"A Ballad" is a double-barreled shotgun libel, one barrel aimed at the reputations of unmarried ladies about the Court, the other at rampant widows. With fine unconcern, the poet blasts the innocent and the guilty alike, and seems to have taken some of his information from earlier libels. The reference to Mulgrave’s affair with Princess Anne dates the satire as not earlier than October, 1682. For a discussion of the ballad tune “Chevy chace, or whenas King Henry ruled the land,” see Simpson, *Broadside Ballad*, pp. 96–101.

The copy text, dated 1682, is Harleian MS. 7319, p. 170. The satire is dated 1682 in MS. Firth c. 15, p. 124, but it is undated in Harleian MS. 6913, p. 275; in Harleian MS. 6914, p. 64; and in Dyce MS. 43, I, 371. It is dated 1683 in “A Choyce Collection,” p. 122.

Come all ye youths that yet are free
   From Hymen’s deadly snare;
Come listen all and learn of me,
   And keep my words with care.

For all of you it much concerns,
   That would lead quiet lives,
And have no mind to purchase horns,
   Take heed of London wives.

For it’s full true, though it’s full sad,
   There’s ne’er a lass in town
But some or other lusty lad
   Has blown her up and down.
A BALLAD TO THE TUNE OF CHEVIOT CHACE

And first and foremost Princely Nan
Heirs both her parents' lust,
And Mulgrave is the happy man
By whom our breed is crossed. 15

And, by the way, she did not care,
For one amongst the crowd
Who helped to get this purblind peer
Was of the royal blood. 20

Hyde's not yet tapped, but bred at Court,
And all within those doors,
Where none but knaves and bawds resort,
Or are, or will be, whores.

No wonder then that Villiers should
Consent to beardless Phil;
For one in her place never could
Refuse the pleasing ill. 25

To be cashiered his Irish place,
Ranelagh did so dread,
He was content to make his peace
With's daughter's maidenhead. 30

Great Feversham and Thanet too
Are out of Wentworth's books,
But somebody has done her due,
For she in August looks. 35

Fine Mrs. Greville, though she's rich,
She'll bring her husband more
By the annual income of her breech,
Than all her mother's store. 40
There's Betty Cholmley, brisk and gay,
    Has neither wit nor grace;
For Bodmin blindfold knows the way
    To her most secret place.

Her brother, that he may be quits,
    Firks Bodmin's sister's rump;
Though neither of the lords are wits,
    Yet they in this point jump.

The Howes and Pawlets are enjoyed
    By neighbors in the square;
Old Bess, their cousin, plays the bawd,
    And sometimes gets their share.

Tall strapping Nan in Drury Lane,
    Whose sire would well make two,
At Porter's meets Sir Harry Fane,
    And what d'ye think they do?

Old cunning Berkeley's daughter Hen,
    They say was once a maid,
But Foster told me it was gone
    Before he backed the jade.

From Middleton's and Porter's door,
    You sparks I need not fright;
For your own eyes will teach you more
    Than any man can write.

And sure I now may spare my breath,
    For since poor Hungerford
Was mercifully stopped by death,
    No man will need Mall Howard.

104
Escric's daughter's much the best
    That family can show; 70
But shun her too, amongst the rest
    That on the stock do grow.

For Buchanan long since did write,
    None good were of that name;
The men, he said, would never fight,
    And women have no shame. 75

And thus much shall suffice for such
    As for young virgins go;
The widow's failings should I touch,
    I would a volume grow. 80

Now if, being warned, you'll take no care,
    And mind not what I say,
The cuckold crest expect to bear,
    Like Arundel and Grey.

Cheviot Chace. Part II. 1682.

