Catalogue Entry: Miscellany sometimes attributed to Robert Herrick (1591–1674). England: 1610–1630. 181 leaves: paper, 215 x 165 mm. Written in English with two items in Latin. Contains two tracts by Thomas Scott (1580?–1626), “Vox Populi News from Spayne” (published 1626) and “Vox spiritus or Sir Walter Rawleighes ghoste” (published 1620) concerning the Spanish ambassador to England, Diego Sarmiento de Acuña, Conde de Gondomar (1567–1626); poems; epitaphs; copies of several letters concerning the King, George Abbott the Archbishop of Canterbury (1562–1633), the Lord Keeper, and parliamentary and legal matters, including the examination of the Earl of Southampton, and the 1613 divorce proceedings between Lady Frances Howard (1593–1632) and Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex (1591–1646). Most items are dated between 1621 and 1623.

Looking for a place to start?

- Easy italic hand: try the satirical letter beginning on p. 263 [Dromio 265]
- Medium italic hand: try the seditious poem beginning on p. 319 [Dromio 321]
- Easy secretary hand: try Herrick’s poem “The Farewell to Sack” on p. 106 [Dromio 108]
- Medium secretary hand: try the poem beginning on p. 317 [Dromio 319]

Some suggested passages of interest (by page):

1–50 “Vox Populi” and “Vox Spiritus” (two seditious satires, c. 1620, on King James’s relationship with Spain)
63 poem on the beheading of Mary Queen of Scots
63–66 poem on the colonization of Virginia
67–72 poetic epigrams and epitaphs
73–78 satires on the death of the secretary of state, Robert Cecil
85–101 satirical poems on the 1615 Overbury murder scandal (Frances Howard, countess of Somerset, allegedly disposed of her imprisoned political rival Thomas Overbury by sending him poisoned food, followed by the administration of a poisoned enema)
106–9 poems by Robert Herrick (“The Farewell to Sack” and “The Welcome Again”)
110 proclamation by “Sultan Zolyman” of the Ottoman Empire, dated 3 June 1620
113 Sir Walter Ralegh’s poem “What is our life?”
113 poem mentioning Shakespeare’s colleagues in the King’s Men (Richard Burbage, John Heminges, Henry Condell, Nathan Field)
123–36 reports of the 1613 divorce proceedings between the Earl of Essex and Frances Howard (focusing on whether or not the Earl was impotent)
137–204 reports of the 1615 Overbury murder trials
253 poem, perhaps a draft, on the theme of John Donne’s “Go and catch a falling star”
263–70 satirical epistolary description of Scotland (sometimes attributed to Sir Anthony Weldon)
282 poem on Queen Elizabeth
283–89 copy of letter about the 1622 Powhatan attack on Jamestown
323 satirical prophecy
325–27 “The King’s Senses” (seditious poetic satire on King James’s homoerotic relationship with George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham; see also p. 319)