

12-22-2022

Appendices to Inglis, Octonaries: Titles and Dedications from other MSS, MSS Containing the 'G.D.' and 'Velde' Sonnets, Who Was 'G.D.'?

Jamie Reid Baxter
University of Glasgow

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/ssl>



Part of the [Literature in English, British Isles Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Reid Baxter, Jamie (2022) "Appendices to Inglis, Octonaries: Titles and Dedications from other MSS, MSS Containing the 'G.D.' and 'Velde' Sonnets, Who Was 'G.D.'?" *Studies in Scottish Literature*: Vol. 48: Iss. 2, 114–119.

DOI: 10.51221/suc.ssl.2023.48.2.11

Available at: <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/ssl/vol48/iss2/10>

This Article is brought to you by the Scottish Literature Collections at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Studies in Scottish Literature* by an authorized editor of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact digres@mailbox.sc.edu.

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Titles and dedications

1. Dedication in Folger Shakespeare Library, MS V.a.92

*Octonaries/ Vpon the Vanitie/ and Inconstancie/ of the World,
Writin and Limd Be Me, Esther/ Inglis The XXIII, Decemb: 1607.*

TO THE VERTVOVS
AND MY LOVING FREINDE AND
LANDLORD M. WILLIAM IEFFERAL.

Alcides doubtfull of his way (beloued freind) being enuironned with two Ladyes Virtue and Vice: the one alluring him with all the humayne, transitory pleasours of this world; the other perswading him with gifts and graces of the soule with moderat contentment: he rather choosed (with Lady Virtue to clime the steep and stonie rocks to attayne to the Castell of Foelicitie, then with Voluptuousnes to bath him self with the schort and momentall vanities of this life; And at lenth enter in eternall perdition. For the way to damnation is broad, and to saluation narrow, figurit out in Pythagoras Y. But as Virgil sayes Quisquis enim duos casus virtutis amore, Vicerit, ille sibi laudem decusq[ue] parabit; Atq[ue] desideam luxumq[ue] sequetur inertem &c: Yow being one (to my knowledge) who with Alcides hes pressit to go thorow the perilous mountaines of this lyfe hoping to attayne to that inspeakable Castell of Foelicitie, which attends all thois who loues and feares the Lord and trewlie serues him to the end.¹ I haue at the desyre of my husband prepared this most singular work of my pen and pensill for recreation of your mynd. W[?herein]² you may see how light, fragill, vayne, inconstant, mutable, schort, and wicked [...] compared to a boble of water, to snow to yce in presens of Phaeton. Receau [...]] then and persist in Virtue to the end: as the Palme doth in

¹ Though this was a long-established nexus of connections by 1607, it is worth noting that it is deployed in an earlier Scottish source, the long manuscript poem *The Schersing out of trew felicitie*: for that text, see Thomas Crockett, ed., *Poems of John Stewart of Baldynneis* (Edinburgh: Scottish Text Society, 1913), 193-266. The poem was composed for James VI c.1580, who was given a beautiful presentation copy now National Library of Scotland (Adv.Ms.19.2.6), which Inglis could conceivably have examined in the royal library.

² A large blot obscures part of the text; some words are completely unreadable.

growing notwithstanding [?any] weight laid thereupon³ for impeschment of the Vegetiue lyf, Radicall sap and Viuacitie thereof. Thus I commend you to Gods protection. Moirtelaik this xxiii of Decemb.1607.

*Your assured freind in
the Lord Iesus,*

ESTHER INGLIS

This dedication is followed by two sonnets, SONNET VPON ESTHER INGLIS ANAGRAMME RESISTING HEL (p. 75-76 above) and SONNET, TO THE ONLY PARAGON, AND matcheles Mistresse of the golden Pen. ESTHER INGLIS (p. 79 above).

2. Dedication in New York Public Library, Spencer Coll. MS. 14

*Octonaries Vpon The Vanitie And Inconstancie of the World,
Writin and Limd be Esther Inglis, The First of Ianvar, 1609.*

IN ALL PIETY,
VERTVE, AND TREW NOBILITY.
TO THE RIGHT PVISSANT AND
HONNORABLE LORD, MY LORD PETER &c.

