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Esther Inglis, Octonaries: Textual Notes and Glosses

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TEXTUAL NOTES AND GLOSSES

The text printed here has been transcribed from one of two manuscripts in the Folger Library, MS *V.a.91*, with variant readings recorded from two further manuscripts, Folger MS *V.a.92*, and New York Public Library Spencer Coll. MS. 14. The Folger MSS are collated below by their call numbers, and the third MS as *NYPL*.

In addition to the collation of manuscript variants, the notes below indicate the places where the order of the octonaries varies between manuscripts and also include a few glosses on Scots words likely to be unfamiliar to non-Scottish students or scholars. Throughout, scansion will dictate (a) whether apparent disyllables featuring an intervocalic “v,” and stressed on the first syllable—heaven, devil, even—need to be spoken as monosyllables, and (b) whether “world” is a monosyllable or a disyllable.

Reasons of space preclude fuller commentary on the many felicities (and very occasional infelicities) of Inglis’s workmanship as poet and remarkably faithful paraphrast, or comparison with de Chandieu’s *Octonaires sur la vanité et inconstance du monde*, first printed in complete form in 1583; that task would moreover require a bilingual parallel text. Here, Inglis’s poems must speak for themselves, as they would have done to their original readers, who were not even informed that these are translations.

I: 2. Poste of heau’n] Post of heauen *NYPL*
5. may firmly staye] firmly may staye, *NYPL*
6. welkin] welking *V.a.92*
8. inconstancye] inconstancie *V.a.92, NYPL*

II: 10. steady-ordred] steady-ordred *V.a.92*; steady ordred *NYPL*
14. mortall] mortell *NYPL*; stay] staye *V.a.92*

III: no variants noted.

IIII: 25. witstand] withstand *NYPL*
32. passions-stormes] passions-storms *V.a.92*; passions,-storms *NYPL*
mynd impyres] mynd empyres *V.a.92*; mynde empyres *NYPL*

V: In printed editions of Chandieu, Octonaries V and VI are reversed.
33. day] daye *V.a.92*
35. mountaine] mountain *V.a.92*
36. New] Newe *V.a.92*
golden] goldin *NYPL*
38. Eternité] Eternite, *V.a.92*; Eternitie, *NYPL*

VI: In printed editions of Chandieu, Octonaries V and VI are reversed.

46. we] wee *V.a.92, NYPL*

47. bliss] blisse *V.a.92, NYPL*

48. restles-is] restles is *V.a.92, NYPL*

VII: 50. day-light] day light *NYPL*

51. mynde] minde *V.a.92, NYPL*

VIII: 57. dres] dresse *NYPL*

IX: 72. yee] you *NYPL*

X: 74. Autumme] Autumne *V.a.92, NYPL*

75. tanny] tauny *V.a.92, NYPL*

76. of] off *V.a.92*

fayre] faire *V.a.92, NYPL*

78. worldling! Somestymes] wordling; Some tymes *V.a.92, NYPL*

79. some tymes] sometymes *V.a.92*

XI: 88. Spring] spring *NYPL*

XII: 91. Sents] all MSS

92. mix't] mix'd *V.a.92, NYPL*

93. tast] taste *V.a.92, NYPL*

95. sense] sence *NYPL* [first use]

n'eer] ne'er *V.a.92, NYPL*

XIII: the first of two octonaries numbered XXI in *NYPL*.

100. gyues: gyves or shackles.

XIII: the second of two octonaries numbered XXI in *NYPL*.

105. Ysswing: issuing.

107. rebound] rebounde *V.a.92, NYPL*

108. conterfeted] counterfeted *V.a.92*

111. hold] holde *V.a.92, NYPL*

XV: numbered XXIII in *NYPL*.

115. famish'd ... daynty] famisd ... dainty *NYPL*

116. enhongred] enhoungred *V.a.92, NYPL*

119. do abounde, ... penuretie] to abounde, ... penuritie *V.a.92, NYPL*

XVI: numbered XXVIII in *NYPL* In printed editions of Chandieu, XVI and XVII are reversed.

