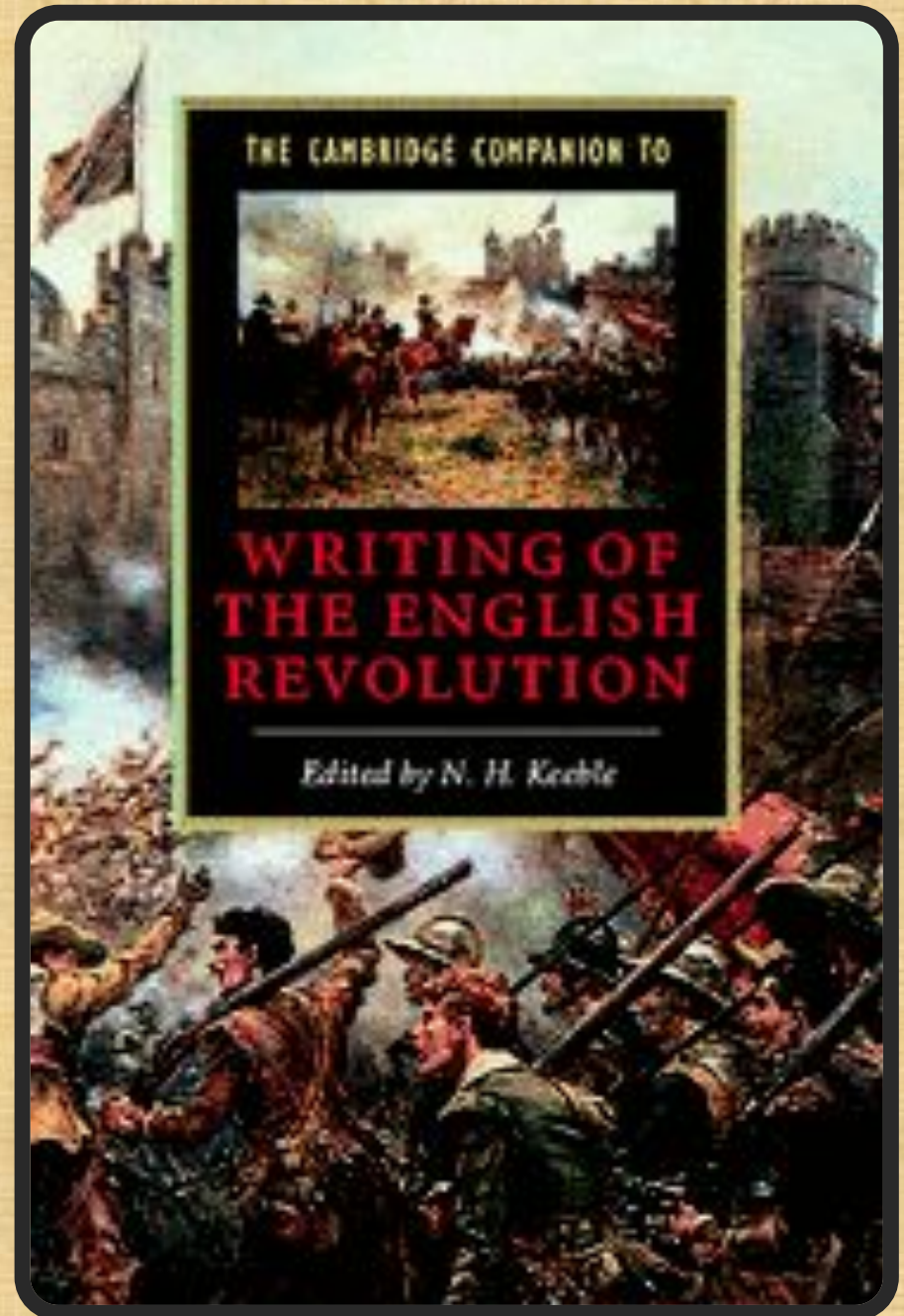


# LECTURE 3

## Revolution and Restoration





# The Metaphysical Poets

Introduction

John Donne

George Herbert

Henry Vaughan

Edward Herbert

Thomas Carew

Richard Crashaw

Andrew Marvell

Richard Lovelace

Sir John Suckling

Back to Early 17th-c.



