

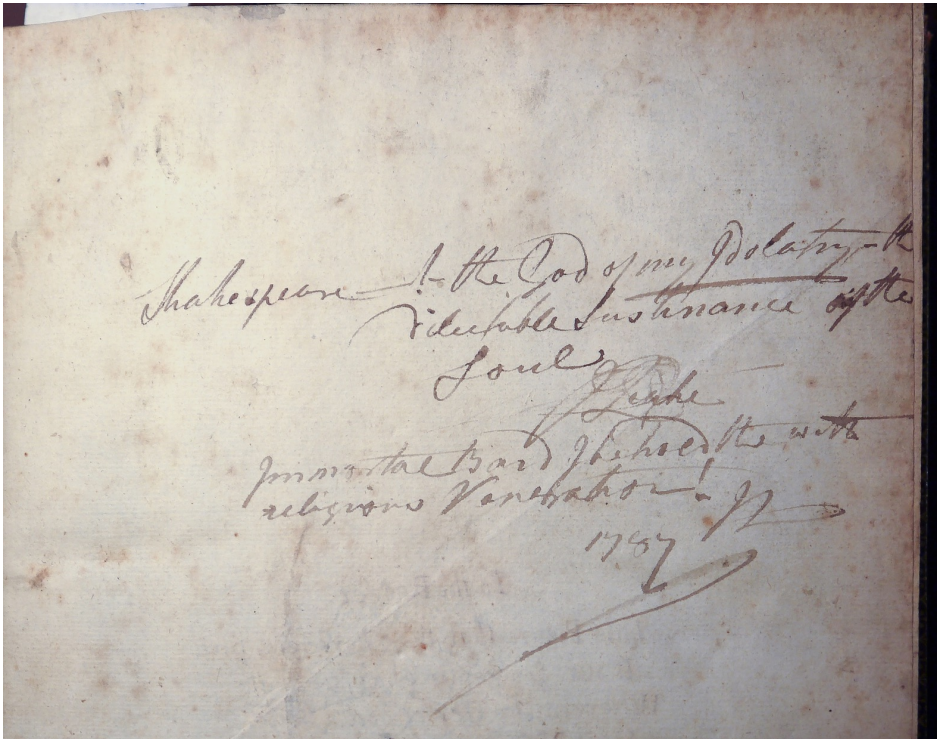
# Shakespeare's Early Readers' Reception, Appropriation and Transformation of Printed Paratexts (1600-1800)

©Jean-Christophe Mayer, 2023

French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and  
Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier 3

*Author-focused Interventions: Epitaphs and other  
Monumentalization processes*

# Library of Congress Second Folio Copy 1, recto of second flyleaf



Shakespeare the God of my Idolatry the  
valuable sustenance of the  
soul

J Leake

Immortal Bard I behold thee with  
religious Veneration!

J L

1787

# Library of Congress Second Folio Copy 1, recto of second flyleaf

## On Worthy Master Shake- speare and his Poems.

**A** Mind reflecting ages past, whose cleere  
And equall surface can make things appeare  
Distant a Thousand yeares, and represent  
Them in their lively colours just extent.

To out run hasty time, retrieve the fates,  
Rowle backe the heavens, blow ope the iron gates  
Of death and Lethe, where (confused) lye  
Great heapes of ruinous mortalitie.  
In that deepe duskie dungeon to discern  
A royall Ghost from Churl; By art to learne  
The Physiognomie of Shades, and give  
Them suddaine birth, vndering how oft they live.  
What story coldly tells, what Poets faine  
At second hand, and picture without braine  
Senselesse and soulelesse shewes. To give a Stage  
(Ample and true with life) voyce, action, age,  
As Plato's yeare and new Scene of the world  
Them unto us, or us to them had hurld.  
To raise our aunient Soveraignes from their herse  
Make Kings his subjects, by exchanging verse  
Enlive their pale trunkes, that the present age  
Ioyes in their joy, and trembles at their rage:  
Yet so to temper passion, that our cares  
Take pleasure in their paine; And eyes in teares  
Both weene and weale, can see full of their state.