Assist me, Stanhope, while I sing
    Of widows great and small;
You best intelligence can bring,
    For you debauched 'em all. 85

We'll first begin with Warwick's praise;
    For she the sport begun,
And has pursued it all her days
    Till now, from forty-one. 90

She Loftus once, now Armstrong keeps,
    For Loftus could not agree; 105
And sometimes Brereton with her sleeps,
   And so he may for me. 95

Gray-growing Richmond has just right
   To challenge here a place;
She has maintained with all her might
   The noble whoring cause. 100

The nimble Houghton and Jack Howe
   Could not make her one stallion,
Nor Mulgrave nor Dumbarton though
   Each helped by his battalion.

Williams, with her chatted foam,
   Has chancred half the pit,
And is the only she of whom
   No scandal can be writ. 105

Of Lumley and of twenty more
   Whom she has soundly poxed,
I'll nothing say because I hear
   She has of late been fluxed. 110

Freschville, though not very fair,
   Has a good jointure got,
And has another sex to spare,
   Which is not everyone's lot. 115

Dunbar and Clifford both were mired,
   When first they her essayed;
And since with carrying them she's tired,
   And rides her chambermaid. 120

Orrery Grafton likes, but not
   For his wit's sake, but tool's;
'Tis strange that Dorset's sister's fate
Is to be poxed by fools.

And such she always has to spare,
   Thanks to her gentle mother,
Who very kindly bawds for her,
   As she did for her brother.

Of Lucy, Berkeley's daughter, we
   Have nothing but old tales,
How she was once a little too free
   With the President of Wales.

Lansdown, that mighty charming wit,
   Among the rest shall go;
For though she be no widow, yet
   I'm sure she would be so.

Her sister Temple, Brandon's look
   Could ease her of her cares,
If she but tell the way she took
   When she got rid of hers.

Barrington at last has sent,
   They put her husband going;
With a gay fool she'll be content,
   And need but little wooing.

She much abhors a widow's life,
   And to be gravely clad;
Sackvile will get her for his wife,
   For he has long been mad.

Herbert and Brownlow, who were cloyed
   With the common sort of wenchers,
COURT SATIRES OF THE RESTORATION

Are in due form of law enjoyed
By barristers and benchers.

Their names and chambers where they live
Would take up too much time;
Next week a perfect list I'll give
In prose, or else in rhyme.

13. *Princely Nan.* On October 31, 1682, it was reported that John Sheffield, Earl of Mulgrave, had long been making "private addresses" to Princess Anne, and had given her various "songs and letters." Learning of Mulgrave's folly, the Duke of York forbade him the Court, and the King deprived him of all his offices (*Egmont MS*, II, 121; *Le Fleming MS*, p. 189). After this episode the Town nicknamed Mulgrave "King John."

20. *royal blood.* Mulgrave's mother, Elizabeth (Cranfield) died in 1672. The poet is saying that since Mulgrave had a "crowd" of fathers, he was, in effect, "a son of a whore."

21. *Hyde.* The poet was not well informed. Anne, the fifteen-year-old daughter of Lawrence, Viscount Hyde, married James, the young Earl of Ossory, on July 15, 1682 (*Ormond MS*, II, 355). She was a pretty, witty, redhead, who died early in 1685.

25. *Villiers.* Since this section deals only with unmarried women, the poet must have had in mind Katherine Villiers, a Maid of Honor to the Queen. But there were two Katherine Villierses. The author of "Advice, or a Heroic Epistle to Mr. Fr. Villiers," 1683 (see below), better informed, connected "Beardless Phil" with Katherine (Fitzgerald), wife of Edward Villiers, older brother of Frank Villiers of the Grandison family; see Appendix, Villiers (Grandison).


34. *Wentworth.* Lady Henrietta Wentworth (1660–86) a Maid of Honor to the Duchess of York, was secretly the Duke of Monmouth's mistress. The rumor of her pregnancy was false.

37. *Greville.* Anne, daughter of Fulke Greville, Lord Brooke. In April, 1682, it was rumored that she was to marry Lord Cholmondeley (*Rutland MS*, II, 67, 69). In 1685 she married William, Earl of Kingston.