a succession of poets who wrote at the beginning of the 17th century

# **Their poetry is marked by:**

- ➔ intense feeling combined with ingenious thought**
- ➔ elaborate, witty images**
- ➔ interest in mathematics, science and geography**
- ➔ interest in the soul**
- ➔ direct, colloquial expression even in sonnets and lyrics**



# Common characteristics of Metaphysical poetry:

- ➔ argumentative structure
- ➔ dramatic and colloquial mode of utterance  
overriding interest in the soul
- ➔ acute realism
- ➔ metaphysical wit

# Metaphysical Poets include

J. Donne

H. King

G. Herbert

R. Crashaw

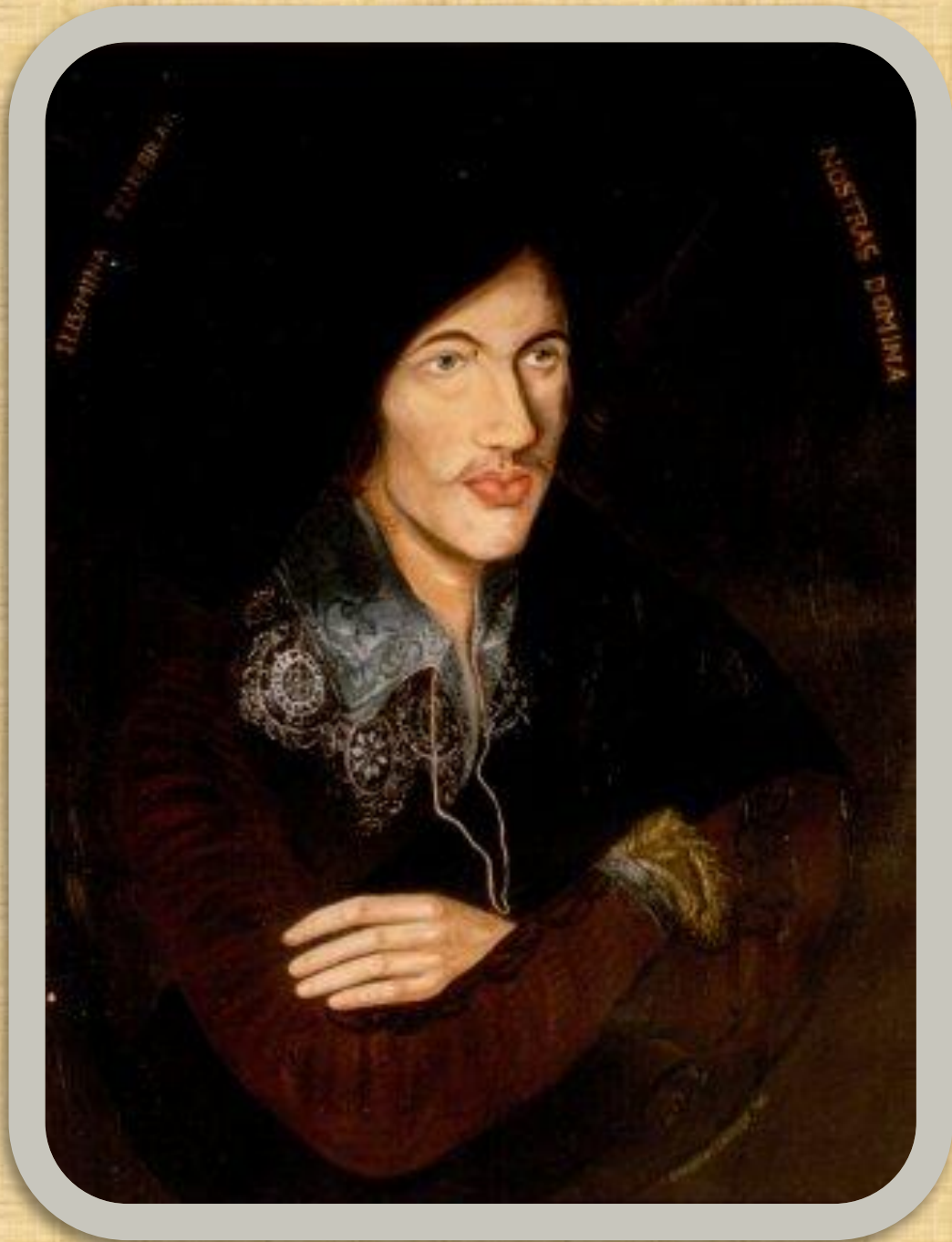
