

D7 The old Cicilian fox

Notes. The exact meaning of this short verse is difficult to pin down, though Croft (“Reputation” 57) briefly discusses representations of Cecil as a cunning and corrupt fox. It is probable that the foods mentioned are puns: butterbox was a slang term for a Dutchman (though it is not clear who, in particular, this might refer to); and Bacon may very well refer to Sir Francis Bacon.

The old Cicilian fox¹
Whose faults are yet not shaken
Preferd his flemish butterbox
before his side of Bacon.

Source. Beinecke MS Osborn b.197, p. 202

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¹ *fox*: refers to Cecil’s cunning.
