



VIRGINIA WOOLF

ORLANDO
THE HOLOGRAPH DRAFT

Transcribed & edited by
Stuart Nelson Clarke

Vita

from

Virginia

Dec. 6th 1928

* This page written in black ink. The paper has no margin and is of a similar texture to the blank page following MS 287.

Oct* 8th
1927

Suggestions for short pieces.

A Biography.

This is to tell a persons life from the year 1500** to 1928.

Changing its sex.

taking different aspects of the character in different

Centuries. the theory being that character goes

on underground before we are born; & leave

leaves something afterwords also.

A. poem.

Something about an island. landscape.

dream.*** people with canoes. the trees.

Moments of Being.****

Something Comic.

* Cf. III *VW Diary*, 5 October 1927: 'October, which is the birth of the year.'

** Cf. MS 3, 11. 2m and 16, where the fictional date for the beginning of Orlando's biography has been changed to 1553; Thomas Sackville was sixteen in 1552 or 1553 (*Knole and the Sackvilles*, p. xiv).

*** Cf. III *VW Diary*, 22 December 1927: Dadie Rylands 'says, I have no logical power & live & write in an opium dream. And the dream is too often about myself.'

**** This was to become a possible subtitle for *The Moths* (ie, *The Waves*): see *The Waves: The two holograph drafts*, Draft I, MS 1.

Oct 8th 1927

Orlando. a biography

Oct.
1553.

He - for there could be no doubt ~~as to~~ his sex - though the ancient
^{disguise}
fashion of the times did something to ~~obscure it, was in the~~
~~had his sword raised.~~ ^{at} was in the act of slicing the
head of a Moor which swung from the rafters.

It was the colour of an old football, & shaped like one, save for
the sunken cheeks, & a strand or two of dry black hair. like a
^{cocoanuts}
Orlando's grandfather had ~~brought it from the fields~~
~~stony fields of Barbary~~ struck it ~~off a~~ from the
shoulders of a Vast Pagan who had started up under the moon
in the barbarian fields of Africa; & now it [s?] swung
^{[a?] breeze}
gently, perpetually all day & all night in the air which
^{blowing through attics}
never ceased in the ~~top~~ rooms of the gigantic house of the Lord
who had slain him.

Introduction, notes, and appendices
(c) Stuart Nelson Clarke

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*'There is Knole, capable of housing all the
poor of Judd Street, & with only that one
solitary earl in the kernel.'*

II VW Diary, 5 July 1924

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