

## Methods

I conducted a close reading through transcription and annotation, and worked closely with the manuscript in Special Collections. I calculated the contents and assembled an overview of the 78 page manuscript and its 665 recipes, calculating the contents. I assessed the manuscript in terms of percentages and used these to compare to other sources. I chose to focus on the recipes listed in the contents page and those attributed to individuals. These I transcribed and annotated. The former were significant in showing the book's structure and the selection process, with annotations proving use and its function as a reference document. The contents page represented an organised literary communication, while the 67 recipes attributed to 41 individuals showed collaboration and communication. Both illustrated the manuscript's intention to provide a space for the sharing of ideas and domestic advice, particularly for a female audience. I also studied the paleography of the manuscript. At least 6 hands can be identified, though nearly 70% is written in the secretary hand used in the 13 'Jane Loraine' signatures, many of which are dated between 1684-6.



John Speed's Map of Northumberland - 1627

In order to locate the cookbook and its contributors I visited Tyne and Wear Northumberland archives, Kirkharle courtyard and church, Wallington Hall and Hartburn church. I wanted to root the text geographically in order to understand its cultural and national significance; I was partly successful, as I found records of many of the families and links between them, though it was impossible to track down individuals precisely, particularly women.

Engaging with the local nature of the document demonstrated the collaboration of the local community in the text, and I located many of the names referenced in the Northumberland area. Finding similarities and parallels with other sources also showed the book's significance as part of a wider movement, discussion and genre.

I visited London to study several manuscripts in the Wellcome and British libraries. I undertook a detailed comparison with 4 manuscripts and found common features in structure and content, which was useful in placing the Jane Loraine manuscript in context. I also looked at printed cook books, commonplace books and herbals, and the similarities demonstrated the overlaps with other genres. In London I also visited Chelsea Physic Garden which showed similar uses of herbs, showing communication and consensus.

I engaged with critical as well as historical context, through my reading. I compiled an annotated bibliography and commonplace book of relevant quotations, supporting my primary research. I created a body of work to return to in future and a possible basis for further research. I also attended a conference and will participate in a MEMS conference on 25th November.

## A critical and contextual study and partial electronic edition



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## Aims

- To learn more about seventeenth-century domesticity and the roles of women, using an original and unique source.
- To discern the significance of this manuscript and fit it into the context of Early Modern manuscript culture, as well as current critical research.
- To make the manuscript accessible to others.

## Conclusion

This research is another piece in the jigsaw towards creating a picture of the social and cultural history of domesticity and its literary representation.

Studies of this manuscript have shown:

- the collaborative nature of this text, through contribution and attribution. This also shows the local community (and larger national trends of domestic documentation) and demonstrates the communication between Early Modern women.
- the complexity of generic definition and the overlaps with other forms, such as herbals.

## Outcomes

1. Completed annotation and transcription of some sections of the text and a working transcription of the entire text, with an invitation for further research.
2. A formal report, a 4,500 word summary, and a conference paper.
3. An annotated bibliography and commonplace book of critical research.
4. Turning Pages software.
5. Special Collections feature:  
([http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/specialcollections/treasures/?treasure\\_id=110](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/specialcollections/treasures/?treasure_id=110))

Contents

Medicine 15%  
Food 25%  
Waters and wines 9%  
Beauty Treatments 7%



This work is timely in its relevance to key current studies and debate about early modern culture. It provides a local example of a larger movement and communication of ideas, as well as adding to the collection of seventeenth-century cookbooks previously written about.

The manuscript is significant for Gender Studies, as it documents a space and voice for women and shows a dialogue within a female community. This in turn provokes wider questions about women and writing, and suggests a greater degree of freedom for early modern women. The text shows authority and expertise in significant medical as well as domestic concerns. The involvement of men is minor with their role as contributors only making up 3% of the text. The book is firmly attributed to a woman and the advice caters for female concerns.

This project has also explored genre and the hybridity between literary and non-literary spaces, as well as between public and private roles. The manuscript demonstrates hybridity of genre and subject matter, as food and medicine overlap and the woman's domestic role is thus complicated. The collaborative nature of the text, which is typical in this form, dispels preconceived notions of authorship and celebrates diversity. My discoveries emphasise the collaboration, community, communication and continuity of this unique manuscript.