edward Lye, M.A. Vicar of Little Houghton near Northampton.

[writing is in dark brown ink on paper with pot watermark which is cut off in the spine. Looks like cinque-foil with a crescent moon, but the letters inside have so far been illegible. Body of text is written in secretary hand with headings given in italic. The scribe consistently uses ‘v’ in the middle of words as consistent with modern spelling though he uses ‘v’ in place of ‘u’ at the beginning of words. “I” is elaborate and resembles a continental seven, loops to the left then back up to cross over. This does not seem to match the Osborne or Arbury hands. The cantos that are present in the A414 version ARE present here (which means that the Arbury version is not unique, but if these two versions are the only two with the cantos, are they both recording the same performance? Are they copying from a common exemplar? The order of the text is different here in that the cantos follow the mask in this version, occurring after the Paradoxes at ff9, while in the Arbury the cantos precede the mask.]

f3 -

The first Antemaske of 8 Mountebankes
English, Italian, Dutch, Russian, French, Spanish, Egiptian
Jewe./
Mountebanckes speeche./

The greate M^d of medicine Asculapius preserve and prolonge the
sanitie of theis Royall and Princely spectato^{rs} and if anie here present
happen to be valetudinary the blessed fringer of our grand master
Paraceleus be at hand for theire speedie reparaco~ns; I haue hard of a mad
fellowe that stiled himself a mery Greeke and goes abroad by the name
of Paradox whoe wth freykinge and dameinge a newe brotcht doctrine

hath stolne himselfe this feastivall tyme of Chrsitmas in favoure of the
 Court of Purpoole, and havinge there gott some approbaco~n for his ~~
 finale pformance is growne soe audacious as to intrude himself into the
 honored presence. To prevent whose further groweing fame, I haue
 wth this my fellowe Artyte of seuerall nations all famous for the
 Banke hether made repaire to present vnto yo^r viewe, more wholesome
 more pleasinge and more moveable delights, w^{ch} to avoyde plixitie
 I distribute into theis followeing comon places./

- 1./ Names of Deseases cured by vs (w^{ch} beinge
infinite wee purposely omitte)
- 2./ Musicall charmes
- 3./ Familier receipts

They singe their songs vizt:

[begin f3v]

Chorus

What ist yo^u lacke? what would yo^u buy?
 what is it that yo^u neede?
 Come to me Gallants taste and trye
 heres that will doe the deede

1 Songe

heres water to quenche mayden fires
 heeres spetitte for old occupiers
 heers powder to preserve youth longe
 heers oyle to make weake senewes stronge

what ist <ec>

This powder doth preserve from hate
 This cureth the malificiate
 Lost maydenheads this doth restore
 And makes them virgines as before

what ist <ec>

heers cure for foote ache, fever, Lurdens
 vnlawfull and vntymely burdens
 deseases of all Sex all ages
 This medicine cures or else assuages

what ist ec

I gave receitte to cure the gowte
 to put pox in and put pox owt
 hott bloode to coole, could bloode to warme
 shall doe yo^u if noe good noe harne

what ist ec

2 Mo: songe

Chorus againe

Is anie deafe is anie blinde?
Is anie bound or loose behinde?
Is anie foule that would be faire?
would anie Ladie change their haire?
does anie dreame, does anie walke?
or in their sleepe affrighted talke?
I come to cure what ere yo^u feelee
wthin wthout, from heade to heele

[begin f4]
Be drummes or ratles in thie h<ead>e?
are not thie braines well tempered?
doth Eolus thie stomacke gnawe?
or breede there vermyne in thie Mawe?
dost then desire and cannot please?
Soe here the best Cantarades.

