

**THE TEMPLE: SACRED POEMS
AND PRIVATE EJACULATIONS.
BEING A FACSIMILE REPRINT OF
THE FIFTH EDITION, WITH AN
INTRODUCTION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649718757

The Temple: Sacred Poems and Private Ejaculations. Being a Facsimile Reprint of the Fifth Edition, with an Introduction by George Herbert

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

GEORGE HERBERT

**THE TEMPLE: SACRED POEMS
AND PRIVATE EJACULATIONS.
BEING A FACSIMILE REPRINT OF
THE FIFTH EDITION, WITH AN
INTRODUCTION**

828

H 5-36 t



THE TEMPLE.





INTRODUCTION.

ISSAK WALTON — whose “Compleat Angler,” in similar facsimile, precedes this—in his pathetic narrative of the last illness and gentle end of GEORGE HERBERT, tells the story of the delivery to good Mr. EDMUND DUNCON of that manuscript which proved to be those poems that, as “The Temple,” have passed “for all time” into the sacred verse of England, if one might not even say of Christendom. Biographically and bibliographically, it is important to fix the exact date of its “sweet singer’s” death, and as a corollary of the first edition of “The Temple.” Consequently this incident falls here first of all to be given and examined. After other more personal matters, the departing saint, says his bio-

grapher, "did, with such a humility as seemed to exalt him, bow down to Mr. Duncon, and with a thoughtful and contented look, say to him: Sir, I pray deliver this little book to my dear brother Farrer [Nicholas Ferrar], and tell him he shall find in it a picture of the many spiritual conflicts that have past betwixt God and my soul before I could subject mine to the will of Jesus my Master, in Whose service I have now found perfect freedom; desire him to read it, and then, if he can think it may turn to the advantage of any dejected poor soul, let it be made publick; if not, let him burn it, for I and it are less than the least of God's mercies." "Thus meanly," adds Walton, "did this humble man think of this excellent book, which now bears the name of *The Temple, or Sacred Poems and Private Ejaculations.*" The incident and interview and the swift-following death have usually been assigned to 1632, because of the register's entry of the burial, but they really belong to 1633. For reasons that will appear immediately,

the entries preceding and succeeding, and the entry of Herbert's own burial, are here given *verbatim et literatim*, as thus:—

ANN 1633.

Buried was the widow Smith 5 of February
 William Ellyott the younger was buried viij March
 Mr George Herbert Esq^r Parson of Fugglestone
 and Bemerton buried the 3^d day of
 March 1632
 Richard Pirmmett was buried
 xxij of June

AN. DOM.

1634 Edith Bacon the wife of
 John Bacon was buried iij January

1634

It lies on the surface that these entries were made by the old (illiterate) scribe of Fugglestone and Bemerton irregularly, as probably suited his memory or convenience. Though apparently he used to reckon as a rule from January to January, in adding the year in the Herbert entry, he slid into the old mode of reckoning from 25th March, whereby our 3rd March, 1633, would be recorded as 3rd March, 1632. It will be noticed that in addition to this, as

Edith Bacon's burial belongs to 1634, the presumption would have been that Herbert's and Pirmmett's belonged to the immediately preceding year, *i.e.* 1633, while Herbert's follows one belonging to 1633, not 1632. But besides these considerations, other facts go to prove that GEORGE HERBERT was living long subsequent to 3rd March, 1632, as = 1632, *e.g.* his well-known Letter to NICHOLAS FERRAR concerning VALDESSO is dated 29th September, 1632; then, the Will of his niece DOROTHY VAUGHAN (daughter of his sister MARGARET) was "proved" by him as executor in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 9th October, 1632*; and finally, his own Will is shown to have been drawn up subsequent to his niece's, by its disposing of 100*l.* left by her to him. Thus 3rd March, 1633, was unquestionably the real date of Herbert's interment, and the last of February or 1st of March his probable day of death. It follows that not to 1632 but to 1633 belongs the

* Herbert was sworn by commission before Nathaniel Bostock, his curate—the 'commission' being explained by his fragile health.

“first impression” of “The Temple.”* NICHOLAS FERRAR appears to have thrown off a few gift copies of the “little book” for immediate friends. These are without date, AND ONLY A SINGLE EXEMPLAR OF THESE UNDATED COPIES IS AT PRESENT KNOWN. From that, by the kindness of its owner (HENRY HUTH, Esq.), our facsimile has been made. But with the slight exception of the imprints on the title-pages, the two editions of 1633—first and second—are identical with the undated copy. Doubtless the two title-pages of these two editions will be acceptable. They are as follows:—

* The Rev. I. Gregory Smith, M. A., in his collected Essays (from “The Christian Remembrancer,” vol. xlv. pp. 106-7) says: “‘The Temple’ was first given to the world in 1633, by Nicholas Ferrar, Herbert’s literary executor; under his editorship it was printed by his daughters and other members of his household, or ‘Protestant Nunnery,’ as it has been called, at Little Gidding, in Northamptonshire, and then published at Cambridge, after being, of course, formally licensed by the Vice-Chancellor’s ‘imprimatur.’” There is no authority whatever for this alleged printing privately at Little Gidding. The undated and dated alike are expressly stated to be “Printed by Thomas Buck” (*as supra*).

THE
TEMPLE.
SACRED POEMS
AND
PRIVATE EJA-
CULATIONS.

By Mr. GEORGE HERBERT.

PSAL. 29.

*In his Temple doth every
man speak of his honour.*



CAMBRIDGE:
Printed by *Thom. Buck,*
and *Roger Daniel,* printers
to the Universitie.
1633.