

XII. Holograph Reading Notes. Vol. 12. (Berg)

“Elizabethans” and “Life as we have known it. (Cooperative Women)” accurately summarize the contents of this notebook. The “Elizabethans” included in this volume are Harvey, Webbe, and Puttenham—just those “little unknown writers,” completely new to Woolf, whom she was “free to begin reading” on December 8, 1929: “This thought fills me with joy—no overstatement” (*D*, III). In fact, the list of Elizabethan writers and works that appears as B.1 below may well be that which Woolf records having made in this same December 8 diary entry: “So I stopped writing, . . . & made out a list of Elizabethan poets.” Two days later, she described as her “greatest triumph” the achievement of “a quiet evening—in which to read El[izabe]thans” (*D*, III), and on December 16, she was “vaguely thinking of some studies of Elizabethan characters” (*L*, IV, 2117; see also *D*, III, December 26). A comment at the end of her notes on Puttenham (B.4)—“Might be two articles, one Webbe & Harvey Puttenham &c. The second, Sidney & Penelope”—may well be connected with her vague plans in December 1929, plans, however, that were apparently not acted on until 1931 when she found herself moving “in the direction of the Elizabethans” (*L*, IV, 2399, July 2) and began to write “two long Elizabethan articles to front a new *Common Reader*” (*AWD*, November 16). The notes on Harvey, Webbe, and Puttenham ultimately contributed to her portrait of “The Strange Elizabethans” and their language in *The Common Reader: Second Series*. Although Woolf read several biographies of Sidney between December 1929 and the publication of her book in 1932 (see Volumes XI and XX), the second article was not on Sidney and Penelope but on “The Countess of Pembroke’s Arcadia.” More notes on Harvey, including a typed version of the notes in B.2 below and an outline headed “Some Elizabethans,” also appear in Volume XI.

The “Cooperative Women” found in this notebook are the authors of the essays in *Life as We Have Known It*, edited by Margaret Llewelyn Davies and published by Leonard and Virginia Woolf in March 1931. Woolf had received “the papers”—presumably the essays written by the working women—by June 6, 1929 (*L*, IV, 2036) but does not seem to have written her “Memories of a Working Women’s Guild,” meant to serve as an introduction to the collection, until May 1930 (*D*, III, May 18). The original version was published in *The Yale Review*, September 1930 (Kp. C326); a revised version, incorporating some suggestions made by Margaret Llewelyn Davies, appeared as an “Introductory Letter” to the book. The history of the final version is told in a series of letters to Llewelyn Davies written between July and October 1931 (*L*, IV, 2210, 2212, 2236, 2252).

The “Professions for Women &c,” listed with “Elizabethans &c” on the cover of the notebook, may be a reference to the lecture Woolf delivered before the London/National Society for Women’s Service, January 21, 1931. A short version of this speech appears as “Professions for Women” in *The Death of the Moth and Other Essays* (1942); a transcript of the longer version appears in *The Pargiters* (1977).

The table of contents on the cover of the notebook is in black ink; the list of contents on the first page is in blue-gray ink. The notes are all in purple ink.

A. TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Elizabethans &c:

Professions for Women &c

1 p., on cover.

2. Elizabethans

Life as we have known it. (Cooperative Women)

1 p., numbered 1 by NYPL.

B. ENTRIES

1. "Harvey. Gabriel,-----1545? -- 1630": 1 p., numbered 2 by NYPL. The entry consists of a list of Elizabethan writers and works:

b.d.

Harvey. Gabriel,-----1545? -- 1630

Puttenham, George. -----1530? -- 1600

Sidney, Sir Philip -----1554 -- 1586

Spenser, Edmund, -----1552? -- 1599

Webbe Wm. ----- flourished 16th Century

Donne, John ----- 1573 -- 1631

Paradise of Dainty Devices -----1576.

Sidneys Apologie for Poesie ----- 1580–1

Donnes Satires ----- 1593

Englands Helicon ----- 1600

Marlowes Faust ----- 1588–90.

Loves Labours Lost 1588–90?

Shakespeare -----1564 -- 1616

2. "Harvey.": 8 pp., numbered 3–10 by NYPL. The entry also includes the headings, "Harveys Letters" and "Pierces Supererogation." An almost identical set of notes on this work appears in XI, B.1.

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

3. "A Discourse of/English Poetrie: Webbe.": 3 pp., numbered 11–13 by NYPL. P. 13 is a typed transcript of the handwritten notes on the preceding two pages.

Webbe, William. *A Discourse of English Poetrie*. Ed. Edward Arber. Reprint of 1586 ed. Constable, 1895. English Reprints.

4. "The Art of English Poesie Puttenham": 1 p., numbered 14 by NYPL. The entry concludes with the note, "Might be two articles, one Webbe & Harvey Puttenham &c. The second, Sidney & Penelope."

Puttenham, George. *The Arte of English Poesie*. Ed. Edward Arber. Reprint of 1589 ed. Constable, 1895. English Reprints.

5. "Co-operative Women": 3 pp., numbered 15–17 by NYPL. The entry includes references to "M^{rs}. Scott," "M^{rs}. Smith," "M^{rs}. Wrigley," and "M^{rs}. Burrows. Fens," all of whom authored essays in *Life as We Have Known It*, ed. Margaret Llewelyn Davies, With an Introductory Letter by Virginia Woolf (Hogarth Press, 1931).

6. "This is not a book—a string of remarks/needling to be helped out. by the [?imaginat]": 1 p., numbered 18 by NYPL. 4 lines only, continuing, "Not [. . .]—not the looking glass mind: They give the facts." The entry consists of notes for either "Memories of a Working

Women's Guild" or its revision, the "Introductory Letter" to *Life as We Have Known It*. See above, B.5.