123. like] lyke *V.a.92, NYPL*

125. yse-shok] yse-shoke *V.a.92, NYPL*: *iceshockle*: icicle (Scots).

126. he hath what hee] he hath, what he *NYPL*

XVII: numbered XXIX in *NYPL*.

132. blinde] blind *V.a.92, NYPL*

133. hooke.] hooke, *NYPL*

134. be] be, *NYPL*

135. voladge] volage *V.a.92, NYPL*; volage: giddy or light (Scots).

XVIII: numbered XXX in *NYPL*.

137. hawty: haughty, lofty (Scots).

138. here and there] here and their *V.a.92*; heer and their *NYPL*

139. worldly] wordly *V.a.92*

140. staye] stay *NYPL*

143. wastes] hastes *V.a.92, NYPL*

XIX: numbered XXXI in *NYPL*.

150. noght] nought *NYPL*

152. stil] still, *V.a.92, NYPL*

doth] dost *NYPL*

XX: numbered XXXII in *NYPL*.

154. bend: bind

155. greedy] greedye *V.a.92, NYPL*

157. doth, The] doth, the *NYPL*

160. together] together *NYPL*

XXI: numbered XIII in *NYPL*

161. regrets] regretes *V.a.92, NYPL*

168. silie] sillie *NYPL*

XXII: numbered XIII in *NYPL*. In printed editions of Chandieu, Octonaries XXII and XXIII are reversed.

169. Au'rice: avarice.

171. so who] who so *NYPL*

172. feele] fele *NYPL*

174. madd'ed Louers] madded louers *V.a.92, NYPL*

175. harts] hearts *V.a.92*

175-176. The second half of these lines in *V.a. 91*, with the quatrain rhyming *cdcd*, is reversed in *V.a.92* and *NYPL*, changing the rhyme to *cddc*, as in the French.

XXIII: numbered XV in *NYPL*

182. Guld: gulled, or taken in by.

XXIII: numbered XVI in *NYPL*

185. the] thee *V.a.92, NYPL*

187. self. Desyre] selfe. Desire *NYPL*

190. ioyest] ioyst *V.a.92, NYPL*

191. bitter-sweet] bitter sweet *NYPL*

XXV: numbered XVII in *NYPL*

193. slyde] slide *NYPL*
 194. swiftly] swiftlie *NYPL*
 195. yitt] yit *NYPL*
 198. we] wee *V.a.92*
 199. we] wee *NYPL*

XXVI: numbered XVIII in *NYPL*

201. fickill] fickell *NYPL*
 202. novght] novgt *V.a.92*
 204. desplase] desplease *V.a.92, NYPL*
 205. Thow thinkst ... enioyes] Thov thinkst ... enioye's *V.a.92, NYPL*
 206. wav'ring] wauring *NYPL*
 208. inconstancie] inconstancye *V.a.92, inconstancie NYPL*

XXVII: numbered XIX in *NYPL*.

214. so fremb a forme profess] so fremb a forme profes *NYPL (pasted-in correction)*;
fremb: Scots fremd, meaning strange, unfamiliar
 215. fauourits] fauourites *V.a.92, NYPL*

XXVIII: numbered XX in *NYPL*.

XXIX: in mirror script in *V.a.91* and *V.a.92*; numbered XXV in *NYPL*, where it is not in mirror script. In French printed texts of Chandieu, this is XXXI, with Inglis's XXXI as XXIX.

227. From] Frome *NYPL*
 deep] right *V.a.92, NYPL*
 230. watter] water *V.a.92, NYPL*
thoës: this strange spelling reflects Scots rhyming of thaws with schaws (choës) in line 231.
 231. galland] gallant *V.a.92, NYPL*
Choës: schaws, Scots for shows or displays.

XXX: in mirror script in *V.a.91* and *V.a.92*; numbered XXVI in *NYPL*, where it is not in mirror script.

234. wee] we *V.a.92*
 235. dainties] dainty *V.a.92, NYPL*
 beauties] beautyes *NYPL*
 237. there-vpon] there vpon *NYPL*
 238. restles] resteles *V.a.92*
 Boule] boule *NYPL*

XXXI: numbered XXVII in *NYPL*. In French printed texts of Chandieu, this is XXIX.

