

## XI. Holograph Reading Notes. Vol. 11. (Berg)

All of the notes in this volume belong to the period between December 8, 1929, when Woolf was “free to begin reading Elizabethans—the little unknown writers, whom I, so ignorant am I, have never heard of, Puttenham, Webb, Harvey” (*D*, III)—and the completion of the three Elizabethan essays for *The Common Reader: Second Series* (1932): “The Strange Elizabethans,” “Donne After Three Centuries,” and “The Countess of Pembroke’s Arcadia.” On August 10, 1931, she announced her intention to read all of Sidney, Donne, and Fulke Greville (*L*, IV, 2419), and on November 16, 1931, she was “[furbishing] up two long Elizabethan articles to front a new *Common Reader*” (*AWD*). By December 29, she was “so behindhand—I was going to write about Sidney, and cant get back into the mood” (*L*, IV, 2497), and on February 16, 1932, after much effort, she had “‘finished’—I use inverted commas ironically”—her essay on Donne (*AWD*; see also, February 8, 1932, and *L*, V, 2522, 2523).

There is a great deal of overlap between the entries in this volume and those in other volumes that date from this period, particularly Volumes XII and XX. The typed notes on Gabriel Harvey’s *Works* (B.1) are almost identical to the handwritten notes on Harvey in XII, B.2. A full set of notes on Gosse’s biography of Donne (B.4) appears in Volume XX, and a full set of notes on Donne’s poems is found in Volume VIII. Other biographies of Sir Philip Sidney (Volume XX) complement the notes on Mona Wilson’s biography in B.5, below. It is likely that most of the notes in this volume belong to the period in 1931 when Woolf was actually writing her essays. Wilson’s biography of Sidney was not published until 1931, the typed notes on Harvey almost certainly succeed the handwritten ones, and B.10, headed “Some Elizabethans,” is an outline for what became “The Strange Elizabethans.”

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### A. TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### 1. Harveys Works.

Harvey’s Commonplace Book

Donne’s Poems

Life of Sidney. M Wilson

Drummond on Jonson

1 p., on cover.

### B. ENTRIES

1. “Harvey Works.”: 4 pp., numbered 3–6 by NYPL; numbered 1–4 by VW. Typed. The entry consists of notes on the first two volumes of Grosart’s edition; the notes on Vol. II are headed “Pierces Supererogation.” For an almost identical set of notes, see XII, B.2.

Harvey, Gabriel. *Works*. Ed. Alexander B. Grosart. Vols. I–II [of III]. Huth Library, 1884.

2. “Harvey Commonplace”: 4 pp., numbered 7–10 by NYPL; pp. 8–10, which are typed, are also numbered 1–3 by VW.

Harvey, Gabriel. *Commonplace Book*. In *Gabriel Harvey’s Marginalia*. Ed. G. C. Moore Smith. Stratford: Shakespeare Head Press, 1913.

3. "Dekker.": 1 p., numbered 11 by NYPL. General notes on Dekker's language, based on *The Wonderful Yeare*, beginning, "English in the making: bubbling—one puts ones pen in & draws out a blob of warm words—one makes words."
3. "Dekker.": 1 p., numbered 11 by NYPL. General notes on Dekker's language, based on *The Wonderful Yeare*, beginning, "English in the making: bubbling—one puts ones pen in & draws out a blob of warm words—one makes words."  
Dekker, Thomas. *The Wonderful Yeare*. [1603].
4. "Donnes Poems.": 2 pp., numbered 12–13 by NYPL. General notes on Donne's poetry, including quotations from "Elegy VIII" and "Elegy IX" and references to Gosse's biography of Donne. Woolf's notes on the poems from this period appear in VIII, B.3, and her notes on Gosse's biography in XX, B.12.  
a) Donne, John. *The Poetical Works*. Ed. Herbert J. C. Grierson. Oxford Univ. Press, 1929.  
b) Gosse, Edmund. *The Life and Letters of John Donne*. Vol. I [of II]. Heinemann, 1899.
5. "Life of Sidney/M. Wilson.": 2 pp., numbered 14–15 by NYPL. (P. 15, 2 lines only.)  
Wilson, Mona. *Sir Philip Sidney*. Duckworth, 1931.
6. "Ben Jonson./Herford.": 1 p., numbered 16 by NYPL.  
Herford, C. H., and Simpson, Percy. "Life of Ben Jonson." In *Ben Jonson*. Vol. I. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1925.
7. "Ben Jonson. C<sup>tions</sup> with Drummond": 1 p., numbered 17 by NYPL. The entry consists of five lines of notes on Sidney: "138 The C<sup>ss</sup> of Rutland nothing inferior to her father Sir P.S. in poetry. Sir PS. was no pleasant man in countenance, his face being spotted with pimples."  
[Jonson, Ben.] *Ben Jonson's Conversations with William Drummond of Hawthornden*. In *Ben Jonson*. Ed. C. H. Herford and Percy Simpson. Vol. I. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1925.
8. "Harveys Letters": 1 p., numbered 18 by NYPL.  
Harvey, Gabriel. *Letter-Book. . . A.D. 1573–1580*. Ed. Edward John Long Scott. Camden Society, 1884.
9. "Harvey Marginalia": 1 p., numbered 19 by NYPL. The notes are from the "Introduction."  
Smith, G. C. Moore. "Introduction." In *Gabriel Harvey's Marginalia*. Stratford: Shakespeare Head Press, 1913.
10. "Some Elizabethans.": 1 p., numbered 20 by NYPL. The entry consists of notes on the Elizabethans and their prose style, including references to Gabriel Harvey's sister Mercy, the milkmaid, and to Donne's sermons. The notes, which are an outline for what became "The Strange Elizabethans," begin, "That we cant attempt the E<sup>than</sup> grandiloquence because we haven't their scurrility & plain speech to match it."
11. "Life of Wotton/Pearsall Smith": 1 p., numbered 21 by NYPL. 3 lines only, reading, "W. born 1568 Wotten gave his friends Italian furniture & flower seeds."  
Smith, Logan Pearsall. *The Life and Letters of Sir Henry Wotton*. 2 vols. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1907.