

CHRISTOPHER SMART

JUBILATE  
AGNO

RE-EDITED FROM  
THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT  
WITH AN INTRODUCTION  
AND NOTES BY

W. H. BOND

*Curator of Manuscripts  
at the Houghton Library, Harvard*



RUPERT HART-DAVIS

*Soho Square London*

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JUBILATE AGNO

- For the next colour is a lively GREY.
- 655 For the next colour is BLUE.
- For the next is GREEN of which there are ten thousand distinct sorts.
- For the next is YELLOW<sup>wh</sup> is more excellent than red, tho Newton makes red the prime. God be gracious to John Delap.
- For RED is the next working round the Orange.
- For Red is of sundry sorts till it deepens to BLACK.
- 660 For black blooms and it is PURPLE.
- For purple works off to BROWN which is of ten thousand acceptable shades.
- For the next is PALE. God be gracious to William Whitehead.
- For pale works about to White again.
- NOW that colour is spiritual appears inasmuch as the blessing of God upon all things descends in colour.
- 665 For the blessing of health upon the human face is in colour.
- For the blessing of God upon purity is in the Virgin's blushes.
- For the blessing of God in colour is on him that keeps his virgin.
- For I saw a blush in Staindrop Church,<sup>1</sup> which was of God's own colouring.
- For it was the benevolence of a virgin shewn to me before the whole congregation.
- 670 For the blessing of God upon the grass is in shades of Green visible to a nice observer as they light upon the surface of the earth.
- For the blessing of God unto perfection in all bloom & fruit is by colouring.
- For from hence something in the spirit may be taken off by painters.
- For Painting is a species of idolatry, tho' not so gross as statuary.
- For it is not good to look with earning<sup>2</sup> upon any dead work.

<sup>1</sup> A blush in Staindrop Church (which is adjacent to Raby Castle) is once more a reminiscence of Smart's lost love, Anne Hope. S.

<sup>2</sup> With earning, see note on B.1.165.

FRAGMENT B2

- 675 For by so doing something is lost in the spirit & given from life to death.
- For BULL in the first place is the word of Almighty God.<sup>1</sup>
- For he is a creature of infinite magnitude in the height.
- For there is the model of every beast of the field in the height.
- For they are blessed intelligences & all angels of the living God.
- 680 For there are many words under Bull.
- For Bul the Month is under it.
- For Sea is under Bull.
- For Brook is under Bull. God be gracious to Lord Bolingbroke.
- For Rock is under Bull.
- 685 For Bullfinch is under Bull. God be gracious to the Duke of Cleveland.
- For God, which always keeps his work in view has painted a Bullfinch in the heart of a stone. God be gracious to Gosling and Canterbury.
- For the Bluecap is under Bull.
- For the Humming Bird is under Bull.
- For Beetle is under Bull.
- 690 For Toad is under bull.
- For Frog is under Bull, which he has a delight to look at.
- For the Pheasant-eyed Pink is under Bull. Blessed Jesus RANK EL.<sup>2</sup>
- For Rugloss is under Bull.
- For Bugle is under Bull.
- 695 For Oxeye is under Bull.
- For Fire is under Bull.
- For I will consider my Cat Jeffry.
- For he is the servant of the Living God duly and daily serving him.

<sup>1</sup> At least a part of this concept of the Bull derives from Cabbalistic thought. S.

<sup>2</sup> Rank El is unexplained.

## JUBILATE AGNO

For at the first glance of the glory of God in the East he worships in his way.

700 For is this done by wreathing his body seven times round with elegant quickness.

For then he leaps up to catch the musk, w<sup>ch</sup> is the blessing of God upon his prayer.

For he rolls upon prank to work it in.

For having done duty and received blessing he begins to consider himself.

For this he performs in ten degrees.

705 For first he looks upon his fore-paws to see if they are clean.

For secondly he kicks up behind to clear away there.