I come ec
Even all diseases that arise
from ill disposed crudities
from too much studdie too much paine
from lazines or from a strane
from any humour doeinge harme
Be't drye or moyst or colde or warme

I come ec
Of lazie gowte I cure the riche
I ridd the beggar of his Itche
I fleane avoyde both thicke and thyne
I dislocated ioynts put in
I can old Esons youth restore
I doe a thousand wonders more
then come to me what ere yo^u feelee
wthin wthout from heade to heele

Chorus againe

3 Mo: songe
Maides of the chamber or the kitchinge
if you be troubled w^h an Itching
come give me but a kisse or twoe
Ile give you that shall soone cure you
Noe Galen nor Hipocrates
did ever doe such cures as these
Crackt maides that cannot hould yo^r water
or use to breake winde in yo^r laughter
Or be yo^u vext wth ribes or cornes
Ile cure, or cockcolde of their hornes
Noe Galen nor Hipocrates

did ever ec
[begin f.4v]
If lustye doll maids of the dayrie
chance to be blewe nipte of the fayrie
for makeinge butter wth her tayle
Ile give her that did never fayle

Now Galen ec
Or if some worse mischance betide her
Or that the night Mare over ride her
Or if she tell all in a dreame
Ile cure her for a messe of creame

Now Galen ec
Chorus againe

4: Mo songe
Is anie soe spent that his wife keepes lent?
does anie wast in his marrowe?
Is anie a slugge? lett him tast of this drugge
twill make him as quicke as a cocke sparowe
my powder and oyle extracted wth toyle
by rare sublimed infusions
have prooffe their good by o^r deare bloode
in many strange conclusions
Does anie consume wth the salt french rhume
doth the gowte or palsie take him
Or hath he the stone, ere a moneth be gone
as sound as a bell I make him
my powder ec
The greiffe of the spleene, or maide that be greene
or the heate in ladies faces
The gripes of the stiche, or the schollers Itche
In my cure deserve noe places
My powder ec
The webb or the pyne or the Morpheus of Skynn
or the risinge of the mother
I can cure in a trice, oh then be not nice
or ought that greives you Smother
My powder ec

Chorus againe

[begin f5]

Familier Receiptes

An approved receite against melancholly feminine
If any ladie be sicke of the sullens she knowes not where

let her take a handfull of simples, I knowe not what
and use them I knowe not howe, applieinge them to the pte greived
I knowe not w^{ch} and she shall be well I knowe not when

If anie scholler be troubled wth an Itche or breakinge out w^{ch}
in tyme may prove the skirvie, lett him first forbear claweing
and frettinge meates, and then purge coller but by noe meanes upwards

For restoring gentlemen vshers legges

If anie gentleman usher hath a consumption in his legge
lett him feed lustiely on veale 2 moneths in the Springe tyme
and forbear all manner of mutton and he shall increase in calfe

If anie be troubled wth the Tentigo lett him travell to Japan
or because the Forrest of Turnbolia is of the same altitude or
elevacion of the Pole and at hand lett him hunt there for his recreation
and it wilbe done in an instant.

If anie Scholler labor of the Angina a dangerous desease in the throate
soe that he cannot speake in a houre together once in a quarter of a yeare,
lett him forbear all violent exercises as trottinge to Westminster hall
every terme, and all hott liquors and vapors, let him abstaine from companie
retireinge himselfe warme clade in his studdie 4 daies in a weeke
et fiet.

For a Fellon

If any be troubled with a fellon in his finger whereby he hath lost the
lawfull use of his hande, lett him but once use the exercise of swinginge
and streatche himself vpon the soverigne tree of Tiburnia and it
will presentlie kill the Fellon probatum est

If anie Virgine be soe sicke of Cupid that the desease is growne to a
Tympany lett her wthall speede possible remove herself chainging
ayre for 40 weekes at least, keepinge a spare diett as she travells,
alwaies after usinge lawfull exercises till she be married and then
she is past dainger./

For Barrannes

If annie ladie be longe married yet childles, let her first desire to
be a mother, and to her breakefast take a newe laid egge in a ~~
spoonfull of Goates milke wth a Scruple of amber grease and
at Supper feede on a henn troad on by one cocke: but aboue
[end f.5; begin 5v]

all things lett her avoyde hurringe in a Cotche especially on
the stones and assuminge a fyner moulde then nature meant
her, and noe doubt she shall fructifie.

