

Dédicace de Pastor Fido

Auteur : Settle, Elkanah

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Les folios

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4 Fichier(s)

Informations éditoriales

Titre complet de la pièce*Pastor Fido, or, The Faithful Shepherd, a Pastoral, as it is acted at the Duke's Theatre*

Auteur de la pièceSettle, Elkanah

Date1677

Lieu d'éditionLondres, Royaume-Uni

ÉditeurCademan, William

LangueAnglais

Source[Internet Archive](#)

Analyse

Type de paratexteDédicace

Genre de la piècePastorale

Les relations du document

Ce document n'a pas de relation indiquée avec un autre document du projet.

Informations sur la notice

Edition numériqueVéronique Lochert (Projet Spectatrix, UHA et IUF) ; EMAN (Thalim, CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne nouvelle)

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Settle, Elkanah Dédicace de *Pastor Fido*1677.

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Consulté le 14/02/2026 sur la plate-forme EMAN :


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Notice créée par [Adelina Borfotina](#) Notice créée le 01/07/2024 Dernière modification le 03/12/2025

T. R.
S. 498 P.

TO THE
Right Honourable,
THE
LADY ELIZABETH
DELAVAL.

 Ince your Ladyship has such great Advantages of Fortune in those particular Blessings, Wit and Beauty, the best Companions of Quality; this Trouble is no more than what in Reason ought to be expected: For Dedications are but little better than Prologues and Epilogues; the general Subject of 'em is, to Persecute the Witty and the Fair. Your Ladyships Perfections give me an ample Theme, and your Kindness to this Poem gives me boldness to make use of it. But Virtues in Persons so Nobly descended, are but things Necessitated; your Ladyships Merits

The Epistle Dedicatory.

could not be less, since they are derived from such Illustrious Parents. The Loyal Earl of *Newbrough*, by his Personal Actions in the Wars, and his constant following the Kings Fate beyond-Sea, made himself so considerable an Enemy to the Rebellious Party, that they used all their Arts, and laid all the Baits of Interest to have made him their Friend; but their Impious Cause, and their flighted proffers appeared so detestable, that he proved his Valour and Fidelity equally Impregnable. And to summe up his Character, he was a Person that made the Field his Temple, Majesty his Divinity, and his Life and Fortunes, the Sacrifices he offered: Nor were his Heroick Vertues unmatcht in the Famous *Lady Aubeny*, whose Industrious Loyalty, and more than Female Courage, renderd her so Conspicuous, that, though Success and Victory were the Rebels constant Slaves, and the spight of Fate had made 'em continually Prosperous, both in their Councils and their Arms; yet such were her Indefatigable Services to the Royal Cause, as made her Admired by the World, and Feared even by the Invincible: witness her Imprisonment in the Tower, from whence by a miraculous Escape from her

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The Epistle Dedicatory.

Confinement, and her threaten'd Martyrdome, as she lived a Champion for Loyalty, she dyed an Exile for it. Nor is your Ladyship less Indebted to Providence for your Education than your Birth, in the Affinity and Patronage of the Lady *Stanhope*, a Person of so much Worth and Honour, so truly Generous, and so excellently Good. But my design is not that of a Herald, but a Petitioner. The *Faithful Shepherd* begs Acceptance, and the better to obtain that Favour, I may without a Crime boast of some Merit in the Present I make, since it borrows its Value from the Esteem'd *Guarini*; and I have one encouragment more to devote it here, knowing it has formerly been your Ladyships Diversion. If I am Censured by the Admirers of *Pastor Fido* for being so bold with so received a Poem, I only make this Apology, that *Plays* are so strictly tyed up to Fashion, that like costly Habits, they are not Beautiful without it. I confess I have taken a great deal of Liberty in the Characters of *Sylvano* and *Corisca*, because they were not kept up in the Author: The first of which, in the Translated *Pastor Fido* (for I am a Stranger to the *Italian*) flag'd in the second Act, and was wholly lost in the two last.

And

The Epistle Dedicatory.

And the part of *Dorinda* was made up new to fit it for the person design'd to A& it: And the two last Acts which have so little of the Authors, have still his design, only that I have represented what was but Narrative in the Original. But what-ever advantages I may have received from so famed a Story, & so good a Foundation, my greatest is, the occasion it gives me of expressing my self,

MADAM,

Your Ladyships most Obedient

and most Devoted Servant,

Elkanah Settle.

Authors