MY LORD, my humble duety first remembred. It may appear straunge to your Ho: that I a stranger vnknown to you, should present yow with any thing proceeding from me: yet hauing consecrated sum labours of my pen and pensill to the highest and nobils of this land, alsweell to sundrie of the Peers of this Realme, as to the Kings Ma:^{tie} and to the Prince his Grace vnto whom they haue bene very gracious and acceptable. And synce it hath pleased Almighty God to bring me in thir parts hard by your Ho: I haue presumed altho vnacquainted with your Ho: to prepare and dedicat this work to present you with. Trusting your Ho: will accept of it with als good will as I haue doone it for your saike, and let it haue sum secreit corner in your Ho: cabinet, and so much the rather because it is the handy work of a woman, who beseeches God to graunt you many good yeers, in health, honour and prosperitie, and who shall allwayse remaine as one,

*Most ready to serue and honnour
your, Lo:*

Willingall Spayne, Ian, I; 609

ESTHER INGLIS

This dedication is followed by SONNET, TO THE ONLY PARAGON, AND matcheles Mistresse of the golden Pen. ESTHER INGLIS (p. 79 above).

³ The tag *Crescit sub pondere palma* was very well known, and also existed as *Crescit sub pondere Virtus*, thus linking Inglis's conclusion with her opening reference to Lady Virtue.

Appendix II: MSS containing the ‘G.D.’ and ‘Velde’ sonnets

1. New York Public Library, Spencer Collection, French MS 14 [S-E & Yeo no.13]: *OCTONARIES Vpon The Vanitie And Inconstancie Of The World, Writin And Limd Be Esther Inglis, The First of Ianvar. 1609.* Dedicated to John, first Baron Petre, MP (1549-1613), her near neighbour in Essex. Includes the sonnet “To the onely Paragon,” here ascribed to one “S.G.D.”: <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47da-eaeb-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>.
2. Folger MS V.a.92 [S-E & Yeo no.33]: copy of *OCTONARIES Vpon The Vanitie And Inconstancie Of The World. Writin And Limd Be Me, Esther Inglis The XXIII, Decemb: 1607.* Dedicated to Esther’s landlord William Jefferai, dated 23 December 1607. Includes both sonnets, ascribed to “G.D.”: <https://luna.folger.edu/luna/servlet/s/4y7891>
3. Folger MS V.a.665, [S-E & Yeo no.38A]: *The PSALMES Of DAVID Written By Me, Esther Inglis, An. Dom. 1612.* Dedicated to Prince Henry. Contains the anagram sonnet, ascribed to “M.G.D.”: <https://collation.folger.edu/2017/01/princely-new-years-gift-newly-discovered-manuscript/>.
4. Wormsley Library, Wormsley, Bucks 1612 [S-E & Yeo no.38]: *The PSALMES Of David. WRITTIN By Me, Esther Inglis, AT Willingal Spaine, The First of Ianvar. 1612.* Dedicated “To the right honorable my very especiall good Mecoenas Sir David Murray.” Includes the anagram sonnet, ascribed to “M.G.D.”
5. Kungliga Bibliotek, Stockholm, Cod. Holm.A.781, [S-E & Yeo no.39]: *Les PSEAVMES De David Escrit Par Esther Inglis Le XV De Sept: 1612.* Dedicated to Prince Henry. Includes “A la souueraine Dame de la noble plume,” signed “Velde.”

Appendix III: Who was ‘G.D.’?

