

Pi5 A yere of wonder to the world was 88

Notes. This poem comments on and combines the Buckingham 1628 chronogram, two lines from verses that typically accompanied the chronogram, and the “Georgivs Villerivs” anagram. The final product is a prophecy of Buckingham’s death, imagined significantly as a providential deliverance comparable to the defeat of the Spanish Armada forty years earlier. Whether the prophecy pre-dates or post-dates the assassination is uncertain.

“Chronogrammata”

“Gorgius dux Buckinghamia. 1628”

A yere of wonder to the world was 88.¹

What wonder shall we expecte from 28.

If fate to name doth answer thus in numbers

Then in this yere shall sure appeare some wonders

sith number with thy name do thus agree

this yeere is fatall to the state or thee

for not thy chronogram alone is fearefull

But thy Anagram with it is direfull. {Georgius Villerus

{Regis, Vulgi, Elusor:²

5

Source. Bodleian MS Eng. Poet. f.10, fol. 96v

Pi5

¹ *A yere of wonder...was 88*: 1588 saw the defeat of the Spanish Armada, an occasion still commemorated in 1620s’ England as a spectacular example of God’s providential deliverance of the Protestant nation.

² *Regis, Vulgi, Elusor*: “deceiver of the King and the people”.