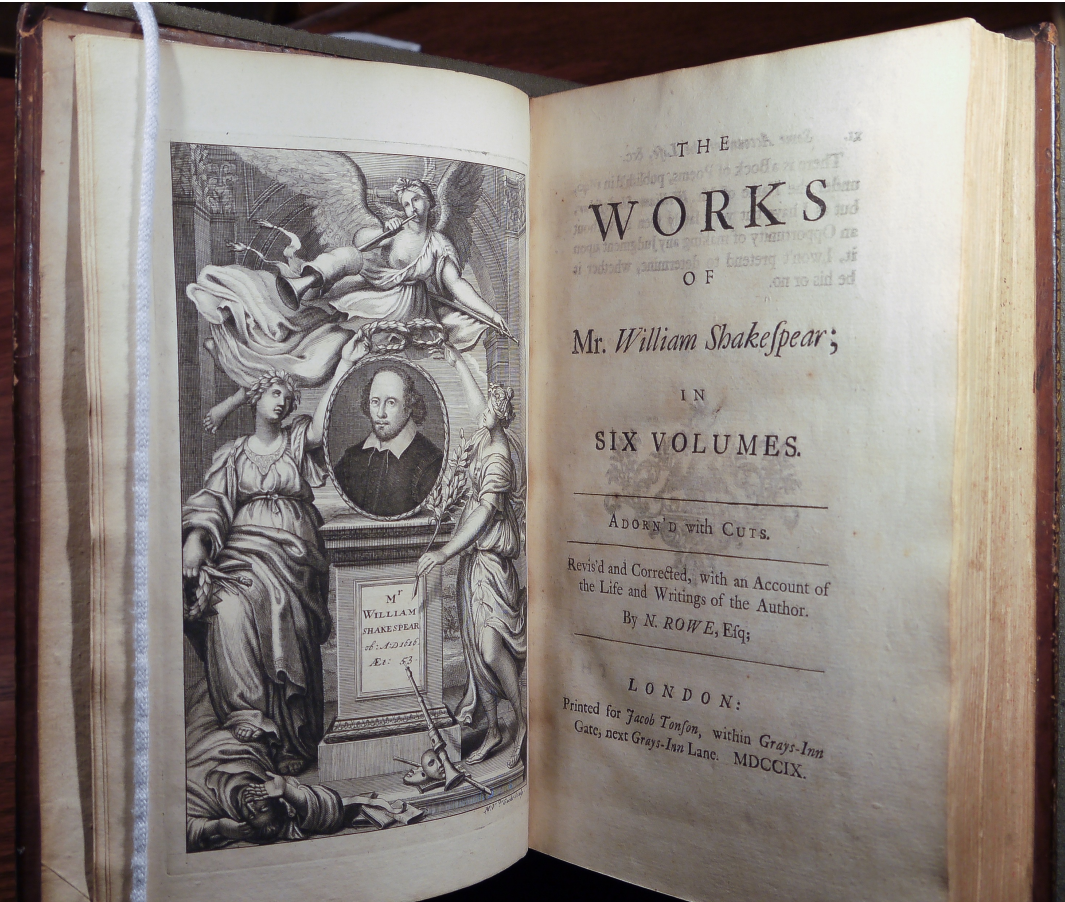
*He shall live in spite of  
Death, & Lethe*

He shall live in spite of

Death, & Lethe J L

1779.

