

# RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

## Pre-publication Collections

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### Groveley Forest, Wiltshire

1610

Edited by C. E. McGee

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1609

*Bill of Complaint in Garrett v. Perkins et al* TNA: STAC 8/152/11  
mb 1

To the kinges most excellent Maiestie

In most humble manner Complaining sheweth vnto your highnes your Maiestes most obedient subiect Edward Garrett of Groveley in the County of Wiltes yeoman That wheras your said Subiect is (and for the space of almost one yere past hath bene) one of the right honorable the now Erle of Pembroke keepers of his lordshippes game of deane within his fforest of Groveley in the County aforesaid Wherin which fforest your said subiect walking and dewly executing his office of keepershipp then during the tyme aforesaid your said subiect about the beginning of lune last past<sup>1</sup> found and discouered diverse and sundry night hunters Ryoters and destroyers of his honors game of deane within the fforest aforesaid whose names and tymes of huntinges your said subiect (according to his bounden dutye) revealed and made knowne vnto Iohn Younge gentleman (The said honorable Erle of Pembroke's Ranger of the fforest aforesaid) And the said Iohn <sup>younge</sup> proposed therupon to bring in question (amongst diverse other night hunters and Rioters and spoylers of the game in the said fforest) ffrancis Perkins the younger and Edward Perkins gentleman (two of the sonnes of ffrances Perkins of Battington<sup>2</sup> in the said County of Wilteshire esquier) and one Edward Cooke servant of the said Perkins (being three of the night hunters Rioters and spoylers aforesaid) for and about the seuerall night huntinges Riottes and spoiles by them and others committed and discouered by your said subiect as aforesaid Whervpon they the said ffrances Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke vnderstanding (or strongly

suspecting) that they and others their fellowe hunters Riotors and spoilers aforesaid were thus discouered by the Care and industrie of your said subiect and were Complained on by your said subiect Edward Garrett and by meanes herof they were like to be brought in question and troble for the same huntinges ryotes and spoiles They the said ffrances Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke well knowing that your said subiect (according to his said dutye and office aswell by night as by day) did walk aloane vpon and over such groundes within the said fforest as were within your said subiectes Chardges And well knowing that your said subiect was a man of Civill and honest behaviour and of good reputacon and accompnt amongst his neigboures and ffrendes about the three and twentith day of Iune in the seventh yere of your maiestes raigne ouer this your kingdome of England at Battington aforesaid did vnlawfully Combine Consult and Confederatt themselves with divers others like evill disposed persons to work some wicked and mischeivous Course & basser villany vnto and against your said subiect And therupon they the said ffrances Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke and diverse others their Complices Counsellors and Confederattes on the ffowre & twentith day of Iune last past <sup>att Battington</sup> aforesaid (not havinge the feare of god before their eies nor regarding your maiesties lawes) did vnlawfully Imagin frame devise make and sett downe in writing against your said subiect and against<sup>3</sup> his lawfull wife a most false slanderous and infamous libell the Tenor whereof folloeth in these wordes *videlicet* Garrett noe man, what then? an oxe: his wife she hath what? the ffrench pox: a lovely Cople and a brave, a pockie queene and an horned knave, Garrett doth take Tobacco still, the drith wherof his hornes doth spill hindres their growth but not amisse for he shewes pollicye in this [yf he befor] yf he before had worn awaye his hornes in euerye bush would stay, where now most frely yt may passe not like an oxe but like an asse/ And they the said ffrancis Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke did on the said fowre and twentith day of Iune aforesaid at Battington aforesaid vnlawfully publish the same libell And not soe satisfied They the said ffrancis Perkins the Younger Edward Perkins & Edward Cooke (oft propose to offer and to doe further wrong and disgrace to your said subiect did on the said xxiiijth daye of Iune in the seventh year of your maiestes raigne aforesaid at Battington aforesaid vnlawfully Conspire Conclude and agree together to arme themselves in Riotous and vnlawfull manner with long pike staves forrest Billes and other offensive weapons and being so armed to enter into and vpon the said fforest in the night seazon and there vnlawfully to hunt Course kill & destroye with Gray houndes the Game of Deane <sup>then and</sup> there being And they further agreed Conspired and Concluded together on the same night not only to lay in Wache for your said subiect within the fforest aforesaid and to kill and Carie away the deare then and there to be founde and also then and there to assault wounde beate and mayme your said subiect But also then and there to take and to bynde him your said subiect hande and foote and after to shave and Cut of all the haire of the Berde hedd and Bodye of your said subiect in most malitious ridiculous disgraceful and vnlawfull manner Contrary to your maiestes Lawes And your said subiect Edward Garrett further sheweth and informeth vnto your highnes That they the said ffrances Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke and diverse other their vnknowne Confederattes to the number of tenn persons at the least (whose names so soone as they be knowne your subiect humbly prayeth may be inserted within this bil) according to their former wicked Complott and designation on the saide fowre and twentyth day of Iune aforesaid at Battington aforesaid according to their former Confederacy did againe publish the said most false slanderous and wicked libell and in mocking and taunting manner <sup>did</sup> reade & sing the same libell aswell to the great disgrace Infamy & reproch