41. *Betty Cholmley.* Elizabeth, daughter of Robert, Viscount Cholmondeley of Kells. See for another comment on the two ladies, "Satire of the Town," 1682 (*Harleian MS.* 6913, p. 239):
A BALLAD TO THE TUNE OF CHEVIOT CHACE

Though Greville's going down
Has undone half the Town,
We've a blessing as great in her place;
Betty Cholmley's as good,
As silly, as proud,
Though she has not so handsome a face.

Bodmin. Charles Robartes (1660–1723), styled Viscount Bodmin from 1681 to 1685, when he inherited as Earl of Radnor. He had six sisters!

her brother. Hugh Cholmondeley (1662–1725) succeeded his father as Viscount Cholmondeley of Kells in May, 1681. He was created Baron Cholmondeley of Witch Malbank, Chester, on April 10, 1689, and Earl of Cholmondeley on December 29, 1706. He died unmarried.

firs. Literally, beats.

The Howes. The unmarried sisters of John Grubham Howe had a house in Lincolns Inn Fields Square. Charles Pawlet, Marquis of Winchester, had a mansion near the entrance to the square. He had two unmarried daughters, Lady Mary and Lady Elizabeth. The two families were related through the mothers in each: Mary (second wife of Lord Winchester) and Annabella (wife of John Grubham Howe, Senior), natural daughters of Emanuel Scrope, Earl of Sunderland. Perhaps “old Bess” was Sunderland’s third natural daughter, Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Savage, Earl Rivers.

tall strapping Nan. Perhaps Anne, fifth daughter of Arthur, Earl of Anglesey, whose mansion in Drury Lane was well known.

Porter’s. From 1673 to 1700 Lady Diana Porter lived at 66 Great Queen Street, St. Giles-in-the-Fields (Survey of London, V, 1914). Fane. Perhaps Sir Henry Vane or Fane of Basildon, Berks. (1661–1706).

Hen. Henrietta Berkeley. On August 30, 1682, Luttrell (I, 215) reported a rumor that “one Mr. Forster hath lately stole my Lord Berkeley's daughter and married her.” On November 23, 1682, Ford, Lord Grey, was tried for abducting Henrietta; see Appendix, Grey.


Hungerford. In 1678, Edward, only son of Sir Edward Hungerford (1632–1711), of Farleigh, Somerset., secretly married Lady Aletha Compton, who died in childbed nine months later (Rutland MS, II, 46, 53). Her husband died in September, 1681, aged twenty. Possibly he had turned to Mall Howard after his wife's death.

Escrict's daughter. William, third Baron Howard of Escric, by his wife Frances had six children. Together these two stanzas suggest that Mall Howard, famous trollop, was one of Escric’s daughters. Escric, a Whig, turned informer after the discovery of the Rye House Plot of 1683.

Buchanan. George Buchanan (1506–1582), Scottish humanist, poet, and author of Rerum Scoticarum Historia, 1582.

Arundel. Henry Howard, Earl of Arundel and future Duke of Norfolk. His countess was accused of an affair with Charles Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury. Grey. Ford, Lord Grey of Werke, whose wife was said to be the Duke of Monmouth’s mistress.

Stanhope. Alexander Stanhope (1638–1707), a Gentleman Usher of the Privy Chamber to Queen Catherine, was knighted on July 26, 1683. A son of Philip, first
Earl of Chesterfield, by his second wife, Anne Pakington, Stanhope had married Catherine, daughter of Arnold Burghill of Hereford.

89. Warwick. Anne, daughter of Edward Montague, second Earl of Manchester, married, before April, 1668, as his second wife, Robert Rich, Earl of Warwick (1620-75). The poet must have confused her with Warwick’s first wife, Elizabeth Ingram, whom he married April 8, 1641 (“from forty-one”). Anne lived until July, 1689.


