Digby, Kenelm, Sir, 1603-1665.
Of bodies and of mans soul: to
discover the immortality of
reasonable souls: with two
discourses, Of the powder of
sympathy, and, Of the vegetation
of plants. London: Printed by S.G.
and B.G. for John Williams, 1669.
439, 231 p.; 19 cm.

Bequeathed by Frederick Lucas
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About

Digby (1603-1665) was enormously admired
in his own day for the fascination of his
personality, the flamboyance of his early life,
the romance of his love for his wife Venetia,
his position in society, and his undoubted
intellectual powers. After his wife’s death
Digby gave up his public life for study and
wrote seriously upon literature, alchemy,
religion and natural philosophy.
Digby’s most important piece of work, Of
Bodies, deals with both inanimate and
animate bodies. His fundamental properties of
bodies are quantity, density, and rarity; and
he discusses motion with reference to Galileo,
and particles, which he sometimes calls
atoms. His book was widely read, appealing to
the virtuoso rather than to the scientist.

Condition

Contemporary blind tooled calf,
spine and endpapers mended with
library tape.

Front gatherings of text and
covers detached. Needs resewing,
rebacking.