There are several candidates for the identity behind these initials. In private conversation, Prof. Alasdair A. MacDonald has repeatedly advocated for G.D. being a very young William (“Gulielmus”) Drummond of Hawthornden (1585-1649), whose first published work was his lament for Prince Henry, *Moeliades*, of 1613. Admittedly, this great lyric poet did

much work with foreign-language texts, especially sonnets, and he also wrote spiritual verse. But linguistically and stylistically, the two “G.D.” sonnets are utterly unlike anything that is currently known from Drummond’s not unprolific pen. As shown above, “RESISTING HEL” is in the profoundly un-Hawthorndenian mould and register of the sonnets of the presbyterian group around Mr James Melville, above all Lady Culross. Nor is it clear why William Drummond would have signed vernacular sonnets with “G.” rather than “W.” Furthermore, Drummond had graduated M.A. from Edinburgh in July 1605, but the 1607 text of the sonnets is attributed to G.D., *not* M.G.D. Finally, only in 1610 did Drummond inherit his father’s knightly title (generally abbreviated to “S.” in contemporary usage); it is most odd that the prefatory S. in the 1600/1609 manuscript predates the M.G.D. found in 1612. If the S.G.D. attribution did not exist, the logical conclusion would be that the sonneteer graduated between 1607 and 1612. It is extremely unlikely that a mere master’s degree in 1612 would take precedence over the hypothetical knightly “S.” of 1609. Given Esther’s skills, it is always possible that the “S.” was in fact added to an original G.D. in 1609, though that date would *still* rule out Sir “Gulielmus” Drummond.

If G.D. stands for George Douglas, not Gulielmus Drummond, there are several candidates. Two of them wrote surviving Latin verse. First, “Georgius Duglassius,” an Edinburgh M.A. of July 1599, contributed four bland and conventional elegiac couplets to the large body of epitaphs printed in *Roberti Rolloci Vitae et mortis narratio*, brought out that same year for Edinburgh University’s first principal.⁴ In 1602, this same George Douglas was presented by James VI to the vicarage of Hobkirk in Roxburghshire, not far from the English border; in December 1607, he was presented to nearby Southdean, by William Douglas, 10th Earl of Angus, and then translated to and inducted as minister of Hobkirk in 1608.⁵ He died between January and March 1609. Nothing else is known of this eminently obscure cleric. On 1 August 1617, a second neo-Latin versifier called George Douglas would present an uninspired Latin poem of 56 lines to King James at Drumlanrig Castle, at the very end of the monarch’s three-month visit to his ancestral kingdom. The Drumlanrig presentation has a (very) tenuous link with Esther Inglis: in the commemorative volume *The Muses Welcome* (1618), George Douglas’s verses are immediately preceded by ten elegiac couplets from the pen of Inglis’s undergraduate

⁴ *Vitae & mortis D. Roberti Rolloci Scoti narratio. Scripta per Georgium Robertsonum. Adjectis in eundem quorundam epitaphijs.* (Edinburgh, 1599), no page numbers. G. Duglassius is the fifth-last poet, placed between Nathanael Vdvartus and David Hume (of Godscroft).

⁵ *Fasti*, II: 118 and 138.

son Samuel Kello, apparently delivered the previous day at Sanquhar.⁶ So it is at least possible that Samuel met this particular George Douglas.

There is, however, a third “George Douglas” to be considered. This one was saluted as a gifted *vernacular* poet in the epigram “Ad Georgium Duglasium, traducto Boethio de consolatione” by David Hume of Godscroft (1558- c.1630); Hume’s tribute to Douglas appeared on p.62 of his *Lusus Poetici* (London, 1605), where it is immediately followed by an epigram “Ad eundem: & Margaretam sororem.”⁷ Nothing more is known of this translation of Boethius or its author, but Hume’s epigram praises Douglas’s outstanding skills as a writer of vernacular verse and prose. The second epigram indicates that Hume knew these Douglas siblings quite well, since at the (unknown) time of writing, he deemed them good looking young people who deserved to make good marriages. Unfortunately, *Lusus Poetici* is something of an omnium-gatherum of undated poems, many of them clearly written long before 1605 (which could explain why “Ad Georgium Duglasium” omits any clerical title, should the minister of Hobkirk be the man in question).⁸

If David Hume’s “Georgius Duglasius” is the mysterious G.D., then the francophile presbyterian Hume would constitute a link to the Melville circle, since he was a close friend and comrade of both Andrew and James Melville.⁹ It is always possible that Hume enjoyed long acquaintance with

