

J1 Waste not a signe that courtlye Rosse should fall

Notes. The single surviving copy of this obscene attack on Anne Cecil, Lady Roos, survives in the commonplace book of William Davenport of Bramhall, Cheshire. The charge that Lady Roos wore fake pudenda or pubic hair is repeated in Francis Osborne's unpublished 1650s' play *The True Tragicomedy Formerly Acted at Court* (see Bellany, *Politics* 275).

“A Lybell uppon the Ladie Rosse”

Waste not a signe that courtlye Rosse should fall
when that her Mirkine¹ lost his Coronall²
what tricke in dancinge could the devill produce
to fitte her too a haire and make it loose
Twas no Caper.³ for she hath ofte bene boulder
when she advancte her legge on one mans shoulder
Sure some crosse poynte:⁴ for in open waye⁵
her Mirkine nere was foundered or made straye
who had the harder chance I praye you reade
the Page that founde or she that lost her bearde.

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Source. CCRO MS CR 63/2/19, fol. 20r

J1

¹ *Mirkine*: merkin. The exact meaning of the term is a little vague here; in contemporary usage, a merkin could be the female pudenda, a fake vagina, or fake pubic hair.

² *Coronall*: crown; here, presumably, pubic hair.

³ *Caper*: an energetic type of dance.

⁴ *crosse poynte*: a dance step.

⁵ *in open waye*: here implying sexual intercourse.