H. Vaughan

A. Marvell and others

# John Donne (1572-1631)







As a young man-  
a courtier and  
an adventurer



In 1596  
sailed with the earl of  
Essex to sack Cadiz  
in 1597 went with Raleigh  
to hunt Spanish treasure  
ships off the Azores



in 1601 - elected a member  
of Parliament

was secretary to Sir Thomas  
Egerton, a minister of the  
queen

he lost favour - and was  
briefly imprisoned



rejected the Catholic religion in which he was brought up

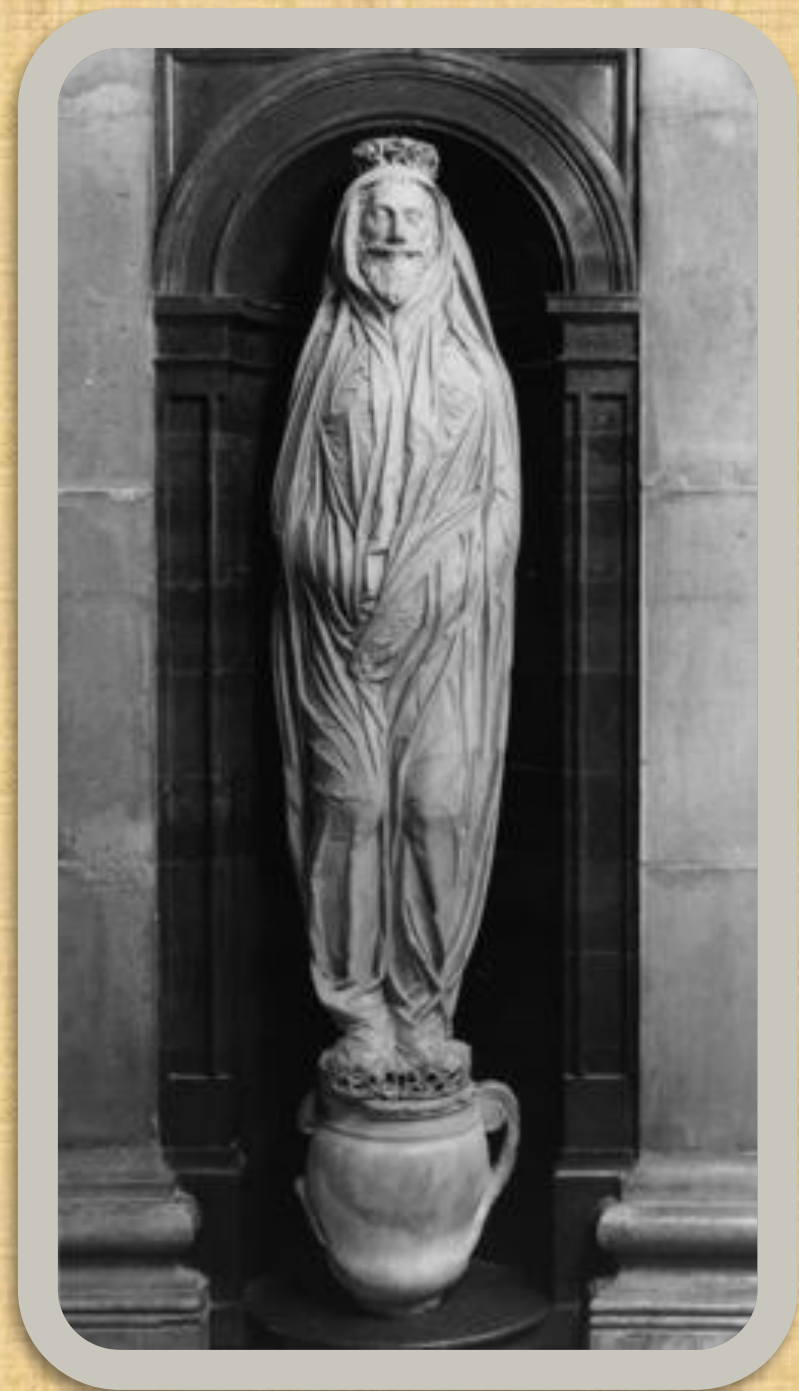
in 1615 he entered the church of England

in 1621 became the Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral.





