

Richard Lovelace (1618-1658)

Lovelace is the least important of the foursome of Cavalier poets. He was a very well educated courtier and was even sent to prison for favouring the King actively in the Civil War. It was in 1648 that while in ~~prison~~ ~~to~~ prison he prepared for the press his volume entitled 'Lucasta': Epodes, Odes, Sonnets, Songs etc. to which is added 'Amarantha a Pastoral' (1649). Though his poems are full of freshness and exuberance he lacks the fancy of Herrick, the force of Suckling and the polish of Carew. "He was", says Harding Craig, "not so skilful and sustained as Carew, perhaps not so forceful as Suckling, but had the greatness of having achieved a few immortal utterances". His "Ellinda's Glove" is the prettiest of his short pieces.

"Thou snowy farm with

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thy five tenements!

Tell thy white mistress
here was one

That call'd to pay his
daily rents!

But she a-gathering Flo
wers and hearts is gone

And thou left void to
rude possession!"

The end.

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