

## Homework #6: Scanning Wyatt

Due in class Tuesday Nov. 16

Thomas Wyatt (1503-1542) lived during a period that the iambic pentameter was being rediscovered in English, after the fall of most word-final schwas had led to confusion and given pentameter a major post-Chaucer setback. Wyatt is something of a metrical mystery—for some of his lines, we're not sure why he even thought they were pentameters—but his verse is admired for its expressiveness.

I've taken the text and footnotes for the Wyatt poem below from the Representative Poetry Online Website of the English Department at the University of Toronto (<http://eir.library.utoronto.ca/rpo/display/poem2400.html>).

### 1. Problem Set Directions

Assume that Wyatt really was trying to write iambic pentameter lines, that is, ten syllables with an optional weak extrametrical syllable at the end.

- a. Copy each line of the poem underneath the iambic pentameter grid, i.e. for the first line:

	x		x		x		x		x	
x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	(x)
The	long-	e	love	that	in	my	thought	doth	har-	bor

and so on.

b. Circle all the places that would violate the rules given in class for Shakespeare. For each one, explain why it violates the rules, mentioning the crucial aspects of the stress pattern and phonological breaks.

b. Use the scholarly method of the concordance to bring evidence to bear on the pronunciation of any words that seem to be involved in rule violations (example: *banner* in the fourth line; if it's pronounced [bæ'ner] then there is no problem metrically). The concordance method is simply to find how the word is matched against the meter elsewhere in the verse of the same poet.

I couldn't find an online search engine for Wyatt, but there is a PDF file with all his poems, from <http://www.poemhunter.com/sir-thomas-wyatt/poet-3066/>. Please download this file (and the PDF reader if you need it: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>). I've put a backup of this file on the course web site in case the poemhunter.com server goes down. In the

PDF reader, click on the little binoculars () to do a text search; click on  to keep searching.

Example: was “suffer” pronounced with stress on the second syllable? Probably not, because in the poem “My Own John Poynz” we have

And *suffer* nought, nor smart without complaint.

## 2. The Poem

### The Long Love that in my Thought doth Harbour

by Sir Thomas Wyatt

1. The longē love that in my thought doth harbour
2. And in mine hert doth keep his residence,
3. Into my face presseth with bold pretence
4. And therein campeth, spreading his banner.
5. She that me learneth to love and suffer
6. And will that my trust and lustes negligence
7. Be rayned by reason, shame, and reverence,
8. With his hardiness taketh displeasure.
9. Wherewithall unto the hert's forest he fleeth,
10. Leaving his enterprise with pain and cry,
11. And there him hideth and not appeareth.
12. What may I do when my master feareth
13. But in the field with him to live and die?
14. For good is the life, ending faithfully.

## 3. Background Information on the Poem

Note by BH: Please assume the following pronunciations:

*longe*      ['lɔŋə]

*lustes*      ['lʌsts]

*forest*      ['fɔrst]

Notes from the Toronto Web site:

1] The poem is a loose translation of a sonnet in Italian by Petrarch:

Amor, che nel penser mio vive e regna,  
 E 'l suo seggio maggior nel mio cor tène,  
 Talor armato ne la fronte vène:  
 Ivi sì loca, et ivi pon sua insegna.  
 Quella ch' amare e sofferir ne 'nsegna,

E vòl che 'l gran desio, l' accesa spene  
Ragion, vergogna e reverenza affrene,  
Di nostro ardir fra sé stessa si sdegna.  
Onde Amor paventoso fugge al core,  
Lasciando ogni sua impresa, e piange e trema;  
Ivi s'asconde, e non appar più fòre.  
Che poss' io far, temendo il mio signore,  
Se non star seco infin a l' ora estrema?  
Ché bel fin fa chi ben amando more.

1] *harbour*: temporarily reside.

2] *hert*: Egerton MS. spelling (also line 9), playing on "hart" (=deer) and "heart."

4] *spreading his banner*: the look of someone in love, displayed unashamedly (a lord showing himself openly on the field of battle).

5] *learneth*: teaches.

6] *will*: to will, i.e., to make sure that.

*trust and lust's negligence*: (public) confidence (in her love) and the neglect (of propriety in showing) sexual desire (for her).

7] *rayned*: Egerton MS. spelling, playing on "reined" and "reigned."

8] *his*: the god of Love's.

*hardiness*: boldness.

9] *the hert's forest*: a phrase not in Petrarch, one that plays on "hart's"=(deer's) and "heart's."

13] *in the field with him*: inconsistent with line 9 (the lord has fled to the forest).