most fashionable and  
dedicated preaches of  
the age



## *“A Valediction: of Weeping”*

*A "valuediction" is something said on parting from a loved one. In the poem J. Donne expresses to a woman his powerful but mixed feelings on leaving her to travel overseas.*

## *“Satires and Elegies” (1590-written)*

## *“Songs and Sonnets”*

## *“Holy Sonnets” (1621)*



# Career

can be divided into two halves



the lover of ladies and  
the theatre

the great preacher

! there is nevertheless remarkable *consistency* in  
the style of his poems and prose

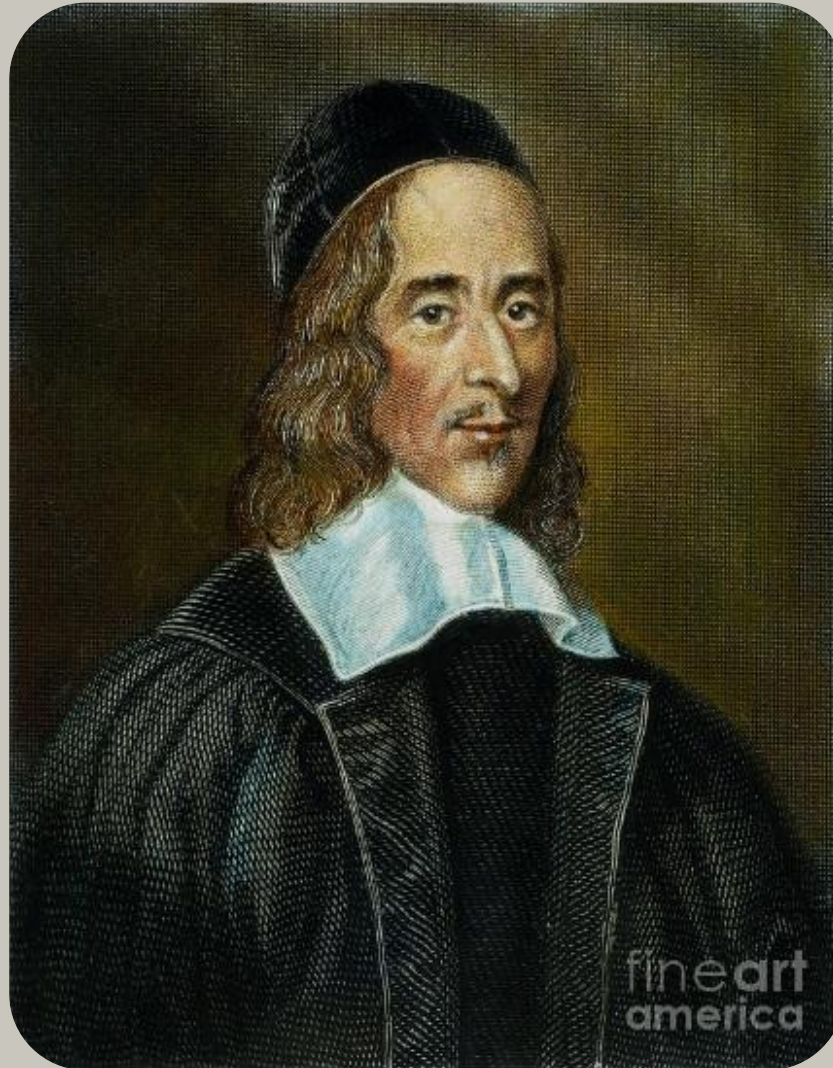
## Style:

