A pamphlet from the Thomson Collection of 113 bound volumes containing some 1300 English pamphlets, mainly of the period 1689-1789. Records for these pamphlets have been added to the University Library catalogue.

The collection was donated to the University in 1960 by Mark Almeras Thomson (1903-1962), the Andrew Geddes and John Rankin Professor of Modern History at Liverpool from 1945-1956, and reflects his interest in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century British history. Many of the pamphlets are published sermons which mark the anniversary of past events or the annual meeting of charitable societies. Political and religious controversies are also well represented; for example, pamphlets generated by the impeachment of Henry Sacheverell in 1709-1710. The political career of Charles James Fox is lampooned in a number of pamphlets, as illustrated below.

*The beauties of administration* title picks up on the tradition of publishing anthologies from individual authors under such titles as *The Beauties of Shakespeare*. An example from Liverpool’s collections is SPEC Y80.3.337(2): *The Beauties of Sterne, including all his pathetic tales and most distinguished observations on life, selected for the heart of sensibility*. (Dublin: Printed for W. Wilson, 1784. 8th ed., with considerable additions).

Many such anthologies were published by George Kearsley in London during the 1780s, as indicated in his catalogue, *A list of books, &c. lately published by G. Kearsley*. (London, 1787?) SPEC Fraser 827(2), which advertises new editions of *The Beauties of Samuel Johnson* (seventh edition), *The Beauties of Shakespeare* (third edition), *The Beauties of Sterne* ‘Addressed to Hearts of Sensibility’ (ninth and tenth editions) and a forthcoming collection of *The Beauties of the Spectator, Tatler, Guardian, Rambler, Adventurer, Connoisseur, World and Idler*. 
A later pamphlet from the Thomson collection which also deals with the career of Charles James Fox, with a lengthy explanatory title, is SPEC Thomson 84.4: *Fox against Fox!!! or political blossoms of the Right Hon. Charles James Fox: selected from his speeches in the House of Commons, on the omnipotence of Parliament, in the appointment of the ministers of the Crown. Contrasted with his present arguments in favour of prerogative. Shewing how easily a Staunch Whig may become a Professed Tory. To which are added, the speeches of Mr. Pitt and Mr. Fox, On Wednesday December 10th, 1788, on the Subject of a Regency. Embellished with a curious Fronticepiece adapted to the occasion; and a Design for the Revolution Pillar at Runemedede. (London: printed for John Stockdale, opposite Burlington House, Piccadilly, [1788].)

Earlier administrations were similarly satirised in print, for example the "Broad-bottom" government led by Henry Pelham and Philip Dormer Stanhope, 4th earl of Chesterfield, mentioned on the titlepage of SPEC Thomson 11.10: *An address of thanks to the Broad-Bottoms for the good things they have done, and the evil things they have not done, since their elevation: wherein is stated, a fair account of their promises and performances, preceded by an introductory discourse on ingratitude, a sketch of the history of the Broad-Bottoms and a resembling portrait of their chiefs; to which is prefix'd a curious emblematic frontispiece, taken from an original painting of the ingenious Mr. H----th. [i.e. William Hogarth, 1697-1764]. (London: printed for M. Cooper, at the Globe in Pater-Noster-Row, M.DCC.XLV [1745]).

The ‘curious emblematic fronticepiece’ is appropriately scatological (see left).

References:


Copies of all the titles mentioned in the highlight are available for reading in Special Collections & Archives:

See SC&A website; English pamphlet collection and Thomson pamphlets.