⁶ Earlier in 1617, Samuel Kello had published an eleven-page *Carmen Gratulatorium, Ad Serenissimum, Potentissimum, Et Invictissimum Monarcham, Iacobum, Id nominis sextum, Magnæ Britanniae, Franciae, & Hiberniae Regem, Fidei Defensorem, &c. / Authore Samuele Kello, Scoto, Academiae Edinburgensis Alumno* (Edinburgh: Andro Hart, 1617; STC 14916). Note that King James is resoundingly *sextus*, not *primus*, and that Samuel is *scotus*, not *scoto-britannus*. Despite its wondrous title, this book is the selfsame “little work ... called *SIDVS CAELESTE*” which he presented to the monarch at Stirling, according to his mother’s 20 June 1620 letter to the king seeking a postgraduate place at Oxford or Cambridge for “this my only son.” See David Laing, “Notes,” 307. (The *sidus* itself appears as an image on the fifth, unnumbered, page of the *Carmen Gratulatorium*.)

⁷ See item 52 here: <http://www.philological.bham.ac.uk/hume2/text.html>.

⁸ Hobkirk and Southdean lie quite some distance inland from Godscroft in the Merse, on the Berwickshire coast, but Hume was an adherent of the Douglasses, and had been a close companion of Archibald Douglas, 8th Earl of Angus, beloved of the presbyterians. Hume’s two George Douglas epigrams follow on from a group concerning the 8th earl’s widow Jean Lyon. Douglas was an extremely common Borders name: all three of George Douglas’s immediate predecessors at Southdean were Douglasses.

⁹ Hume addressed various poems to Andrew Melville, and James Melville has a MS sonnet saluting Hume’s ability to defend the Kirk’s case against the Crown (NLS, Adv. MS. 19.2.7 f.10v; for the text, see note to line 289 of item 11 here: <https://philological.cal.bham.ac.uk/hume2/notes.html#a11.289>. On Andrew

the Anglois family in Edinburgh, but if so, one might have expected that he would have contributed epigrams to Inglis's 1599 presentation manuscripts, or at least have written verse to or about her (as he did for many individuals), and that she too would then have appeared in *Lusus Poetici* or in the later collections issued posthumously by Hume's French-based son James. But for all we know, it may have been the writing of the liminary verse for the 1599 volumes that caused Andrew Melville to bring Esther to Hume's attention. In 1605, Esther Inglis produced a beautiful presentation manuscript of Hume's *Vincula Unionis*.¹⁰ She also made a calligraphed copy of one of the numerous epigrams Hume addressed to James VI.¹¹

Of the four possible candidates discussed above—William Drummond of Hawthornden, George Douglas, minister of Hobkirk, George Douglas of *The Muses Welcome*, and George Douglas, translator of Boethius, at present only the last-named seems a possible candidate for the G.D. who translated Velde's "A l'unique dame," and wrote "Resisting Hel." Whoever G.D. was, this individual knew Esther Inglis, could read French and had access to the Velde sonnet: perhaps G.D. was one of those who had "to thair greit weill and profit" attended Edinburgh's French school.

Andrew Melville's liminary matter for Hume's *Daphn-Amaryllis*, see here: <http://www.philological.bham.ac.uk/hume4/appendices.html>.

¹⁰ Edinburgh University Library MS La.III.249.

¹¹ NLS Adv. MS. 33.1.6, Vol. 20, no. 11; for the first ten lines of this text, beginning "Accipe et haec nostro quondam vigilata labore....," see item 8 "Ad eundem" here: <http://www.philological.bham.ac.uk/hume4/text.html>. The MS copy was presumably intended as a covering note to a presentation copy of one of the recensions of Hume's *Daphn-Amaryllis* between 1603 and 1605. The epigram itself did not see print until Hume's son printed it on page 45 of the *Iacobaea* section of *Davidis Humi Wedderburnensis Poemata Omnia* (Paris, 1639). On the printing history, see here, para. 15: <http://www.philological.bham.ac.uk/hume4/intro.html>.