- ➔ physically vigorous
- ➔ intellectually complex
- ➔ has considerable dramatic force
- ➔ contains a wide variety of moods

*"a king that ruled as he thought fit, the universal monarchy of wit". (T.Carew (1595-1640))*



# George Herbert (1593-1633)





distinguished  
university career  
at Trinity College,  
Cambridge







was a favourite at the court of James I

but in 1624 gave up his worldly ambitions to become a member of the Christian ministry



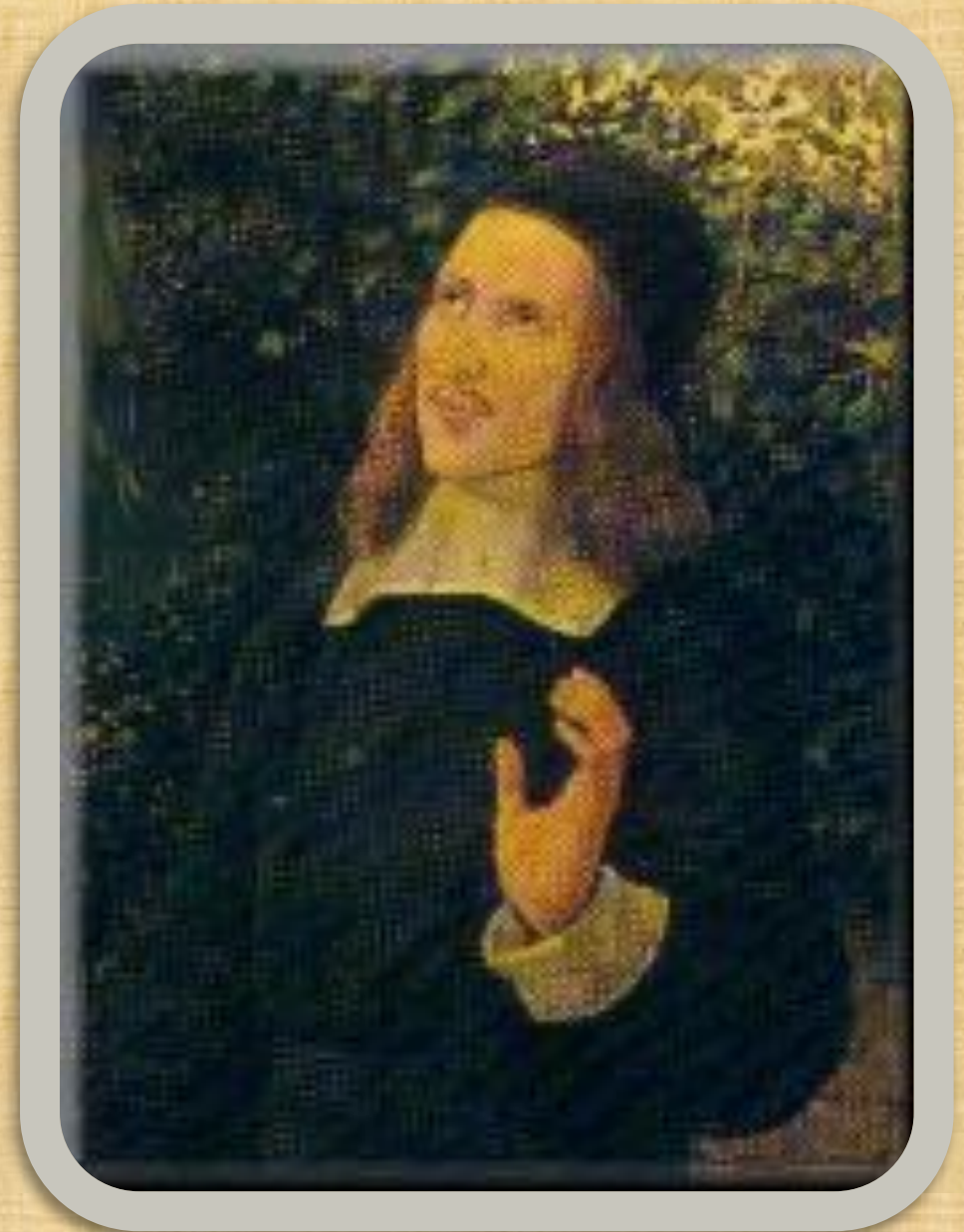
In 1630 - was appointed rector of a small parish near Salisbury called Bemerton.