# Nicholas Rowe's edition of Shakespeare (1709)



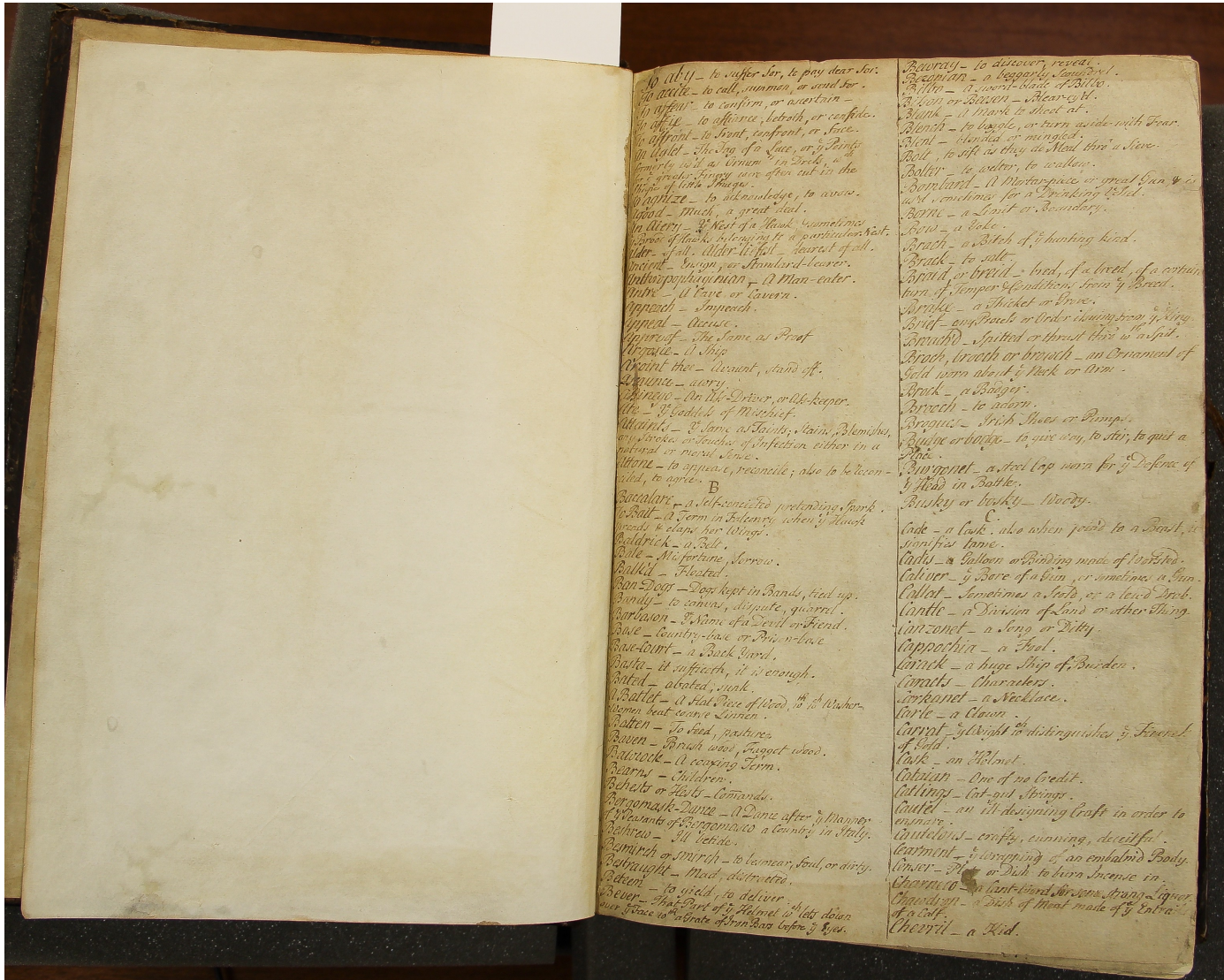
SOME  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
LIFE, &c.  
OF  
Mr. *William Shakespear.*

**I**T seems to be a kind of Respect due to the Memory of Excellent Men, especially of those whom their Wit and Learning have made Famous, to deliver some Account of themselves, as well as their Works, to Posterity. For this Reason, how fond do we see some People of discovering any little Personal Story of the great Men of Antiquity, their Families, the common Accidents of their Lives, and even their Shape, Make and Features have

