



Rare Books, Manuscripts, Maps & Photographs (605)

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Viewing Times:

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Lot 187

Estimate: £4000 - £6000 + Fees

Burns, Robert Autograph verse, working draft, entitled 'Sonnet' and beginning 'No more, ye warblers of the wood, no more'

nine lines (one scored through), with corrections, on one page, 115 x 205mm, cut from a larger leaf with trace of mount, browned, docketed on recto 'Cv2 fo 266j' and on verso '18. Sonnet on the Death of Mr Riddel; Copied by W.C.C.'

Burns had made manuscript corrections to two lines. In line 2, he has altered 'Nor pour your grating descant on my ear' to 'Nor pour your descant grating on my ear'; and the last (eighth) line has been altered from 'Poured round th'untimely tomb where Riddell lowly lies' to 'That strain pours round th'untimely tomb where Riddell lies'. The text of this sonnet published in James Kinsley, ed, *The Poems and Songs of Robert Burns*, Oxford, 1968, continues with a quatrain and concluding couplet. A comparison between his text and the present manuscript with several variant readings suggest that this was an early version of the sonnet.