

Literary Manuscripts

17th and 18th Century Poetry
from the Brotherton Library, University of Leeds



"For the collection to be available in a form in which it can be brought to computer screens all over the world is an incalculable benefit to literary and historical scholarship."

Professor Harold Love, Monash University



Adam Matthew Publications

DIGITAL

This is a breakthrough project for the study of English Literature. For the first time for a major collection of literary manuscripts, we have married a powerful search mechanism with facsimile images of all 194 manuscripts in their entirety. In addition we have placed these into an attractive and intuitive environment and included five essays by leading authorities which help to contextualize the material.

The material

Original mss: We have filmed all of the Mss Lt (Literary Manuscripts) and Mss Lt q (Literary Manuscripts in quarto) classes from Leeds. There are a total of 194 manuscripts. Most of these contain manuscript verse and nearly all of this is fully indexed by the BCMSV database. Other items within the manuscripts and non-verse manuscripts have been fully described.

All images have been captured in grey scale JPEGs and we offer fully downloadable and printable pdfs for classroom convenience.

Search mechanism

Our indexing is based on the Leeds Verse Database (BCMSV), which contains detailed information about individual items of English poetry contained in the 17th and 18th-century manuscripts from the Brotherton Collection. The database indexes over 6600 poems from more than 160 manuscripts. It provides details of First Lines, Last Lines, Attributions, Authors, Titles, Dates, Verse Length, Verse Form, Content and Bibliographic references.

The authors

Some of the authors featured are: Joseph Addison, Elizabeth Amherst, Anna Letitia Barbauld, Mary Capell, Patrick Cary, Samuel Colvil, William Congreve, Abraham Cowley, Richard Crashaw, Daniel Defoe, Edward Dering, William Drummond, John Dryden, Stephen Duck, George Etherege, George Farquhar, Henry Fielding, David Garrick, John Gay, Thomas Gray, Fanny Greville, Henry Hall, George Herbert, William Killigrew, Mary Leapor, Nathaniel Lee, Andrew Marvell, Mary Monck, Hannah More, Ambrose Philips, Laetitia Pilkington, Alexander Pope, Matthew Prior, Hester Pulter, Allan Ramsay, the Earl of Rochester, Mary Roper, Elizabeth Rowe, Charles Sackville, Elkanah Settle, William Shakespeare, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Edmund Spenser, Jonathan Swift, Nahum Tate, John Vanbrugh, Edmund Waller, Isaac Watts, Samuel Wesley, Anne Wharton, and William Young.

KEY BENEFITS:

- unlimited users
- no annual-maintenance or cost-per-user charges
- MARC 21 records
- PDF, XML schema and XML code back-up files provided



Both simple and advanced searches are available. The simple search operates across all the catalogue descriptions. The Advanced Search allows more complex interrogation of the data, including proximity searching, searches by verse length and restricting searches by date range, verse form and manuscript type.

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