

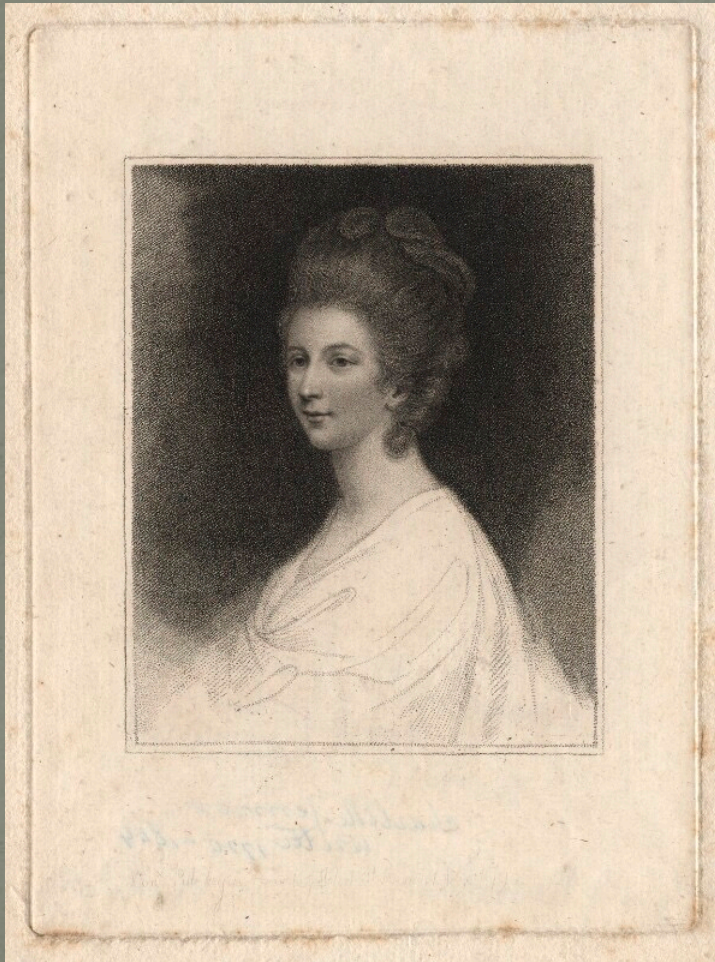
Charlotte Lennox: *The Lady's
Museum and "Harriot &
Sophia"*

Dr. Karenza Sutton-Bennett ©

Agenda:

- Review: *The Lady's Museum*
- Introduction to “Harriot & Sophia”
- Textual representations of education
- Activity: analyzing visual representation of H&S
- Discussion
- Workshop Activity

Charlotte Lennox



- Charlotte Ramsay born in 1730
- Actress, playwright, novelist, periodicalist & translator
- Married Alexander Lennox
- Died in 1804

The Rise of Periodicals & Newspapers

Reasons behind
their popularity:

- Public accessibility
- Periodicity
- Timeliness
- Universality



Writing 6000 yrs * Moveable Type 500 yrs * Periodicals 400 yrs

Girl's Education in Eighteenth Century

Formal:

- Boarding Schools
- Arts
- Aesthetics
- Amusements

Informal:

- Private Tutor
- Parent/Guardian
- Self-directed or guided Reading

* These options were only for upper-class & middle-class girls

Representations of Education:

- **Trifler** → fondness for reading, brother tutors her (informal)
- **Harriot** → attending boarding school (formal)
- **Sophia** → fondness for reading, Mr. Herbert tutors her (informal)
- **Dolly** → father educates his daughters (practical)

Key Term:

- **Sentimental** → 1. Of persons, their dispositions and actions: Characterized by sentiment. Originally in favourable sense: Characterized by or exhibiting refined and elevated feeling. In later use: Addicted to indulgence in superficial emotion; apt to be swayed by sentiment.
2. Of literary compositions (occasionally of music or other art): Appealing to sentiment; expressive of the tender emotions, esp. those of love.

A Tale of Two Sisters:

“[w]hile Harriot was receiving the improvement of a polite education, Sophia was left to form herself as well as she could; happily for her a just taste and solid judgment supplied the place of teachers, precepts, and example. The hours that Harriot wasted in dress, company, and gay amusements, were by Sophia devoted to reading” (18)

Question of Morals or Education?

