



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
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# EARLY MODERN ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS OF PETRARCH'S *TRIUMPHI*

A diplomatic edition

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## Preface

Unlike Petrarch's *Canzoniere*, his *Triumphs* saw two complete and a number of partial translations into English in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries:

Complete translations:

Henry Parker, Lord Morley (composed during the reign of Henry VIII?, printed in 1555);

William Fowler (1587).

Partial translations:

Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey: *Triumphus Cupidinis*, III. 151–87 (1540s);

E. D.: *Triumphus Mortis*, I. 79–100 (printed in 1585);

Mary Sidney, Countess of Pembroke: *Triumphus Mortis* (1590s);

John Florio: *Triumphus Pudicitie*, 76–90, 174 (printed in 1591);

Elizabeth I(?): *Triumphus Eternitatis*, 1–80 (date uncertain);

Anna Hume: *Triumphus Amoris, Pudicitie, Mortis* (printed in 1644).

The present edition complements my *Petrarch's Triumphs in the British Isles*, a volume published in the Tudor and Stuart Translation Series (Modern Humanities Research Association, 2020). The MHRA volume reconstructs the dissemination and impact of the *Triumphs* in England and Scotland between its first appearance and the first half of the seventeenth century, and offers a normalized edition of a selection of translations, with a commentary and notes that focus on the various translators' choices, setting their work against their respective historical and cultural contexts. For this book, I have chosen to edit the full text of the translation undertaken by the Scottish writer William Fowler, since the other complete translation, by Henry Parker, Lord Morley, is available in an excellent, comparatively recent edition, henceforth *TFP*, while Fowler's version (henceforth *Meikle*) was last published in 1914. I have then edited the *Triumphus Mortis* in the versions by Morley, Mary Sidney, and Anna Hume, as well as presenting the fragment of the same section published under the initials 'E. D.'. Finally, I have edited the other extant partial translations, by Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey and John Florio, ending the volume with the partial translation of *Triumphus Eternitatis* attributed to Elizabeth I.

The diplomatic edition presented here follows the same choice of texts, and the same order of presentation. Notes are reduced to a minimum, indicating solely characteristics of the original that are impossible to reproduce, or variants between various manuscripts and/or printed editions.

## List of abbreviations

- AHM*        *The Arundel Harington Manuscript of Tudor Poetry*, ed. by Ruth Hughey (Columbus: The Ohio State University Press, 1960)
- Alexander    Gavin Alexander, “The Triumph of Death: A Critical Edition in Modern Spelling of the Countess of Pembroke’s Translation of Petrarch’s Trionfo della Morte”, *Sidney Journal*, 17 (1999), 2–18
- Bradner      Elizabeth I, *The Poems*, ed. by Leicester Bradner (Providence: Brown University Press, 1964)
- Clarke        *Isabella Whitney, Mary Sidney and Aemilia Lanyer: Renaissance Women Poets*, ed. by Danielle Clarke (London: Penguin, 2000)
- Hannay       *The Collected Works of Mary Sidney Herbert, Countess of Pembroke. Volume I. Poems, Translations, and Correspondence*, ed. by Margaret P. Hannay et al. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1998)
- Meikle        *The Works of William Fowler, Secretary to Queen Anne, Wife of James VI*, ed. by Henry W. Meikle, 3 vols, Volume 1: Poetry (Edinburgh: Blackwood, 1914)
- Mueller-Scodel *Elizabeth I. Translations 1544-1589*, ed. by Janel Mueller and Joshua Scodel (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009), pp. 469-74
- TFP*         *Tryumphes of Fraunces Petrarcke: Translated by Lord Morley*, ed. by D. D. Carnicelli (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1971)
- Young        Frances Berkeley Young, *Mary Sidney, Countess of Pembroke* (London: David Nutt, 1912)
- Waller        *The Triumph of Death and other Unpublished and Uncollected Poems by Mary Sidney, Countess of Pembroke (1561-1621)*, ed. by Gary F. Waller (Salzburg: Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik Universität Salzburg, 1977)

## List of illustrations

- Cover illustration:    Andrea del Sarto (1486–1530), *Ritratto di donna col ‘petrarchino’* (detail), c. 1528 (Firenze, Galleria delle Statue e delle Pitture degli Uffizi)
- Page 6:                 Frontispiece of William Fowler’s translation (Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Library Special Collections, MS Drummond De.1.10, fol. 1r)