244. blak] black *V.a.92, NYPL*
 247. water] vater *V.a.92*

XXXII: numbered XXVIII in *NYPL*. In French printed texts of Chandieu, this and XXXIII are reversed.

251. Deepe] Deep *V.a.92, NYPL*

sunke] sunk *NYPL*

252. collour] coullour *NYPL*

XXXIII: In French printed texts of Chandieu, this and XXXII are reversed.

257. Trauellar] trauellar *V.a.92*

walkes] walks *NYPL*

259. appeares] appeare *V.a.92, NYPL*

261. mossye] mossy *NYPL*

262. yuie green] Yvie greene *NYPL*

XXXIII: *NYPL* repeats this octonary on successive leaves.

265. World] worlde *NYPL*

floures] flours *V.a.92, NYPL*

267. luce] Luce *NYPL. Luce: lily.*

Rose ... dainty] rose ... danty *V.a.92*

268. Gilliflours: carnations.

parfums] perfums *V.a.92, NYPL*

269. Soussy: French name for *sunflower*

270. Pansye] pansye *V.a.92,*

271. Death] death *V.a.92, NYPL*

272. reste] rest *V.a.92, NYPL*

The Gillifloure] the gillifloure *V.a.92, the Gillifloure NYPL*

XXXV: no variants noted.

XXXVI: 281. the same] this same *V.a.92, NYPL*

283. mid day] mid daye *V.a.92, NYPL*

284. Verteu] Vertu *V.a.92, Virtu NYPL*

288. true vertu] trew virtue *NYPL*

XXXVII: 290. match-les] matchles *NYPL*

292. therto] thereto *V.a.92*

294. vertu] vertu *NYPL*

296. abuse - them] abuse them *NYPL*

XXXVIII: 299. vainquish'd] vanquish'd *NYPL*

303. o man] ô man *V.a.92, NYPL*

XXXIX: 308. chaungements] changements *V.a.92, NYPL*

311. sitt] sit *NYPL*

XL: 313. lab'ring ... tyres] labring ... tyers *NYPL*

314. heap vp, To purchase] heape, to purchase *NYPL*

purchase and] purches & *V.a.92*

316. desyre] desyres *V.a.92, NYPL*

318. thim selves] them selfs *V.a.92, them selues NYPL*

319 beare] bear *NYPL*

320. ruine ... beilde] ruyne ... bield *NYPL*

XLI: 322. Vertu] Vertue *NYPL*

323. treatned] threatned *V.a.92, NYPL*

328. flaming] flamin *NYPL*

XLII: 331. endure] indure *V.a.92, NYPL*

332. stormye] stormie *NYPL*

334. heere] here *V.a.92*

XLIII: no variants noted.

XLIII: not present in *NYPL*. No variants noted from *V.a.92*.

XLV: 353. plaste] plas'te *V.a.92*

355. pris'ner] prisner *NYPL*

pray] prey *V.a.92*

360. worlde] world *V.a.92, NYPL*

XLVI: 361. monstre] Monstre *V.a.92, Monster NYPL*

364. behinde] behynde *V.a.92*

365. bowle] boule *NYPL*

366. awaye] away *NYPL*

367. schooting] shooting *V.a.92, NYPL*

XLVII: 370. List'n] Listn *V.a.92, NYPL*

371. Yitt] Yit *NYPL*

372. Riuers] riuers *NYPL*

373. wax'd] waxd *NYPL*

375. counsale] coūsale *NYPL*

376. *grumbils*: the singular verb here is Scots syntactical usage.

XLVIII: not present in *V.a.92*

380. *enew*: *enough*

so] who *NYPL*

381. sighing] sighin *NYPL*

XLIX: not present in *V.a.92*

385. &] and *NYPL*

391. After "world" *NYPL* repeats "both vaine and variable" from previous line

L: not present in *V.a.92*

393. appeare] appeere *NYPL*

396. *fascherie*: *fasch* (Scots), *trouble*.

397. all- good] all good *NYPL*

FINIS] *THE END NYPL*