

42.39/48

**Transcript of William Lilly's Great Fire prediction, taken from his book
*Monarchy or no monarchy in England***

[Explanation of the images in the book]

Had the curtesy of the present times deserved it at my hands, thou hadst seen a explanation of the sixteen pages following, which in enigmatical types, forms, figures, shapes, doth perfectly represent the future condition of the English nation and common wealth for many hundreds of years yet to come. I have borrowed so much time from my morning sleep, as hath brought forth these conceptions. You that read these lines must know I do no new thing; I do herein but imitate the ancients, who so often as they resolved to conceal their intentions from prophane hands, used hieroglyphics, images, &c; the Egyptian priests were herein excellent, and their judgement commendable; our Saviour also Himself commandeth; ne detur sacrum canibus. If providence shall hereafter assign me a quiet life, and prolong my years, I may then perhaps leave unto the sonnes of art the several changes of every Kingdom and common wealth of Europe, in such like characters as these which now follow.

[Written explanation of Fig. 15]

Figure ye 15.

Contains a City all on fire ye City ... on both sides a great river running through the midst of it with ships sailing on it and men swimming just to save their lives. And having some swords and some guns in their hands.

Explanation

Signifying London on fire and burnt, but whether it horred fire in 1666 or whether yet to come I know not, because the City is heare fired on both sides the river.

Whereas in 1666 Southwarke was preserved; ye conflagration seemed to be ... by war: because of the soldiers; with their armes on their hands swimming to save them selves.