

# In praise of scribes - manuscripts and their makers in seventeenth-century England

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Tags: #[EMLS #v.1#(May, #1999: #13.1

**CELM: Bodleian Library, Eng. misc. MSS**

A second area opened up by this scholarship has been the writing and the writers that traditional criticism has tended to ignore. He teaches us to look always for the exemplar, or the original manuscript from which all others derived, and he teaches us to look at witnesses, or bits of evidence about authority. Saunders pointed out that a great many printed sixteenth-century texts, particularly poetry written by aristocratic or courtly writers, were prefaced by claims that their authors were sending it to the press with the greatest reluctance and noted that the poems of these writers Wyatt, Surrey, Sidney, and so on tended to appear most frequently in manuscript copies.

### Background

Many of them contain poems, as we have seen earlier, sometimes copied from other collections or, in some cases, unique to one particular manuscript; many of them were



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Women  
Forsberg, Peter,  
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1973-  
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BG-HUMOR/GAMES - BG-HUMOR  
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Manuscripts, English -- Editing.  
Scriptoria -- England -- History -- 17th century.  
Manuscripts, English -- History -- 17th century.  
Authors and readers -- England -- History -- 17th century.  
Literature publishing -- England -- History -- 17th century.  
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then reproduced in print miscellanies, just as printed books were occasionally the source from which they might be taken. Donne's elegy on Bulstrode, 'Death I recant' ff.

### Manuscript and Print, 1500

Not just literary texts, then, but other kinds of writing—scholarly and everyday, devotional and domestic—were still actively being copied in manuscript, even hundreds of years after print was developed. Chris Stamatakis received a B. I liked the mix of letters, diary entries, diplomatic materials and account books.

### CELM: University of London, Senate House Library

When using what has survived it is important to consider that it forms just a part of a larger structure. McKitterick argues, in fact, that textual scholars have inherited a potentially misleading classification in which manuscripts and printed books are categorically different things even if they are sometimes similar.

### CELM: Bodleian Library, Eng. misc. MSS

From the 1670s an italic script of handwriting was replaced by a merchant-like running hand, which in turn evolved into a series of more specialised hands for different purposes, each requiring its own technique both in the writing and in the preparation of a quill.

### Freedom of Speech, Libel and the Law in Early Stuart England

With Biathanatos, for instance, the manuscript reveals levels of organization: paragraph-summaries, summary-sidenotes, and their links with a list of contents, all show Donne's structure and planning for the whole essay.

### Subject Matter

Among the collections of Sir Edwin Durning-Lawrence, MP 1837-1914, Baconian scholar and book collector. Beal argues that Katherine Philips desired two things: authorial control over her texts and social advancement.

## Related Books

- [Resolutionen - ein empirisch entwickelter Beitrag zur Textanalyse](#)
- [Night life of the gods.](#)
- [Zechariah 9-14 - a new translation with introduction and commentary](#)
- [Language and culture of the Lusatian Sorbs throughout their history](#)
- [Tertiary Mollusca of the Gisborne District](#)