For the Fallinge Sicknes

If any woman be troubled wth the fallinge sicknes lett her not

travell Westward ho¹, because she must avoyde the Ile of man
and for that it is an evill speritte only entered into her lett
her for a charme alwaies have her legges a crosse when she is
not walkinge, and this will help her.

For a Rupture

If anie tradesman be troubled wth a rupture in the bowells
of his estate that he cannot goe abroade, lett him decoct gould from
a pound to a noble takeinge the brothe therof from 6 moneths
to 6 moneths and he shall be as able a man as ever he was.

Mountebanckes speeches

Nowe princely spectators to lett yo^u see wee are men
qualified from heade to foote wee will showe yo^u
a peece of our fotemanship
Dance & Exeunt

Enter Paradox

Health and Iovance to this faire assemblie nowe the thrice
three lerned sisters forsake me, if ever I behelde such bewties
in Athens: yo^u aske me phaps whoe I am that thus conceitedly
salute yo^u: I am a mery Greeke and a Sophister of Athens
whoe by fame of certen Novell and rare presentments vndertaken
and promised by the gallante speritte of Graecia drawne ~
hether have intruded myself Sophisterlike in at the backe
dore to be a spectator, or rather a censor of their ~
undertakeinges, the muses graunt they may satisfie their
expectacions; At the shewes and the songes, and the
speeches, and the plaies, and the comedies and the Actinges
[and f 5v begin f6]
that I have seene in Athens the unni se² never sawe the like. But
lett that passe, there was another ende of my comeinge and that was to gett
some of those bueties to be my disciples for I teache them rare doctrines
but delightfull, And if anie be true Athenians, that is true lovers of
novelties, as I hope yo^u are, yo^u will give my hopes their looked for
expectacion: knowe then my name is Paradox, a strange name but
proper to my desent, for I blushe not to tell yo^u truth, I a slippe of
darknes, my father a Jesuite my mother an Anabaptist; And as my
name is strainge soe is my profession, and the arte w^{ch} I teach (my
selfe being the first that reduced it to rules and methods, beares my ~~
owne name Paradox; And I prairie yo^u what is a Paradox? it is a
Quodlibet or straine of witt or invencion, screwed above the vulgar
conceit to begett admiracion: And because methode is the mother of

¹ referring to the play?

² looks like two words here but could be an abbreviation in the middle? Looks like unn7 sie

discipline, I devide my paradoxes into these three heads: Masculine, feminine & the Neuter. And first of the first, for the Masculine is more worth then the feminine, and the feminine more worthy then the neuter, Ham Ham. He drawes his book and reades./³

Paradox Masculine

- 1./ He cannot be a cuckold that weres a Gregoria: for a Periwigge will never fill such a heade
- 2./ A kinght of the long robe is more ho^{ble} then a knight made in the feild for furrs are dearer then Spurres
- 3./ A drunckarde is a good Philosopher for he thinks aright that the world goes rounde
- 4./ The divell cannot take Tobano through his nose, for St Dunston seared up that, wth his tonges
5. / A Shoemaker is the fittest man to make a constable for he vertute Osticii may put anie man into the Stockes and enlarge him at the last
- 6./ A prisoner is the best fencer for he ever lieth at a close warde
- 7./ An elder broth may be a wise man for he hath wherewthall to buy experience at any rate
- 8./ A nimble Page is more usefull for a ladie then a longe gentle=man usher, for a Sparrow is more active then a bould Bussard
- 9./ Burgoma^{rs} ought not to were theire furred gownes at midsomer for soe they may bringe in the Sweatinge sicknes againe
- 10./ A cutt purse is the surest trade for his worke is noe sooner done but he hath his money in his hande.