Harriot: “for, as I read in one of your books just now, Virtue would not go so far, if pride did not bear her company” (248)

Sophia: “you might also have read [...] that no woman is envious of another’s virtue who is conscious of her own” (248)

Images of Harriot & Sophia



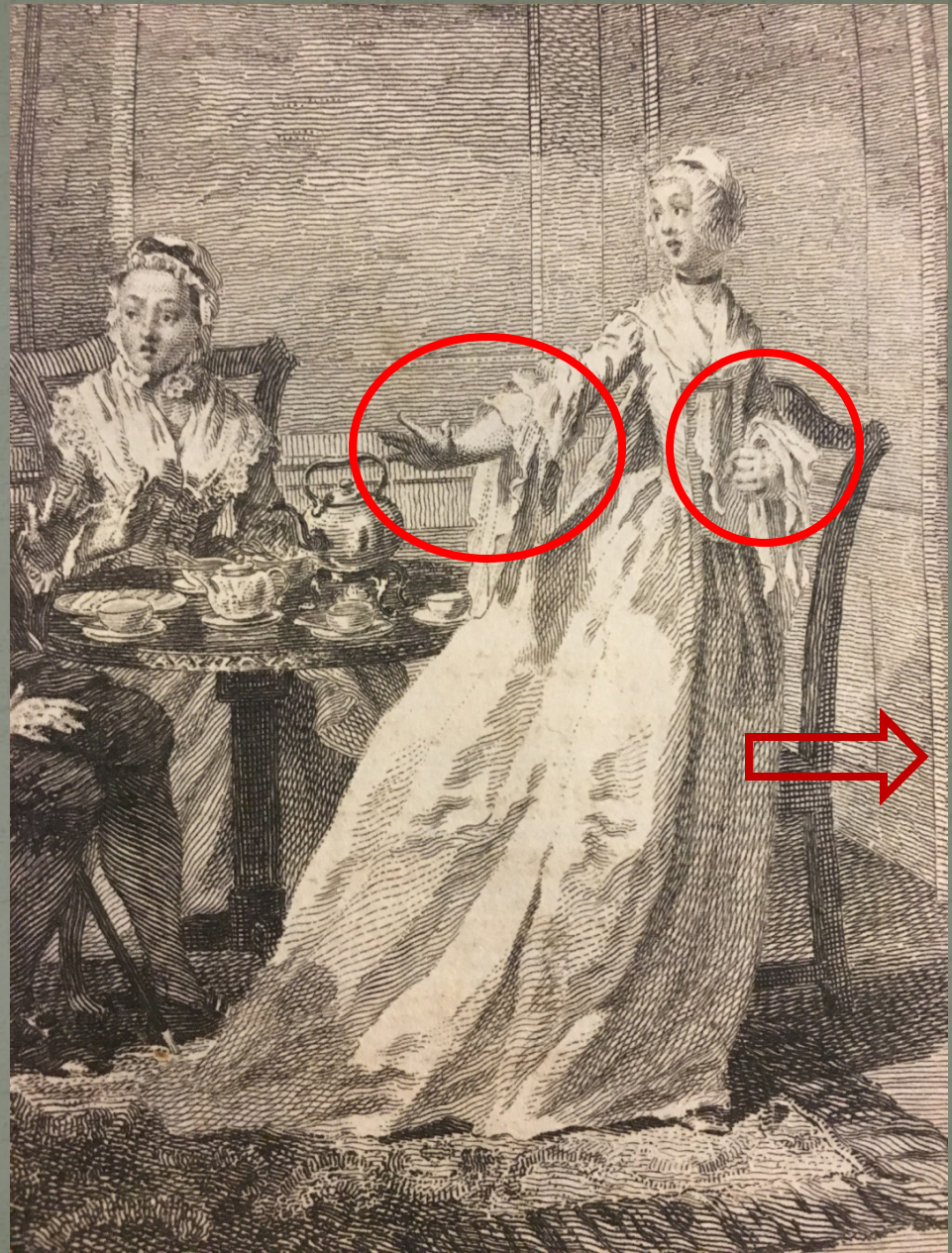
What are
your first
impressions
of Harriot?