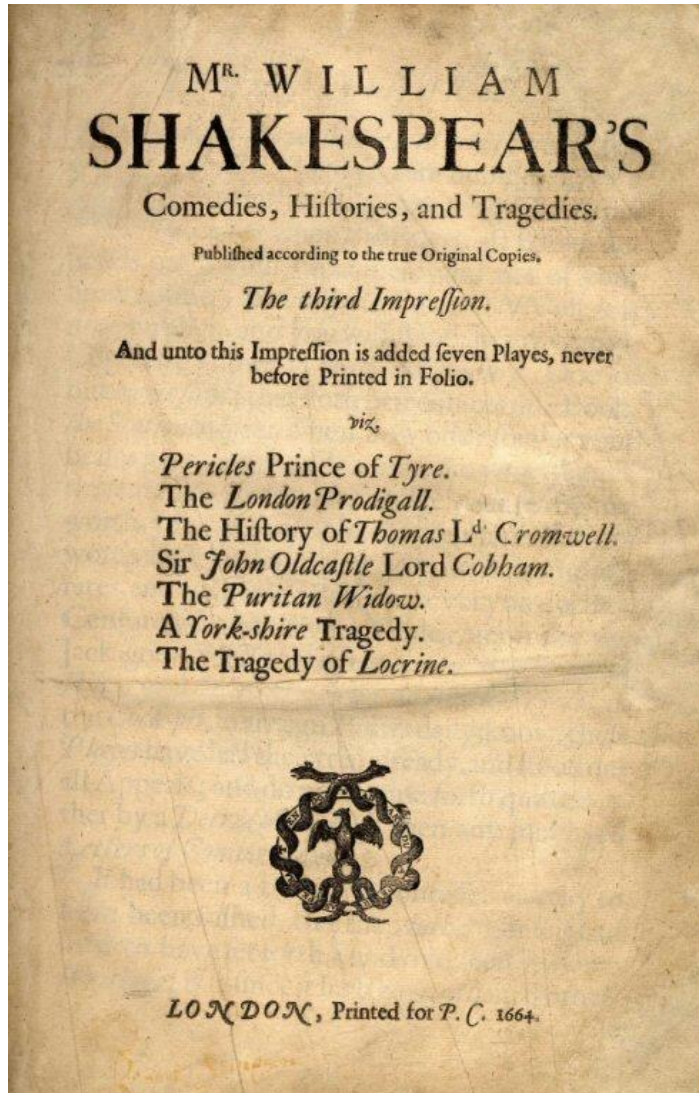
Vol. I. 2 been

*Importing Critical Epitexts: Aligning Early Editions with the Paratexts of more Modern Publications*

