

There are so many examples of 'straining' for 'strange' that I got bored fishing them all out – but here are some up to 1612 which I found by word searching 'straining' on EEBO. There were many more...

'An answer to the devilish detection of Stephane Gardiner' by Anthony Gilby (1548) has '...it is no newe or straining thinge to heare this of...' and '...his son Christ. Think not straining that the thing is written...'

Philip Nichols 'The copie of a letter sente to one maister Chispyne' (1548) has '...And they have gone after straining gods...'

Johan Spangenberg (1548): Thou shalt have no straining gods before me.'

William Salesbury 'The baterie of the Popes Botelreux (1550) has '...to apply some of these straining Anagogoies and darke saynges...'

William Turner in 'The catechisme (1572) has '...unchast person, neyther worshipper of straining gods, neither hore master...'

John Colville 'A declarftion of the just and necessarie causes' (1582) has '...burden it with extraordinary or straining injunctions...'

William Allen in 'A conference about the succession' (1595) has '...he joyneth an other as straining as this, which is...'

Robert Johnson in 'Essaies' (1601) has '...fall to a straining kind of uncertaintie...'

Antonio Ortiz in 'A relatiuon of the solemnitie wherewith Catholic Princes...were received' (1601) has '...this new and straining example of piety and religion...'

I.C. in 'Saint Marie Magdalens conversion' (1603) has '...Her wombe bringes forth straining and untimely seede...'

William Bradshawe in 'Twelve arguments' (1605) has '...meanes of begetting or confirming straining sins in their soules...'

Thomas Helwys in 'A short plaine prooffe' (1611) and 'A short declaration' (1612) has '...It may and wil seeme straining that we of all others...', and '...to condemnation: This will seeme straining but let God have the...', and 'It is most straining, that men fearing God...', and 'together, they shal see a straining exaltation of power and pompe...', and 'do looke for some straining seights from heaven, to knowe...', and '...tongue, and not in a straining tongue, as they did ....', and '...consider that it wilbe a straining thinge to condemne men for...', and '...you with the multitude of straining and forreyn false Prophetts'.

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