The translation attributed to Elizabeth I

The text is extant in one manuscript, now Arundel (West Sussex), Arundel Castle, Arundel Harington MS, fols 219v-20v. The manuscript is currently preserved in an early nineteenth-century binding, in bad repair, with gold tooling on back and sides. It includes a number of blank pages at the beginning and at irregular intervals throughout. It is on sturdy paper, ruled in red (there are normally thirty-eight lines to a page), with the poems clearly written and divided one from the other; most of them have the word Finis at the end, followed by blank lines. The Petrarch translation is towards the end of the codex: ‘Triumpe Petrarcke’ is written at the very top of the page, in the same hand and ink as the rest. After this translation the manuscript has six blank pages.

The first modern editor is Ruth Hughey, who first rediscovered and studied the manuscript in 1934, then publishing a complete description and annotated edition of the codex in 1960.1 She offers a faithful and accurate transcription, preserving the original punctuation, which is surprisingly modern and thorough. The text was edited by Leicester Bradner, and more recently by Janel Mueller and Joshua Scodel for the complete edition of Elizabeth’s works:2 the editors slightly modernised punctuation and spelling, and introduced some capitalization. The present edition is based on the manuscript, noting editorial variants in the footnotes.

fol. 219v

Triumpe Petrarcke./

Amazed to see, nought vnder heavens cope

steddie and fast, thus to my self I spake

Advise the well: on whome doth hang thie hope,

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1 *The Arundel Harington Manuscript of Tudor Poetry*, ed. by Ruth Hughey (Columbus: The Ohio State University Press, 1960), henceforth AHM.

On god (said I) that promyse never brake
With those that trust in hym. But now I know how earst the fickle world abvsed me
eke what I am and was, and now to goe
or rather flye the nimble tyme I see
Blame wold I, wist I whome: for all the cryme
is myne that sholde (not slacking till the last) 10
haue earst vnclosed myne eyes before this tyme.
for trouthe to say, olde waxe I all to fast
But overlate godes grace came never yet
in me also I trust there shall be wrought
works wonderfull and strange by meanes of it. 15
Theise sayed and answere made thus more I thought
If none of all theise thinges do stand in staye
that heaven turnes and guydes, what end at last
shall follow of their everturning swaye?
Whyle deeper yet my searching mynd I cast a world all new even then it seemed me
in never chaunging and ever lyving age
the sonne, the skye with all her sterres to see
dissolved quite with earth and seas that rage
one made more faire and pleasant in his place 20
when hym that never stayed but earst to chaunge
eache thing was wont wandring in divers race
stand on one foote I saw: how seemed it straunge
all his three partes, brought into onlye one
and that one fast so that as wont it was
no more so swifte it hasted to be gone
but had one shew as earth dispoiled of grasse
there were not shall be, hath bene, after earst
to irkesome weake and divers state that brought
our life./ as Sonne dothe pearce the glasse so pearste
my thought, yea more, for nothing stoppith thought
What grace fynd I, to see if I attaine
even face to face the greatest god\(^3\) of all
(no ill whiche onlye tyme gieves and againe
as first it came with tyme eke parte it shall
the Bull or fishe lodge shall no more the Sonne
whose chaunge dothe make a toyle now dye now springe

**fol 220r**

now waste now growe. Oh happie spirites that wonne
or shall hereafter stand in the chief ring
Wose names aye memorie writes in her booke
Oh happie hee to fynde, whose happ shalbe
the deepe Chanell of this swift robbing brooke
whose name is life that manie wishe to see,
wretched and blynd the common sort that stay
their hope on things \(w^{ch}\) tyme reaves in a trice
all deaff, naked and subiect to decaye
quite void of reason and of good advice
and wretchid mortall men throughout diseas’d)

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\(^3\) Bradner and Mueller-Scodel: ‘good’. 
whose beck doth guide the world by whome at iarre
are sett the elements and eake appeased
whose skill doth stretche beyond my reache so farr
that even the Angells are content and ioye
of thowsand partes but one to see, and bend
their witts to this; and this wishe to enioye
Oh happie wandring mynde; ay hungring to the end
What meane so manie thoughts? one howre dothe reave
that many yeares gathered with moche adoe
To morrow, yesterdaye, morning and eve,
that presse our sowle and it encombre soe
before hym passe shade like at ones awaye
for was or shalbe no place shall be fownde
but for the tyme of is, now, and todaye
onlye eternitie knitt fast and sownde
Huge hills shalbe made plaine, that stopped cleane
our sight, ne shall there any thing remayne
where on may hope or our remembrance leane
whose chaunge make other doe that is but vaine
and lif to seeme a sporte. Even with this thought
what shall I be, what was I hearetofore
all shall be one, ne peecemeale parted ought
Sommer shalbe, ne winter any more
but tyme shall dye, and place be chang’d with all

\*AHM: ‘a doe’.
\*AHM: ‘peese meale’.
\*Bradner and Mueller-Scodel: ‘nor’.
and yeares shall beare no rule on mortall fame
but his renome for ever florishe shall
that once atchiev’d to be of flowring name 80
Oh happie soules that now the path dothe treade
or henceforth shall when it so happs to be
whiche, to the end whearof I speake doth leade
of faire and wandring sprights yet happiest shee

**fol. 220v**

Whome deathe hath slayne farr shortt of natures bounde 85
the heavenlye talke good words and thoughts so chaste
Open shall lye vnfolded in that stounde
Which kinde within a youthfull hart hath plaste:

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7 ‘E.R.’ is on the margin of the last three lines. Beneath these initials is a contraction which might be *scr* (scripsit) or *sec* (secundus): ‘the latter reading might refer to the second year of the Queen’s reign, but this is not certain’ (Bradner, p. 79). The verso of the folio, and fols 221, 222, and 223r are blank, but ruled.

8 Bradner and Mueller-Sedel: ‘placed’.