

H21 Anagram on Frances Howard

Notes. Contemporaries enjoyed anagramming, sometimes claiming to find hidden truths buried in the letters of a person's name. Most early Stuart anagrams tend towards the humorous or complimentary, but several libellous anagrams survive in miscellanies, commonplace books and news diaries: sometimes prefacing or appended to libellous poems; sometimes standing alone (see Bellamy, *Politics* 106-07). The two extant anagrams inspired by the Overbury affair were collected by Sir Simonds D'Ewes, who thought them "not unworthy to be owned by the rarest wits of this age" (*Autobiography* 1.87).

"Anagram"

Francis Howard: } Car findes a whore.

Source. Folger MS V.a.162, fol. 37v

Other known sources. D'Ewes, *Autobiography* 1.87; Bodleian Malone MS 19, p. 53; BL Harley MS 646, fol. 26r

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