# Manuscript glossary in a Third Folio held by Meisei University Library (MR 733), Japan



# British Library Third Folio (c.39.i.20.)

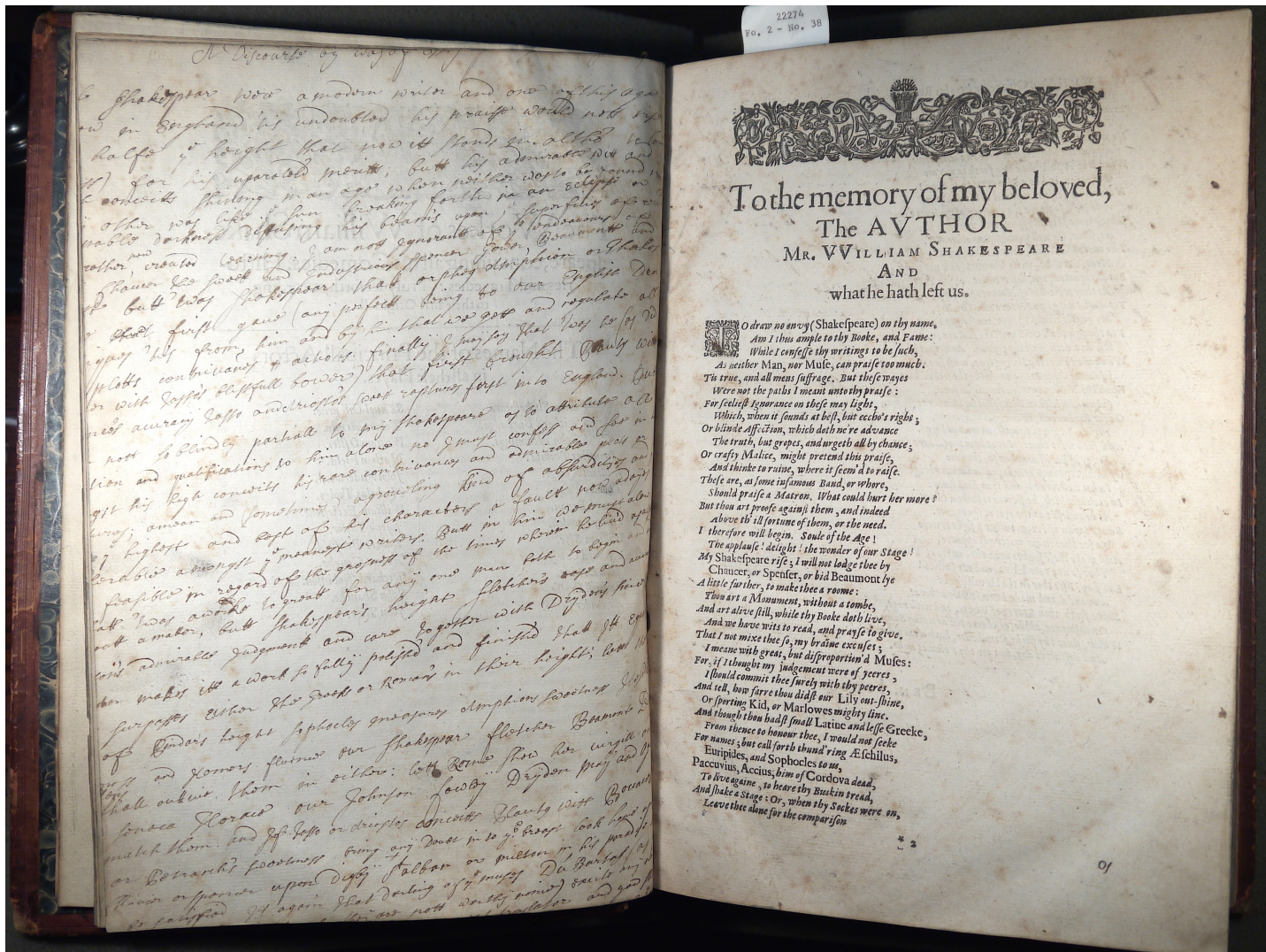


- “Corrections and Explanat [sic] of | Mr Shakespear’s Tragedy | Of Hamlet. Novr 5. 1743”
- “Mr Theobald seems to have guest right, that instead [...]”
- “Mr Shakespear likewise wrote the following poems; which, tho’ inferior to his Dramatic performances, yet have they numerous beauties”