Feminine

- 1./ Tis better to marrie a widdowe then a maide causa paret
- 2./ Downright language is the best rhetorike to wynn a woeman for plain dealinge is a Jewell, and noe ladie but desires her lappfull of them
- 3./ A painted ladie is the fittest M^{rs} for a captaine for soe both may fight under their cullors
- 4./ Rich widdowes were ordained for younger brothers for they be heire to noe lands but must ploww in an others mans soyle
5. Maids should marrie before the yeares of discreacion for malitia supplet etatem
6. It is daingerous to marrie a widdowe for she hath cast her rider
7. An English virgine singeth sweeter here then at Brussells for a voluntary is sweeter then a forcte
8. Tis good for a younge popishe lasse to marrie an old man for soe she shall be sure to keepe all fastinge nights
9. A daingerous secreate is safe placte in a womans breast for

³ stage direction not present in A414

noe woman will searche for it there.

10. A woman of learninge and tongues is an admirable creature
for a Starlinge that can speake is a p^rsent for an Emperor

11. If a woeman wth childe longe to lie wth another man her
husband must consent; for if he will not she will doe it wthout him

12. A greate Ladie should not were here owne haire for that is
as meane as a garment of her own spynninge

13. A faire woemans necke should stand a wrye for soe she looks
as if she were lookinge for a kisse

14. Woemen love fishe more then fleshe, for they will have
place what soever they paid for it.

[end f 6v begin f7]

Neuter

1. An usurer is the best chrystian for Quantum nummoru habet
in arca tatum habet & fidei

2. The best bodies should were the plainest clothes for painted clothes
were made to hide bare walls

3. Dissemblers may faythfully be trusted, for theire meaninge is
alwaies contrarie to theire words

4. It is better to be a begger then a merchant for all the world lies
open to his traffique and yet he paies noe custome

5. It is more safe to be druncke with the hoppe then with the Grape
for man should be more </> with his countryman then with a
stranger

6. A man that is deepe in debt should be deepe in drinke for
Bacchus concelles all obligacions

7. Plaies houses are more necessarie in a commonwealth well
governed, then publique schooles, for men are better taught by
example then precept

8. Tavernes are more requisite in a cittie then Academies for tis
better the multitude were lovinge [?] then learned

9. A Tobacco shope and a baudiehouse are concidents for smoke
is not wthout fire

10. Marriage frees a man from care, for then his wife takes all upon her

11. A kenell of hounds is the best consort for they neede noe turninge
from morening till night

12. The court makes better scholers then the universities⁴ for
where a kinge vouchsafes to be a teacher, everyone
blusheth to be a non proficient

Verte tria folia

[end f7]

⁴ actually uses same abbrev as above, but context is clearer and I have expanded

The followinge Paradoxes were reade out at Grayes Inn but left out at Court to a voyde
odiousnes

[skipped this will come back to if possible]

[f.9]

The Lordes intertanem^t at Graies Inn
vpon Candlemas daie

The Prince havinge saluted them this songe was songe by
the voyces to sixe Lutes

Chorus

Welcome Grandees to yo^u all
all our best of wishes fall
on yo^u nowe as still they shall
would wee knewe great lorde the waie
best to welcome yo^u this daie
yo^u deserve our best who thus
come and seeke to hono^r us
But as men wth too much light
dazelled if not blinded quight
Or as men haulf past their hope
Joyde, beyonde our wish wee grope
And at somewhat catch and saie
what wee wott not, that yo^u maie
Soe by this our harts soe filld
That as if wee were distilld
into wonder wee give ore
crieing welcome, and noe more