95. Brereton. John Brereton (1659-1718) succeeded as fourth Baron Brereton of Leighlin, Ireland, in March, 1680.

97. Richmond. Frances Teresa (Stuart), widowed Duchess of Richmond. The allegations here seem to be false.


103. Mulgrave. John, Earl of Mulgrave (1648-71), was colonel of the “Old Holland” Regiment of Foot. Dumbarton. George Douglas (c. 1635-92), created Earl of Dumbarton on March 9, 1675, was a colonel of the First Regiment of Foot.

105. Williams. Susannah, daughter of Sir Thomas Skipwith and widow (since 1680) of Sir John Williams, Bart., of Minster Court, Kent. chatted. From “chatt,” the female pudendum.

106. chancred. Given venereal sores or ulcers.


112. fluxed. Purged by calomel, as part of the usual treatment for venereal disease.

113. Freschville. Anne Charlotte (De Vic), widow of John, Baron Freschville, and a Lady of the Bedchamber to Princess Anne. In “Satire on the Ladies of Honor,” 1686 (Harleian MS. 7319, p. 423) she is called “Hermaphrodite Freschville.”


126. her gentle mother. Frances (Cranfield), Dowager Countess of Dorset, a quarrelsome but eminently respectable matron. The “she” in line 128 squints; perhaps the poet meant that Lady Orrery had acted as procuress for her brother.


132. the President of Wales. Henry Somerset, third Marquis of Worcester (1629-99), was created Duke of Beaufort on December 2, 1682. For an earlier comment on his relations with Lady Lucy, see above, “Colin. 1679,” “From Lucy get the noble marquis.”

133. Lansdown. On May 22, 1678, Martha, fifth daughter of Thomas Osborne, Earl of Danby, married Charles Granville, Lord Lansdowne (1661-1701), son of the Earl of Bath. The marriage was not happy. Late in the summer of 1682 it was rumored
A BALLAD TO THE TUNE OF CHEVIOT CHACE

that "Lady Lansdowne has left her lord. . . . They say he will see her no more because of some letters that passed between her and Mr. Leveson Gower" (Browning, *Danby*, I, 351). In "Lampoon on Several Ladies," 1683 (Harleian MS. 7319, p. 270), we are told that, "although she wear not bandore"—a widow's head dress—Lady Lansdowne

Is now turned off by her lord once more,
   For going to bed to Whig Lewson Gore.

Lady Lansdowne died on September 11, 1689.

137. *sister Temple*. Martha (Osborne), Lady Lansdowne, had neither sister nor sister-in-law named Temple. Perhaps the poet, confused by the family names, was thinking of Lady Lansdowne's distant cousin, Dorothy (Osborne), wife of Sir William Temple. The meaning seems to be that Lady Temple would like to profit from the experience of Anne, Lady Brandon, when she "got rid" of her husband, Charles Gerard, Lord Brandon.

141. *Barrington*. Lady Anne, daughter of Robert Rich, Earl of Warwick, and wife of Thomas Barrington, of Barrington Hall, Sussex. On April 6, 1680, Lady Sunderland reported, "My Lady Anne Balendine ran away from her husband, and left a letter upon her table to say she was gone where she should see more happy days than ever she did with him. Mr. Finch's vigilance in the search of her has brought her back to her house again" (Cartwright, *Sacharissa*, p. 254; *Lady Russell's Letters*, p. 58). Thomas Barrington died on January 31, 1682, aged thirty-eight.

147. *Sackville*. Colonel Edward Sackville, formerly Governor of Tangier and a mediocre poet, was usually called "Song" Sackville to distinguish him from Edward Sackville, Lord Dorset's younger brother. In 1682, Sackville was Lieutenant Colonel of the Coldstream Guards (Dalton, I, 274, 294).

149. *Herbert and Brownlow*. Elizabeth, daughter of George, sixth Lord Chandos, and widow of Edward, third Lord Herbert of Cherbury, and her sister Margaret, widow of William Brownlow of Snarford, Lincs. For Lady Herbert's career, see Appendix, Herbert. About 1685, Mrs. Brownlow married little Sir Thomas Skipwith; see Appendix, Skipwith.