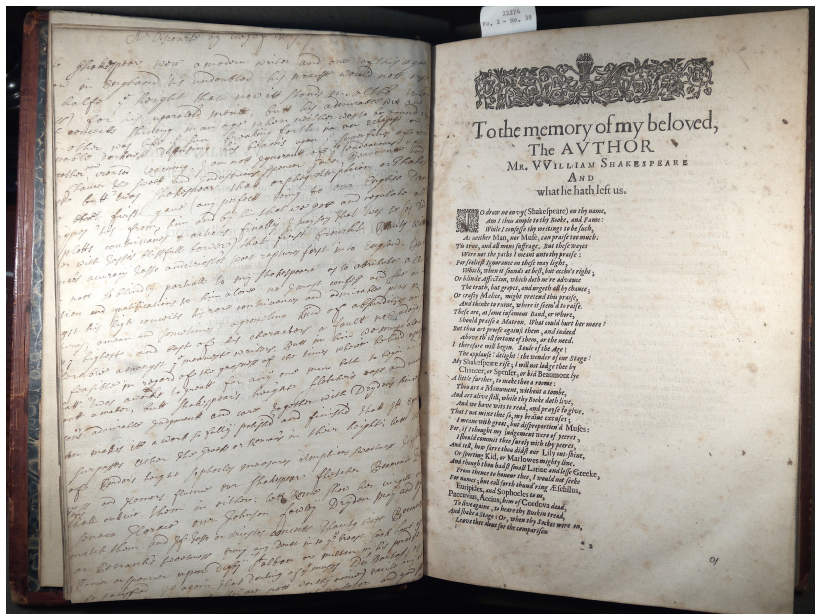
*Reconfiguring Paratexts: Inventing Personal  
Prefaces and Contesting Printed Paratexts*

“A Discourse by way of <preface to William Shakespeare>”  
in Folger Shakespeare Library Fo. 2 No.38



# “A Discourse by way of <preface to William Shakespeare>”

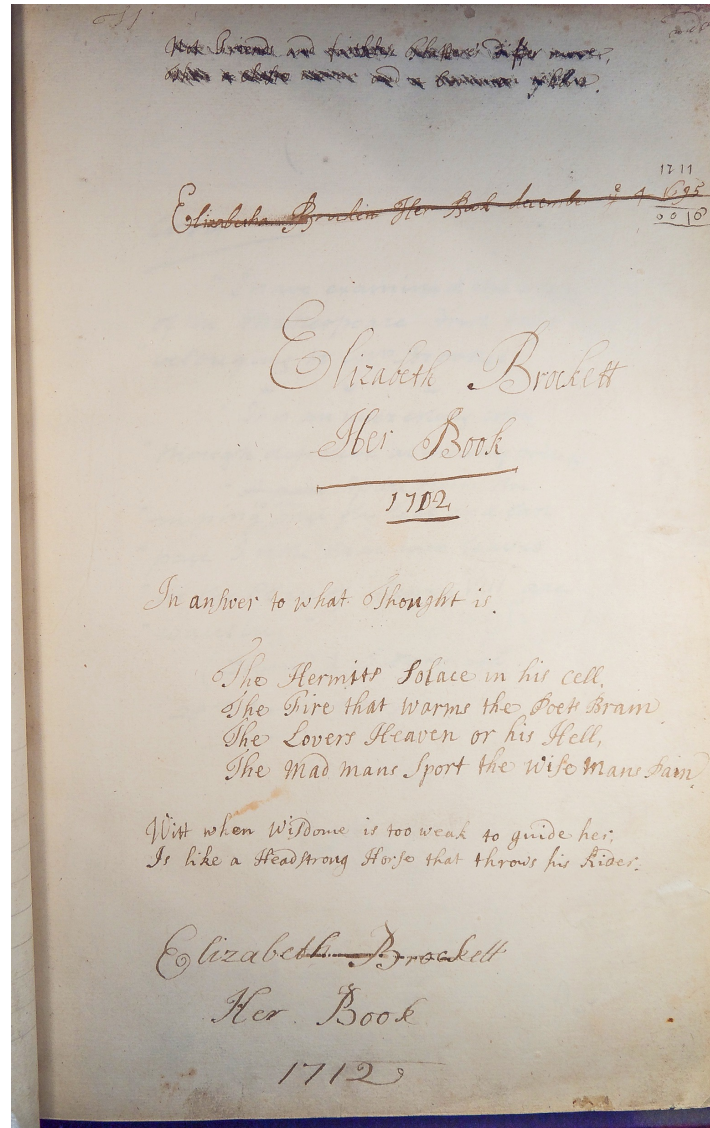
- “<If> Shakespear were a modern writer and one of this age <n>ow in England ’tis undoubted his praise would nott rise halfe *the* height that now itt stands in”
- “’tis from him and by him that we gett and regulate all plotts contriuances & actions”.
- “Butt in him we must alow feasible in regard of the grosness of the times wherein he liu’d”