of your said subiect As also to the daunger of vtter devyding of your said subiect from his lawfull wife and to the daungerous example of others, & to the great perill of Breach of your maiestes peace & against your highnes Crowne and dignitey And your said subiect sheweth further vnto your highness that after this libell aforesaid was thus written and published as aforesaid They the said ffrancis Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke and others yet vnknown vnto your said subiect (whose names your said subiect praieth may be herin inserted when they shalbe discouered) on the saide four and twentieth day of lune aforesaid at Battington aforesaid and at diverse other dayes and places did vnlawfully publish and read the same Libell and did make sundry sportes and lestes heratt aswell between and amongst themselves As to and among diverse other persons at sundry tymes being among them and presente , And your said subiect further sheweth vnto your highnes That after that they the said ffrancis Perkins the younger Edward Perkins Edward Cooke and others their Confederatess [had] thus framed written redd ieseted at and often tymes published the sclanderous libell aforesaid they the said ffrances Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke and others their Complices (according to their former combinance and confederacy All being armed with long pikes staves forest billes & other offensiuwe weapons & being furnished likwise with Gray houndes for the hunting and Chacing of Dear on the fowr and twentieth day of lune aforesaid in the night seazon of the same day in most riotous and vnlawfull manner did enter into and vpon the said fforest and did then and their being with them diverse barbers tooles to haue shaven and abused your said subiect as aforesaid And then and their in the night seazon of the same xxijjth of lune did hunt and kill a Buck & one other deare their and the same did then and there vnlawfully Cary away And after that they the said ffrances Perkins the younger Edward Perkins Edward Cooke and others their riotous Companions had in these vnlawfull huntinges spent most parte of the same night of the said xxijjth day of lune in the said seventh yere of your maiestes raigne and could not fynde your said subiect (whome according to their former Conspiracy aforesaid they proposed to haue riotously assaulted beaten and wounded And then to haue bound him and after to haue Cutt of and shaven all the haire of his Body and [manner as aforesaid] bringing with them Barbers tooles for the same purpose as aforesaid) They the said ffrancis Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke and other their said Confederatess Came to a place within the said fforest Called the high wood on the night of the said xxijjth day of lune aforesaid (which place Called the high wood is very neare the Centre or middle part of the said fforest And then and their they the said ffrances Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke and others their Complices did vnlawfully riotously and disorderly set vp on the topp of a post of certaine Railes wherwith the said high wood is enclosed (the same post standing and being in a most eminent place of the same forest and loining to a high Way that passeth thorowgh the same fforest) The false and sclanderous libell aforesaid to be seene and redd by all passengers that way wherby the same libell was presently seene and redd by a great number of your maiestes subiectes to the great infamie disgrace and reproch of your said subiect and to the daunger of devyding of your said subiect from his <sup>said</sup> lawfull wife as aforesaid and Contrary to your maiestes lawes/ And after they had thus made and sett vp and redd the said libell They the said ffrances Perkins the younger Edward Perkins and Edward Cooke and other (their <sup>yet</sup> vnknowne Consortes) returned to Battington aforesaid making sundry lestes sportes and scoffes therat aswell by the way returning As also at Battington aforesaid after they were returned And did make write and publish sundrey Copies of the said libell and did make songes and Rymes therupon to the great disgrace of your said subiect and contrary to your maiestes Lawes And they

the said ffrances Perkins the younger Edward Perkins, Edward Cooke and other their  
 Confederattes at sundry tymes [did make dyverse and vnlawfull sportes iestes and scoffes there  
 and therupon] aswell by reading Copies of the same libell and by pronouncing the same by hart As  
 by teaching the same libell to others haue sported themselves to the daunger of vtter vndoing of  
 your said subiect and Contrary to your maiestes lawes / Fforasmuch as the fframinge makinge  
 writing and publishing of the said libell doe not only touch your said subiect in particuler but may  
 tende to the encouragement of others like ill disposed persons to Commit the like offence and  
 Misdemeanors if [Condigne] Condigne punishment be not had and taken on thoffendors aforesaid  
 and are Contrary to your maiestes Lawes and Statutes in that case had made & provided And  
 fforasmuch as thoffences aforesaid were done and Comitted since your maiestes last generall and  
 ffree pardon and deserve sharp punishment May it therfore please your maiestye premisses  
 Considered to grant vnto your said subiect your maiestes most gratioues writtes of Subpena to the  
 said ffrauncis Perkyns the younger Edward Perkins/ and Edward Cooke to be directed thereby  
 commanding them and euerye of them att a certeine day and vnder a certeine payne therein to be  
 lymittted personally to appeare before your highes & your most honorable privy Councell in your  
 highnes most honorable Court of Starrechamber then & there to answere the premisses vpon  
 their oathes and to stand to & abide such order punishment & decree in & touching the premisses  
 as to your Maiestie & your highness most honorable privy Councell shall seeme agreeable with  
 iustice And your highnes said subiect according to his bounden duty shall daily pray to god for your  
 Maiestes long & prosperous Raigne over vs.

Laurence Hyde

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup>lune last past: *June 1609*

<sup>2</sup>Battington: *variant form of Bathampton*

<sup>3</sup>against: *followed by a blank space for the name*

## DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION

*Garrett v. Perkins et al*

London, The National Archives: Public Record Office, STAC 8/152/11; 1610; English; vellum; 1  
 membrane; 430mm x 350mm; very good condition; dated on the dorse 'Vener Secundo ffebruarij  
 Anno Septimo Regni Iacobi Regis &c' and signed 'Th. Mynott' (or perhaps 'Alynott'). Contains  
 plaintiff's bill of complaint.