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Unnoticed Variant Reading in Q1 *Lucrece*, 1594

In preparing Shakespeare's *Lucrece*, based on the White copy of Q1 (L V C R E C E. / L O N D O N. / Printed by Richard Field, for Iohn Harrison, and are / to be sold at the signe of the white Greyhound / in Paules Churh-yard. 1594.), for my edition of *The Poems* for the Internet Shakespeare Editions <<http://web.uvic.ca/shakespeare/>>, I discovered a variant reading in line 1118 (inner forme of sheet H, signature H3v) which appears to be unrecorded. In addition, I found that the British Library's Grenville 11178 copy contains eight readings of earlier states that have not yet been identified with it by previous editors (six on the outer forme of sheet B; one from the outer forme of sheet I; and one from the outer forme of sheet K).

The English Short Title Catalogue identifies eleven extant copies of Q1 *Lucrece* (STC 22345):

1. British Library: C.21.c.45
2. British Library: Grenville 11178
3. Bodleian Library: Malone 34 (Arch. G d.41 (1))
4. Bodleian Library: Malone 886 (Arch. G e.32 (2))
5. Sion College Library
6. Huntington Library
7. Folger Shakespeare Library: W. A. White (Copy 1)
8. Folger Shakespeare Library: Devonshire (Copy 2)
9. Folger Shakespeare Library: W. H. Crawford (Copy 3, imperfect)

10. Elizabethan Club, Yale University

11. Kraus, New York City

Lee, Rollins, and subsequent editors record two unquestionable misprints that occur in all copies: ‘Paules Churh-yard’ from the titlepage and ‘sleeep’ from line 163 (C1r, outer forme).¹ To these, I would like to add the comma after ‘row’ in line 1497 (K4v, outer forme), the portion of ‘borrow’ that is turned up but belongs as part of the final word in Stanza 214 and thus should end with a period as do all stanzas in the narrative poem.

Rollins observes that six readings from the outer forme of sheet B appear in only the Bodleian Library’s Malone 34 and the Yale copies: ‘morning’ (l. 24, B1v), ‘Appologie’ (l. 31, B1v), ‘Colatium’ (l. 50, B2r), ‘ariued’ (l. 50, B2r), ‘himselpe betakes’ (l. 125, B4r), and ‘wakes’ (l. 126, B4r); corrected in other copies to ‘mornings,’ ‘Apologies,’ ‘Colatia,’ ‘arriued,’ ‘themselues betake,’ and ‘wake’. I have discovered that the British Library’s Grenville 11178 also has the earlier states.

Additionally, Lee and Rollins concur that in the outer forme of sheet I Malone 34, Malone 886, and Sion ‘for him’ (l. 1182, I1r) and ‘blasts’ (l. 1335, I4v) are corrected to ‘by him’ and ‘blast’ in the other copies. Interestingly, no one has yet noted that the British Library’s Grenville copy has the corrected ‘by him’ but also the earlier state ‘blasts’, indicating that this sheet must have been a transitional one.

Prince notes that ‘vppon’ reads ‘uppon’ (l. 162, C1r) in the British Library C.21.c.45 copy and that ‘pearlie’ reads ‘perlie’ (l. 396, D2v) in the Folger-

¹ Sidney Lee, *Shakespeares Lucrece; Being a Reproduction in Facsimile of the First Edition, 1594, from the Copy in the Malone Collection in the Bodleian Library* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1905).

Hyder Edward Rollins, *The Poems: Venus and Adonis, Lucrece, the Passionate Pilgrim, the Phoenix and the Turtle, a Lover's Complaint* (Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1938).

Devonshire and Huntington copies. The only remaining variant reading noted by modern editors occurs in line 1350, signature K1r. The British Library's C.21.c.45, the Folger's Devonshire, the Huntington, and the Kraus read 'Euen so the patterne of this worne-out age,'; other copies, 'Euen so this patterne of the worne-out age,'; the later considered the corrected state and the reading followed in Q2-9. The British Library's Grenville 11178 copy also has the earlier state.

Finally, it has not been recorded that line 1118 (inner forme of sheet H, signature H3v) reads "'Deepe woes rowle forward like a gentle flood,' in the Bodleian's Malone 886, the Huntington, and the Yale copies while the British Library's C.21.c.45 and Grenville 11178, the Bodleian's Malone 34, the Folger Shakespeare Library's W. A. White, Devonshire, and W. H. Crawford copies all read "'Deepe woes roll forward like a gentle flood,'²

The Sion College and Kraus copies, apparently in private hands, were not available to consult. The Sion College copy was auctioned in 1989 as part of Sotheby's Bradley Martin sale. The Kraus copy is part of the H.P. Kraus Rare Books inventory, which is being liquidated since the closing of company after the January 2003 death of the founder's widow Hanni Kraus, who ran the business since H. P.'s death in 1988.

² I have been able to consult the three copies in the Folger Library, the two in the Bodleian, and the two in the British Library and facsimiles of the Huntington Library and Yale copies. My thanks to Graham Hall and Thomas Berger for initially checking the Bodleian and British Library copies for me. Also, I would like to thank the Internet Shakespeare Editions textual editor Eric Rasmussen, the staff of the Folger Shakespeare Library, especially Georgianna Ziegler, Head of Reference, and Elizabeth Walsh, Head of Reader Services, and William Proctor Williams for his invaluable comments on earlier drafts of this note.

I also examined the subsequent printings in the Early English Books Online (EEOB) database and the Folger's collection of photocopies; 'rowle' is the spelling of Q2-4 while 'roule' is that of Q5-9.³

Of the two variants in line 1118 of Q1 *Lucrece*, 'rowle' is probably the corrected state in that it is the reading followed in Q2-4. There is no help in this regard from the other two appearances of the form of the verb 'to roll' in *Lucrece*: line 368 (D1v) reads 'Rowling his greedie eye-bals in his head.'; line 1398 (K2r), 'In A I A X eyes blunt rage and rigour rold,'.

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³ Cf. *OED* (roll, v.²): Forms: a. 3-7 **rolle**, 4-7 **role**, 5 **rollyn**, 5-7 **rol**, 4 **roll**. b. 5-7 **roule**, 6-8 **roul** (7 **rool**), 6-7 **rowle**, 6-8 (9) **rowl**. c. *Sc.* (and *north.*) 6 **rou**, 6- **row**, 8-9 **rowe**, 9 **ro**. [ad. OF. *roler*, *roller*, *rouler*, = Prov. *rolar* (*rotlar*), Sp. *rollar*, Pg. *rolar*, Catal. *rotolar*, It. *rotolare*:—pop. L. **rotulāre*, f. *rotula*, dim. of *rota* wheel. Hence also (M)Du. and G. *rollen*, Fris. *rolje*, *rôlje*, LG. *rullen*, Da. *rulle*, Sw. *rulla*.]