



## NOTES:

**1-4** *Pardon me, Sir / I have chose you mine* The celebration of Valentine's Day dates back to the Roman fertility festival, Lupercalia (*Encyclopedia Britannica*). By the mid eighteenth century in England, it was common for lovers or friends to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes.

**9-10** *For should I love / like to Sappho burn* Pointon is referencing a well-known story about the Greek lyric poet Sappho (c. 630-570 BCE) that was popularized by Joseph Addison in *Spectator* no. 223 (15 November 1711). Addison provides a translation (by Ambrose Phillips) of the only known complete poem by Sappho, "An Hymn to Venus," written after pursuing an "inconstant lover," the sailor Phaon, to Sicily. Addison notes that "her Hymn was ineffectual for the procuring that happiness which she prayed for in it." According to this tradition, Sappho died because of her unrequited love for Phaon by leaping from a cliff that was supposed to cure her passion (p. 204).

**16** *votress to DIANA* Pointon is claiming herself devoted to Diana, an ancient Italian female divinity, the moon-goddess, patroness of virginity and of hunting and, thus, committed to remaining chaste (*OED*).

**18** *MINERVA* A Roman goddess, regarded as the patron of handicrafts and the arts, and later also of wisdom and prowess in war (*OED*); *VENUS* "The ancient Roman goddess of beauty and love, notably sensual love" (*OED*).

**26** *P.P.* An abbreviation of the author's own name which appears in several of her direct addresses in *Poems on Several Occasions*.

**Source:** *Poems on Several Occasions. By Miss Priscilla Pointon, of Lichfield (Birmingham, 1770), pp. 24-25.* [Google Books]

*Edited by Lee Hammel*