# Mary Child (mid-17th cent.) in Folger Shakespeare Library Fo. 1 no. 23



Elizabeth Brocket (fl. 1695-1712) in Folger  
Shakespeare Library Fo. 1 no. 23



Lady Mary Chudleigh's "To the ladies", published in her  
*Poems on Several Occasions* (1703)

[ 40 ]

*To the Ladies.*

Wife and Servant are the same,  
But only differ in the Name :  
For when that fatal Knot is ty'd,  
Which nothing, nothing can divide :  
When she the word *obey* has said,  
And Man by Law supreme has made,  
Then all that's kind is laid aside,  
And nothing left but State and Pride :  
Fierce as an Eastern Prince he grows,  
And all his innate Rigor shows :  
Then but to look, to laugh, or speak,  
Will the Nuptial Contract break.  
Like Mutes the Signs alone must make,  
And never any Freedom take :  
But still be govern'd by a Nod,  
And fear her Husband as her God :  
Him still must serve, him still obey,  
And nothing act, and nothing say,  
But what her haughty Lord thinks fit,  
Who with the Pow'r, has all the Wit.  
Then shun, oh ! shun that wretched State,  
And all the fawning Flatt'ers hate :  
Value your selves, and Men despise,  
You must be proud, if you'll be wife.



P O E M S

O N

Several Occasions.

Together with the

*Song of the Three Children*

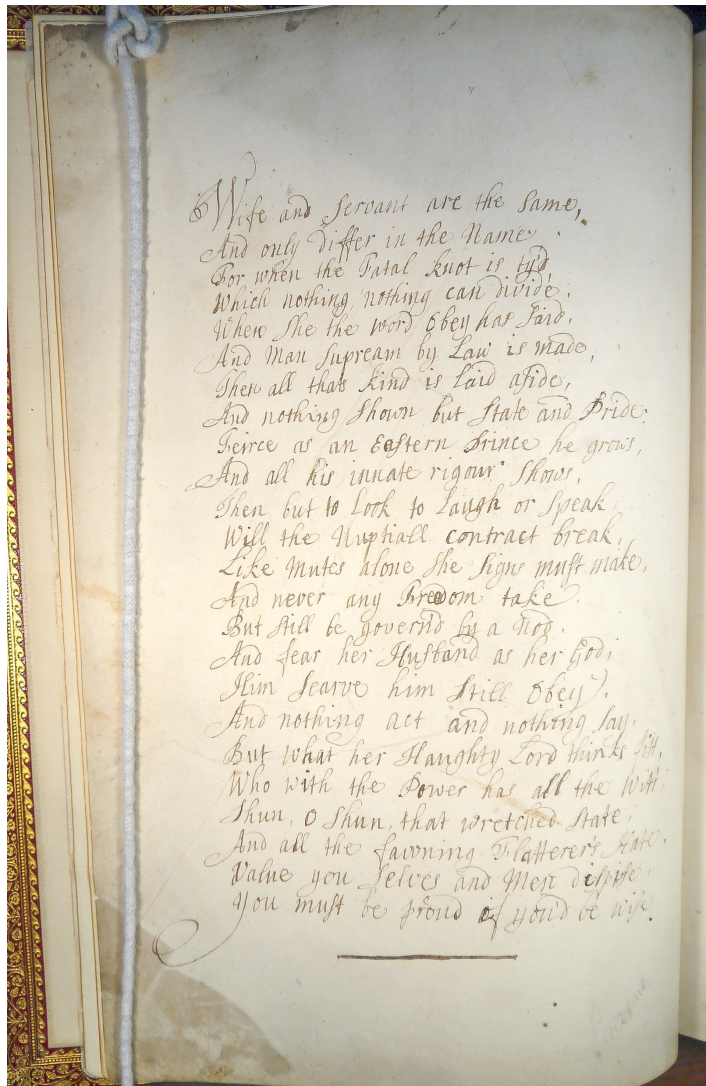
PARAPHRAS'D.

