

Accession number: 1992-24-7

Description: Single sheet of small paper, written on both sides. Autograph
Prologue for Mr Obrien. n.d. [1763?]

Transcript: Prologue

Indeed sirs, I'm so frighten[e]d – pleas[e]d and vex[e]d
So full of hopes – and fears - and so perplex[e]d
So this – so that – so flutter[e]d every way –
I know not what to do – or what to say.
I never knew, till now, such palpitation!

*[in pencil and next line crossed out in pencil]
Nay from my Steadyness, they guessed my Nation
Tho[ough] Strong my hope in you, my own reflections
Have rais[e]d against myself some small objections –
Scarce fledg[e]d as yet, shall I pretend to fly,
From shore to shore, a Bird of passage, I –
A summer Bird to pick your Yellow grain,
Fill well my Crop, & then fly back again –
Shall I in airy Schemes like these, engage?
I who am but a Dab-chick of the Stage?
I see, I own my folly, but in truth,
Folly's the Child of Vanity & Youth.
Whoever from Law seeks Justice, or has sought her –
(I mean not here but 'tother side the water,
[Seems to be incomplete. Missing page?]

Reverse: Prologue for Mr Obrien

Note: **William O'Brien** (?1738?– 1815), actor and playwright; joined Garrick in 1757. In 1764 he eloped with Lady Susanna Sarah Louisa Fox-Strangways and they went to America. They returned to England in 1770 and O'Brien turned to playwriting. DNB: www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/20470?docPos=2 accessed 6 April 2010.

Aileen Osborn, 'The Literary Material in the Hereford Garrick Papers', M. Phil thesis, University of Birmingham, 1999, pp. 151-4. Has the complete text from **Knapp 358** and refers to the Folger, where there are two autograph versions (Y.d.156) and two transcripts (Y.d.122 and W.b.467)

Folger Y.d.122 gives the title as 'Prologue spoken by M^r O'Brien, on his first appearance in the Theatre in Dublin July 1763'.