

**BL MS Additional 64124**

Pp. (authorial) 267 + i-ii unpaginated preceding, and I-V unpaginated following.

codex style 8<sup>o</sup>

Paper: good quality though slightly discoloured around margins, edges appearing to have been dyed dark brown or black. Darker discolouration beginning on p. 223, and change to a thicker ink uptake with more bleeding, which suggests a change in paper stock. See p. 11 of essay for details of the watermark.

Ink: dark black, quill inscribed.

Paper size 142 x 90 mm. Varied frame (p. 3 - 118 x 71 mm., p. 103 - 112 x 66 mm., p. 203 - 87 x 67 mm.) containing a varied number of lines (p. 3 – 16 lines, p. 103 – fifteen lines, p. 203 – fourteen lines).

Contemporary binding of worn and cracked dark brown calf skin, blind stamped.

Front cover detached.

**Contents:**

P. i. Blank, except for dedication, an ink drawing of a girl's face, and full inscriptions of three girl's names, all in one hand, dated 1709.

P. ii. Blank.

P. 1. *A religious Trage-Comedy*, preface containing a quotation from Horace, and a short verse which draws on phrases found in Edmund Spenser's *The Tears of the Muses*, and Abraham Cowley's *Nafragium Ioculare*.

P. 2. Blank.

P. 3. Dedication 'To the courteous reader'.

P. 7. Quotation from George Herbert's *The Church-Porch*.

P. 9. Chapter one.

P. 22. Chapter two.

P. 39. Chapter three.

P. 50. Chapter four.

P. 58. Chapter five.

P. 70. Chapter six.

P. 86. Chapter seven.

P. 93. Chapter eight.

P. 98. Chapter nine.

P. 104. Chapter ten.

P. 117. Chapter eleven.

P. 124. Chapter twelve.

P. 130. Chapter thirteen.

P. 146. Chapter fourteen.

P. 144 (B). Chapter fifteen.

P. 152. Chapter sixteen.

P. 173. Chapter eighteen.

P. 187. Chapter nineteen.

P. 195. Chapter twenty.

P. 212. Chapter twenty-one.

P. 229. Chapter twenty-two.

P. 248. Conclusion.

P. 251. 'ffinis'.

P. 252. Blank.

P. 253. Appendix.

P. 267. 'ffinis'.

p I. More unauthorial text, a short rhyme again mentioning a girl's name and in the same hand. More text, obscured by damp ink fingerprints.

P. II. The word 'finerilla', in a new hand.

P. III. More scribbles, and the name 'Mary'.

P. IV. Blank.

P. V. Blank.

Catchwords are sporadically included throughout.

#### Decoration:

A later bookplate, showing the arms of Cholmeley of Brandsby Hall.

#### Scribe:

Seventeenth-century cursive secretary hand. 'St' glyph slightly biting. 'S', 'g', and 'f', are usually looped descenders. 'Y', 'p', and 'q' are typically hooked. 'H', 's', and 'f', are looped ascenders, and the d is hooked, whilst 'k', and 'l', are lobed. Letter 'r' is very open indeed. Clearly written, with some repetitions, deletions, and insertions. Some capitals exhibit artificial serifs. Questions marks appear to face the opposite direction.

#### History:

Appears in the sales catalogues for W. Andrews, bookseller of Bristol, Sotheby's, 24 March 1851, lot 1507, and of the publisher William Pickering, 12 Dec. 1854, lot 169, when the volume was sold to Westall. Purchased by the British Library at Sotheby's, 27 Jan. 1987, lot 915.

#### Printed Notices:

None known.