

SUMMARY: The document below is the dedication to Oxford by Edmund Elviden, gentleman, of *The most excellent and plesant metaphoricall historie of Pesistratus and Catanea*, thought to have been published in 1570.

Nothing is known of Elviden beyond the fact that he published three works: *The Closet of Counsels*, *Pesistratus and Catanea*, and a tract urging the Northern rebels of 1569 to reconsider their actions, *A Neweyeres gift to the Rebellious persons in the North partes of England*. The latter, dated 1 January 1570 and written in accomplished fourteeners, ends with these lines:

*This wrote your friend, a wishing friend  
Unto his native soil,  
Who craves your friendships to befriend  
Yourselves, and fear your foil.*

The phrase 'native soil' has been construed as evidence that Elviden was from the north of England, but could equally well refer to England generally. It seems possible the name 'Edmund Elviden' is a pseudonym, and that Oxford, whose first cousin was the wife of the rebel Earl of Westmorland, and who is known to have written in fourteeners in his youth, was the author.

For the text of *A Neweyeres gift*, see Huth, Henry, ed., *Fugitive Tracts Written in Verse Which Illustrate the Condition of Religious and Political Feeling in England*, (1875), pp. xix, 285 at:

<https://archive.org/details/fugitivetractsw01huthgoog/page/n280/mode/2up>

For the text of *Pesistratus and Catanea*, see:

<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A21272.0001.001?view=toc>

For Elviden's works, see also Collier, J. Payne, *A Bibliographical and Critical Account of the Rarest Books in the English Language*, (New York: David G. Francis, 1866), Vol. I, pp. 308-13 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=IrhBFSCeJroC&pg=RA1-PA308>

To the right honourable Edward de Vere, Lord Bulbeck, Earl of Oxford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, Edmund Elviden wisheth long life with increase of honour

It was not without wise forecast, right Honourable, that the politic poets & wise philosophers have many times uttered in pleasant metaphors hidden secrets and sundry notable instructions, considering that as the mind is satisfied with profound mysteries, so

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likewise the weakness of nature is made well disposed by pleasant conveyance, for as the one, informing wisdom, burdeneth the wits, so likewise the other refresheth the senses, reneweth the memory, and preserveth the tender appetite from tediousness. Which requisite recreation of me presumptuously thought upon, I have boldly, or rather impudently, offered to your Honour this present rude and gross conceit wherein I have to my slender ability bestowed the fruits of my willing labour for your Honour's recreation and avoiding of tedious time after your weighty affairs finished, not altogether void of secret meaning, but well perused of your Lordship, sufficiently intending to satisfy the humour of your wise disposition. And thus craving your courtesy to respect of my goodwill, as chiefly bent for your especial pleasure, rather than of my simple travail, I briefly leave to trouble your Honour with tedious circumstance.

Your Honour's humble at commandment,  
Edmund Elviden