

Accession number: 1992-24/23

Description: Single sheet of paper, written on both sides. Verses 'Jupiter and Mercury' and on verso, 'epitaph for a certain Doctor'; both refer to Oliver Goldsmith. Possibly in Garrick's hand (so claimed in the Phillips catalogue)

Transcript: Jupiter & Mercury

Here Hermes says Jove, who with Nectar was mellow,
Go fetch me some clay, I'll make an odd fellow:
Right & wrong shall be jumbled much, Gold & some dross lest he
Without cause be He pleas'd, without cause lest he be cross;
Now mind as I work to throw in contradictions:
A great Love of truth yet a Mind turn'd to Fictions:
Now mix those Ingredients, w[hi]ch warmed in y^e Baking,
Turn to learning & gaining, Religion and Raking:
With the Love of a Wench let his writings be chaste,
Tip his tongue with strange matter, his Pen with fine Taste;
That y^e Rake & y^e Poet o'er all may prevail
Set fire to his head & set fire to his Tail:
For the joy of each sex on y^e world I'll bestow it,
This Rake, Scholar, Christian, Dupe, Gamester & Poet;
^xTho a Mixture so odd, he shall merit great Fame,
And among Brother Mortals, be Goldsmith his name
When on Earth this strange Comet no more shall appear,
You Hermes shall fetch him to make us Sport here.

^x For y^e Joy of Each Sex on y^e world I'll bestow it
This Rake, Scholar, Christian, dupe, Gamester & Poet

2 1 3

Verso An Epitaph for a certain Doctor

Reader here lies, a Favourite Son of Fame,
By a few outlines, you will grasp his Name:
Full of ideas was his head, so full,
Had it not strength, it may have crack'd his skull
When his mouth opened all was in a pother;
Rush'd to y^e door, & tumbled o'er each other:
But rallying soon, with all their force again;
In bright array hey issued from his Pen

Another Extempore

Here lies Nolly Goldsmith, for shortness call'd Noll;
Who wrote like an Angel, but talked like poor Poll.

[Written sideways across the sheet]

Upon the Characteristical cookery of D^r G

Are these the choice Dishes y^e Doctor has sent by?
Is this the great Poet, whose works so content us?
This Goldsmiths fine feast, who has written fine books –
Heav'n sends us good Meat, but y^e Devil sends Cooks

Note:

Aileen Osborn, 'The Literary Material in the Hereford Garrick Papers', M. Phil thesis, University of Birmingham, 1999, 225-32.

Jupiter & Mercury, (Osborn 225-6). Other versions: Folger, autograph Y.d. 120; New York Public library, transcript hand of William Barnard, Dean of Derry; Kearsley, II, 532.

An epitaph for a certain Doctor: (Osborn, 227). Other versions: Forster, II, 410; no ms.

Another extempore: (Osborn, 228). Other versions: New York Public Library, autograph. 'Headnote: The following distick was written by M^r G/upon a challenge of D^r Goldsmith/which could write the other's Epitaph/the soonest. Postscript: N.B. goldsmith could not, or would not write upon g/Extempore, but produc'd some time after his Epitaphs/now printed call'd Retaliation'.

Upon the characteristical Cookery of Dr G: (Osborn, 229). Other versions: New York Public Library, transcript hand of William Bernard, Dean of Derry; Kearsley, II, 532.

Osborn, 231-2, gives the background to these pieces at some length. 'Sometime in late 1773 or early 1774, at a meeting of the Literary club in St. James's Coffee House, the company began to write each other's epitaphs, beginning with Goldsmith's. Always an odd character and a butt of humour on account of his "country, dialect and person" (Forster, p. 404), Goldsmith had been particularly strange of late. The reasons for this, ill-health and financial difficulties, were not understood by his friends who constantly made fun at his expense. Garrick produced the "Nolly Goldsmith" distich extempore and several other members produced versions of their own. Reynolds drew a caricature. Goldsmith was unable to reply immediately but, at the next meeting, he read to his reply, *Retaliation*, containing satirical sketches of his attackers.' (Osborn here gives the section on Garrick Here lies David Garrick, describe me, who can/an abridgement of all that was pleasant in man...). Goldsmith died shortly afterwards leaving *Retaliation*

David Garrick Papers, Hereford Museum

unfinished, although parts of it had been circulating in manuscript. Garrick and others replied again. *Upon the Characteristical Cookery of D^r G* is almost certainly one of these replies...