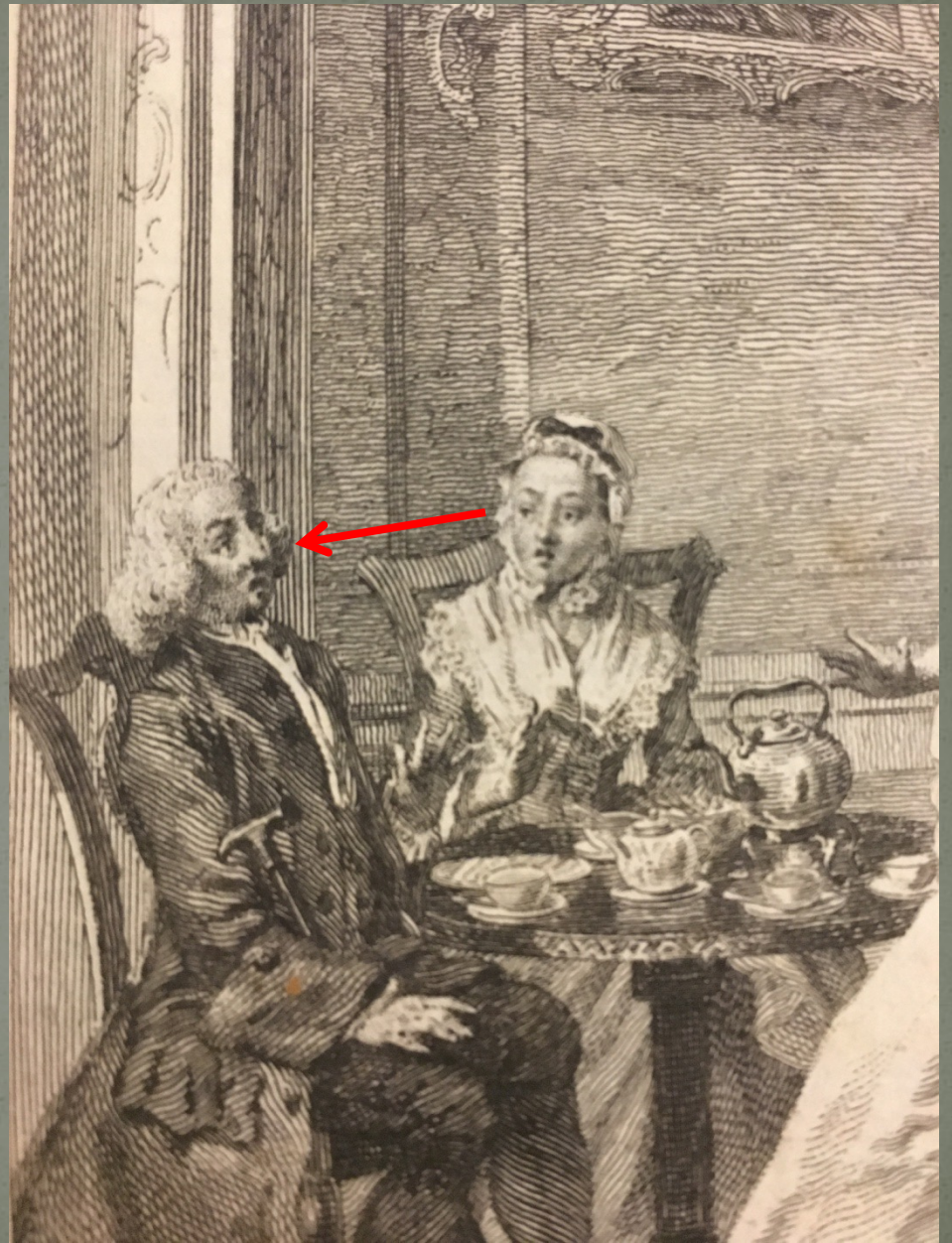
What do
think
about her
attire?
What does
it signify?



“Harriot, no longer able to suppress her rage and envy, was thrown so far off her guard as to burst into tears. ‘I cannot bear to be thus insulted, cried she; and I declare if Sir Charles is permitted to go on with his foolery with that vain girl, I will quit the house.’” (44)



“I am speaking to my mother, sir, replied Harriot, with a contemptuous frown; depend upon it Madam, pursued she, that I will not stay to be sacrificed to Mr. Herbert’s favorite – either she shall be forbid to give Sir Charles any encouragement, who after all, is only laughing at her, or I will leave the house.” (44).



What is your
first
impression
of the image
of Sophia &
Dolly?