For thirdly he works it upon stretch with the fore paws extended.

For fourthly he sharpens his paws by wood.

For fifthly he washes himself.

710 For Sixthly he rolls upon wash.

For Seventhly he fleas himself, that he may not be interraptured upon the beat.<sup>1</sup>

For Eighthly he rubs himself against a post.

For Ninthly he looks up for his instructions.

For Tenthly he goes in quest of food.

715 For having consider'd God and himself he will consider his neighbour.

For if he meets another cat he will kiss her in kindness.

For when he takes his prey he plays with it to give it a chance.

For one mouse in seven escapes by his dallying.

For when his day's work is done his business more properly begins.

720 For he keeps the Lord's watch in the night against the adversary.

For he counteracts the powers of darkness by his electrical skin & glaring eyes.

<sup>1</sup> That he may not be interrupted upon the beat, so that he will not have to interrupt his activities (by scratching).

## FRAGMENT B2

For he counteracts the Devil, who is death, by brisking about the life.

For in his morning orisons he loves the sun and the sun loves him.

For he is of the tribe of Tiger.

725 For the Cherub Cat is a term of the Angel Tiger.

For he has the subtlety and hissing of a serpent, which in goodness he suppresses.

For he will not do destruction, if he is well-fed, neither will he spit without provocation.

For he purrs in thankfulness, when God tells him he's a good Cat.

For he is an instrument for the children to learn benevolence upon.

730 For every house is incompleat without him & a blessing is lacking in the spirit.

For the Lord commanded Moses concerning the cats at the departure of the Children of Israel from Egypt.<sup>1</sup>

For every family had one cat at least in the bag.

For the English Cats are the best in Europe.

For he is the cleanest in the use of his fore-paws of any quadrupede.

735 For the dexterity of his defence is an instance of the love of God to him exceedingly.

For he is the quickest to his mark of any creature.

For he is tenacious of his point.

For he is a mixture of gravity and waggery.

For he knows that God is his Saviour.

740 For there is nothing sweeter than his peace when at rest.

For there is nothing brisker than his life when in motion.

For he is of the Lord's poor and so indeed is he called by benevolence perpetually—Poor Jeoffry! poor Jeoffry! the rat has bit thy throat.

For I bless the name of the Lord Jesus that Jeoffry is better.

<sup>1</sup> The *cat* does not appear in the Bible.

## JUBILATE AGNO

For the divine spirit comes about his body to sustain it in compleat cat.

745 For his tongue is exceeding pure so that it has in purity what it wants in musick.

For he is docile and can learn certain things.

For he can set up with gravity which is patience upon approbation.

For he can fetch and carry, which is patience in employment.

For he can jump over a stick which is patience upon proof positive.

750 For he can spraggle upon waggle at the word of command.

For he can jump from an eminence into his master's bosom.

For he can catch the cork and toss it again.

For he is hated by the hypocrite and miser.

For the former is affraid of detection.

755 For the latter refuses the charge.

For he camels his back to bear the first notion of business.

For he is good to think on, if a man would express himself neatly.

For he made a great figure in Egypt for his signal services.

For he killed the *Ichneumon*-rat very pernicious by land.<sup>1</sup>

760 For his ears are so acute that they sting again.

For from this proceeds the passing quickness of his attention.

For by stroaking of him I have found out electricity.

For I perceived God's light about him both wax and fire.

For the Electrical fire is the spiritual substance, which God sends from heaven to sustain the bodies both of man and beast.

765 For God has blessed him in the variety of his movements.

For, tho he cannot fly, he is an excellent clamberer.

<sup>1</sup> Smart had an erroneous conception of the *Ichneumon*, which is regarded as beneficial, not pernicious, and which destroys rats and mice. *S.*

## FRAGMENT B2

For his motions upon the face of the earth are more than any other quadrupede.

For he can tread to all the measures upon the musick.

For he can swim for life.

770 For he can creep.