

H26 Hesperides, within whose gardens grow

Notes. This relatively innocuous epitaph on Overbury is one of three that circulated both in manuscript and in the 1616 edition of *Sir Thomas Overbury His Wife*. In the published version, the author is identified as “R. Ca.,” whom White (221) tentatively identifies as the Cornishman Richard Carew.

“On Sir Thomas Overbury”

Hesperides,¹ within whose gardens grow

Apples of gold, may well thy loss deplore,

For in those gardens they could never show

A tree so faire, and of such fruitfull store.

Grace was the roote, and thou thyself the tree,

Sweet Councel² were the berries grew on thee.

5

Wit was the branch that did adorne the stocke

Reason the leaf upon those branches spread.

Under thy shadow did the Muses flocke,

And by the as a Mantle covered.

10

But what befell, O too much out of kinde

For thou wast blasted by a West-on³ winde.

Source. BL Add. MS 15227, fol. 27r

Other known sources. Overbury 2¶2r

H26

¹ *Hesperides*: the mythic guardians of the golden apples.

² *Council*: poems written on Overbury in 1615-16 idealized him as the perfect virtuous counsellor.

³ *West-on*: a pun on “western” and the surname of the man convicted as principal in Overbury’s

murder, his keeper Richard Weston.

