

## 54

15 March 1750. Warrant for the Detention of Cleland and Others following Publication of *Memoirs of Fanny Hill*

*Copies taken from the Records of the Court of King's-Bench, at Westminster (1763), pp. 46–47*

**Entry CV. 15 March, 1749–50. Original.**

WHEREAS I have received Information, that an obscene and infamous Book, entitled, *Memoirs of Fanny Hill*, is printed and published, These are, in his Majesty's Name, to authorize and require you, taking a Constable to your Assistance, to make strict and diligent Search for the Author, Printer and Publishers of the said Book, and him, them, or any of them having found, to seize and apprehend, and bring together with their Papers, before me, to be examined concerning the Premises, and further dealt with according to Law. In the due Execution whereof, &c. Given at *Whitehall, March 15, 1749–50*, in the twenty-third Year of his Majesty's Reign.<sup>1</sup>

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

<sup>1</sup> The legal response to the appearance of *Fanny Hill* was much more rapid than had been the case with *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*. The warrant for arrest was issued by Newcastle's office immediately on receipt of the letter from Thomas Sherlock, Bishop of London, item no. 53, in which he railed against the new work. The first edition of *Memoirs of Fanny Hill* remains a remarkably rare book; ESTC records only two copies, held by the British Library and the Houghton Library, Harvard. The implication is that the legal suppression of the text was largely effective. See also Peter Sabor, 'The Censor Censured: Expurgating *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*', in *'Tis Nature's Fault: Unauthorized Sexuality during the Enlightenment*, ed. Robert Purks Maccubbin (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987), pp. 192–201; Lena Olsson (ed.), *Memoirs of Fanny Hill*, facsimile ed., in *Eighteenth-Century British Erotica II*, gen. ed. Alexander Pettit and Patrick Spedding, vol. 4: *The Prostitute's Life: Sally Salisbury and Fanny Hill* (London: Pickering and Chatto, 2004), pp. 81–415; *Memoirs*.