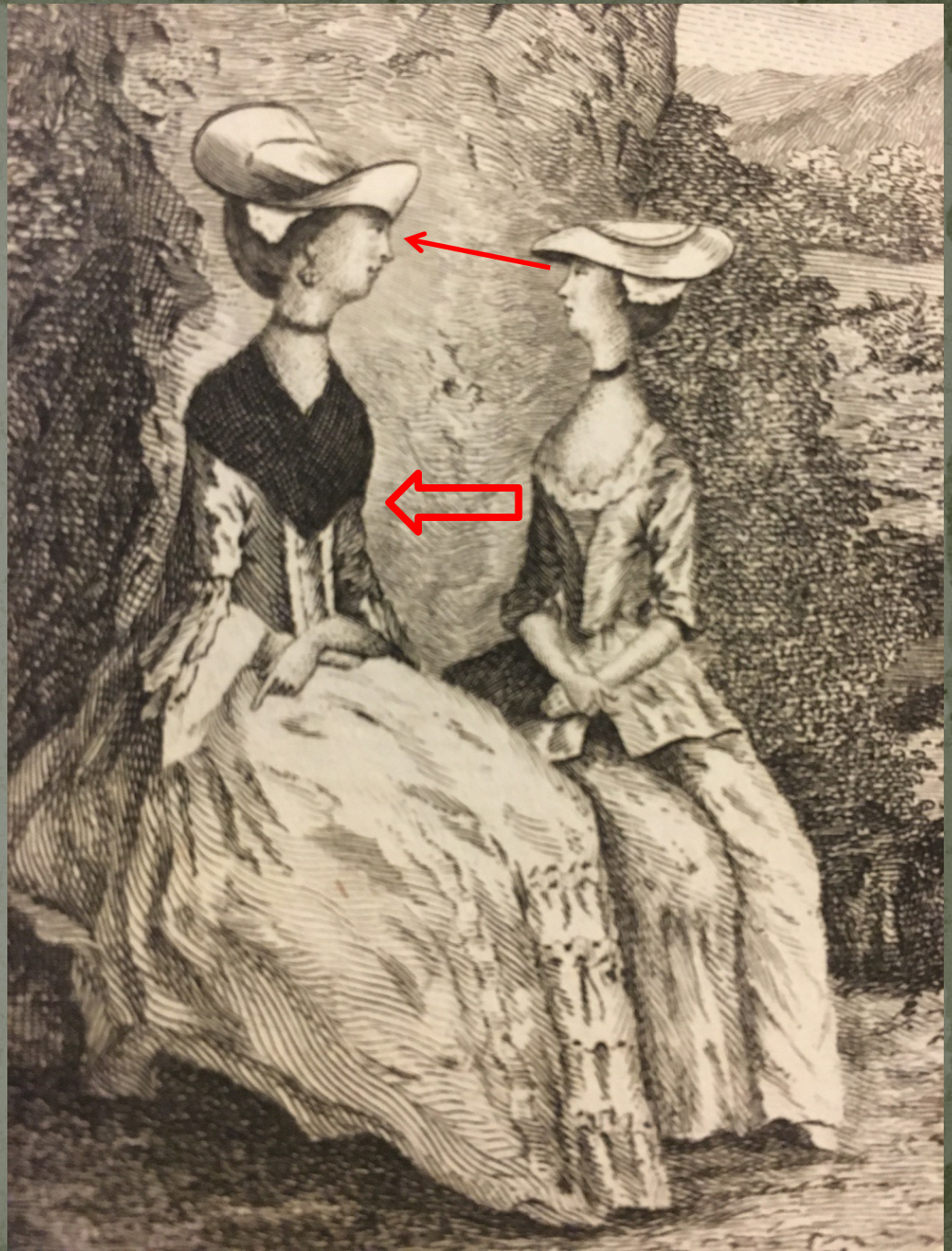
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Dolly relating her Story to Sophia. —

How does
Sophia's
dress
compare to
Harriot's?



“Come, my dear, said Sophia (...), let us sit down here, we shall not be called to supper yet, you have time enough to give me some account of this young man, whom I should be glad to find worthy of you: tell me how your acquaintance began, what are your father’s reasons for forbidding your correspondence”(260)



Discussion Questions:

1. What are the overall differences between the sisters (represented in these two images)?
2. Do you think the images are a necessary component to the story, and if so why?