

Accession number: 1992-24/9m

Description: Large sheet of paper, written on both sides. Ornate scribal transcript with instruction added in autograph. Verse 'Old Nick to the Livery Men of London'. n.d.

Transcript: ^xOld Nick
to the X not to be printed [added in pencil]
Livery Men of London

Ye Sons of the Liv'ry, ye citizens all,
Give ear to my voice and attend to my call;
My name is old Nick, and I'll sing you a song,
Then haste back again, for I cannot stay long.
Sing tantara rara &c

At th'approaching Election Unite and agree,
My name is Old Nick, take instruction from me.
Support the good cause, and the method I shew.
To place my friends here and my Neighbours below
Sing tantara &c

Would you chuse ye a Member on whom to depend,
Take the stranger I sent you, my West India friend;
Like a Rocket he'll mount, when our foes shall provoke
And singe [th]em with Blaze or will blind them with smoke.
Sing tantara

Should a candidate come, with a Strut and Stride,
Whose words are distilled for a Limbeck of pride:
For him and my Indian, be zealous and loud,
For next to the Furious, I doat on the Proud.
Sing tantara

The next on my list is an odd fish indeed
Whom I don't recommend for his spirit and Speed,
With Odd fish and Cod fish I fill my list full
For if they won't Roar, they had better be dull.
Sing tantara

The last I propose a sound Patriot shall be,
A Patriot well season'd, and salted by me;
With your true Rory-tories, were crowded below.

And the higher they fly, why the deeper will go
Sing tantara

Let Bernard & Calvert no more be your choice
To honest True blues give your hearts and your voce,
If these represent ye, in time ye may hope
Old Nick will present you with Perkin and Pope.

Notes: Aileen Osborn, 'The Literary Material in the Hereford Garrick Papers', M. Phil thesis, University of Birmingham, 1999, 183-6. Osborn has another 14 lines of verse, from Knapp 457. Other versions; Folger, transcript W.b.467.

'There is no indication as to the authorship of these verses, though Garrick has added the instructions not to print, and they are very much in Garrick's style. Mary Knapp includes them in her checklist. The idea of old Nick claiming his own is reminiscent of *Ragandjaw* and stanza 5 has echoes of [1992-24/9k], the song about fish. There is clearly some political satire against Tories here, which may well extend beyond a merely civic context. Almost certainly stanzas 3, 4 and 5 refer to public figures but it has not been possible to identify them. There was an election in 1741 when Walpole, with his pacifist views, was being sidelined in favour of those like Newcastle and Hardwicke with a more belligerent attitude abroad. Garrick, though enjoying satire in private, never liked to be openly controversial for paradoxically, social acceptance meant a great deal to him.'