In the midle of Dyner this songe to my lord Chancellor

vno auulso non:
deficit alter

yo^u are the first in this great Comon weale
whose self and sire were keepers of the greate seale
Sprunge from that goulden stemm of worth and witt
whoe for his wisdomes lives admired it
and where as other families declyne
In hono^r yo^u yo^r Ancesto^r out shyne
hence sprunge yo^r roote, and yo^u till cald from us
Both grewe the goodliest trees in Libanus
Oh that yo^r fate might wth our wishe agree
you then should be as fertile to as he
and put fort Branches ere you lefte this stage
to make us flourish in an after age../

[end f 9 begin f 9v]

At partinge this songe to the IPs w^{ch} most
of them ben of thr houses

Wee whilome thought aryght, our Speare
was glorious enoughe when yo^u shyned here
yo^r partinge made us sad a while till wee
did recollecte our selves, and nowe wee see
yo^r brightnes havinge changed his Orbe reflects
more powerfull beames and more benigne aspect
And in this large circumference imparts
Sweete influence of Joye to all our harte
Grove still faire Starre in magnitude & glorie
lett after tymes admire and love yo^r storie./

[end f 9v begin f 10]

Musick Sounde

Paradox

[I don't have time to transcribe all this, but the above cantos are where the MSS depart from the printed text. The A414 does not include the headings explaining when each song was sung and as John Siddons noted, leaves off unfinished. Perhaps these are not from a common source, since we would then expect the organization to be the same (A414 begins with the cantos while Rawl D 1021 has them in the middle of the masque text). This appears to be a fair copy since there is no correction and formatting is consistent throughout]

MS Ashmole 36, 37 –

The MS contains a fragment of the Mountebankes masque of ff.211-212. It does not include the cantos present in the A414/Rawl D 1021. This fragment begins with the Neuter paradoxes (of which it includes 20) and continues through the 'last song'. The writing is in two columns on folio paper. Speech prefixes are present but inconsistently formatted and there don't appear to be stage directions. The secretary looks earlier than the Rawl. MS and is small and cramped, especially towards the bottom of the page. It does not show any corrections.

MS Carte 38 –

f. 271 – letter from Edward Cooke to Duke of Ormond re: the funeral of Charles Cavendish. Just thought I'd look – why was that again?? Feb 20 1674. Nada

MS Eng Poet 112 – Commonplace Book of John Newdigate III

just wanted to have a look, though the volume has been thoroughly examined by Owen, Boyda & Lou Knafla

The 'S27' pencilled into the front of the book looks like an Arbury library shelf mark, doesn't it? Guess it could be any shelf mark, but looks like the ones in M351?

After looking at the handwriting of the 'Life of Edward the Second,' I believe this may be a match for the writing in the Glausamond and Fidelia play (WCRO CR136 B766). I have images of the play and need to compare more closely, but the majuscule 'I,' 'A' 'T' 'B' 'G' appear to be the same. The letter formation in the words 'man y' in my WCRO photo looks identical to the word 'many' on f.4 of the commonplace book. The word 'selfe' in WCRO 027 looks like a match for 'my selfe' in the commonplace book f.9. 'the' also looks very similar with the ascender of 't' beginning with a hook to the right. 'st' and 'sh' at the beginning of words also look consistent. I also checked this against my images from the Croydon letter at the WCRO. They look very similar, including 'I', but the miniscule 'y' looks quite different from its appearance in the commonplace book and the Glausamond play.

I tend to agree with Boyda about JR's hand here, but when I compared the paradoxes and the Mr Clifton poem side by side with the MS Rawl Poet 16 attributed to JR, it is evident that the letter forms are in fact quite different. 'I' for example, is distinctive and different in each sample. 'f' is also different. I think it would be worth comparing the images we have of the commonplace book with the ones from Nottingham. Perhaps the MS Rawl 16 looks different because it is a presentation text and the size of the writing is much larger. I still think the hands look similar, perhaps more in terms of spacing of letters and overall shape. When I compare individual letter though they look different.

f142 v – Larmanie attributes to RN – “Sublime y^r actions as y^r thoughts y^t those may shew you lived in verse and dyed in prose”