By the Lady CHUDLEIGH,

L O N D O N,

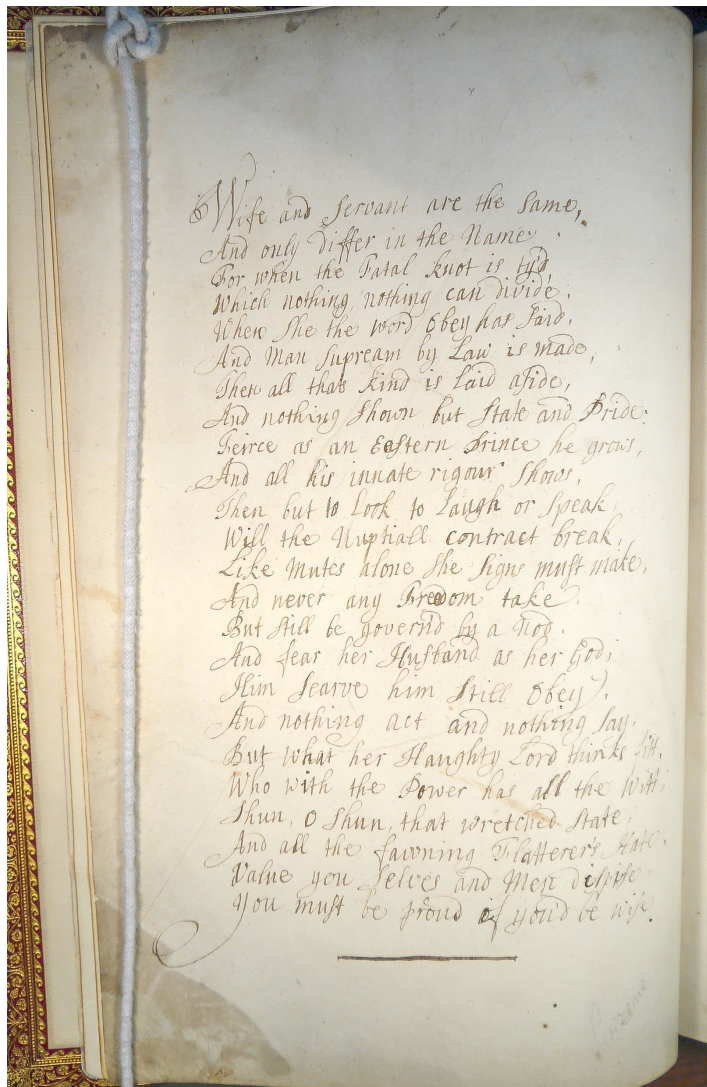
Printed by W. B. for Bernard Lintott at the  
Middle Temple Gate in Fleetstreet. 1703.

Elizabeth Brouckert's transcription of Chudleigh's "To the ladies", in Fo. 1 no. 23, verso of 4<sup>th</sup> front flyleaf.



- 'Wife and Servant are the same, / And only differ in the Name'
- "Like Mutes alone she Signs must make / And never any Freedom take. / But still be govern'd by a Nod"

Elizabeth Broucket's transcription of Chudleigh's "To the ladies", in Fo. 1 no. 23, verso of 4<sup>th</sup> front flyleaf.



Shun, O shun, that wretched State,  
And all the fawning Flatterer's Hate.  
Value you selves [sic] and Men dispise,  
You must be proud if you'd be wise.





*Conclusion*

Thank you for your attention!



# Shakespeare's Early Readers' Reception, Appropriation and Transformation of Printed Paratexts (1600-1800)

Jean-Christophe Mayer,  
French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and  
Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier 3