There:

- ➔ preached and wrote poetry
- ➔ helped rebuild the church out of his own funds
- ➔ cared deeply for his parishioners.

gained a reputation for

- ➔ charity
- ➔ energy
- ➔ humility
- ➔ being an accomplished musician







“Holy Mr. Herbert”



## Style and subjects:

- ➔ poetry is deeply religious.
- ➔ poetic wit and diction are usually simpler than J.Donne's, drawing on images from nature and common everyday life.
- ➔ poetry is sensitive and moving, combining simple directness with courtly grace.

## Style and subjects:

- precision of language
- metrical versatility
- ingenious use of imagery or conceits that was favored by the metaphysical school of poets.
- include almost every known form of song and poem
- reflect G. Herbert's concern with speech - conversational, persuasive, proverbial.

Carefully arranged in related sequences, the poems explore and celebrate the ways of God's love as Herbert discovered them within the fluctuations of his own experience.

***“A Priest to the Temple” (1652)***

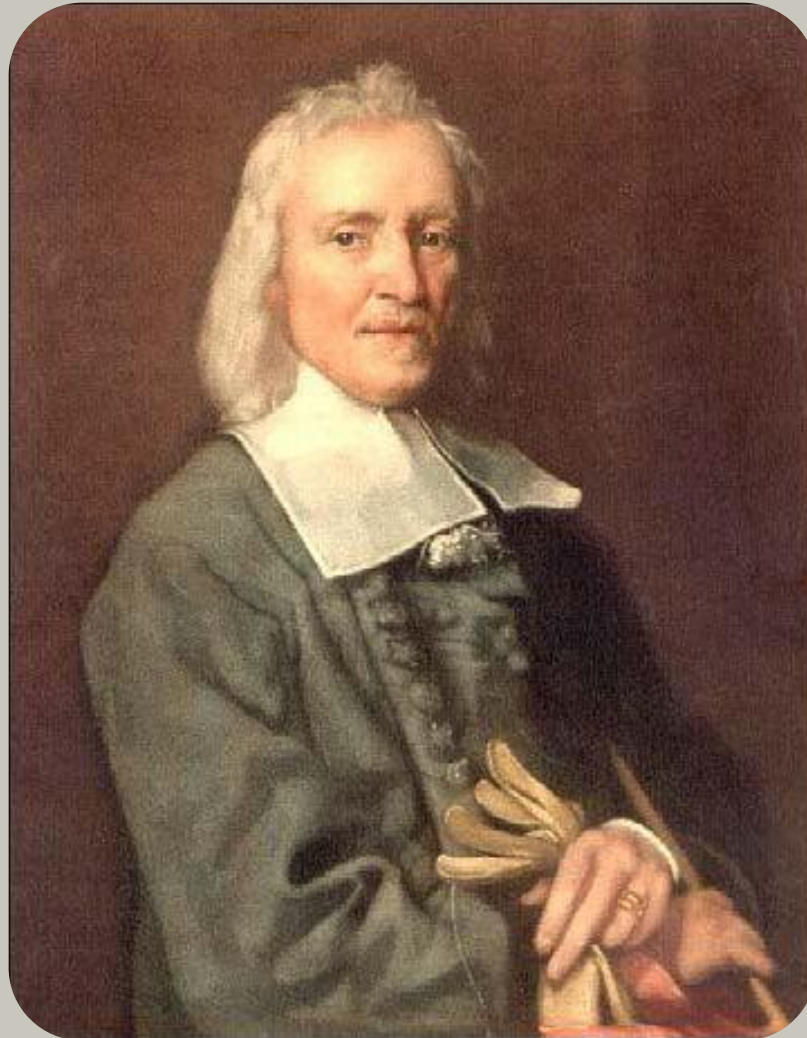


***biographies***

***Izaak Walton***

***John Aubrey***

Izaak Walton (1593-1683)



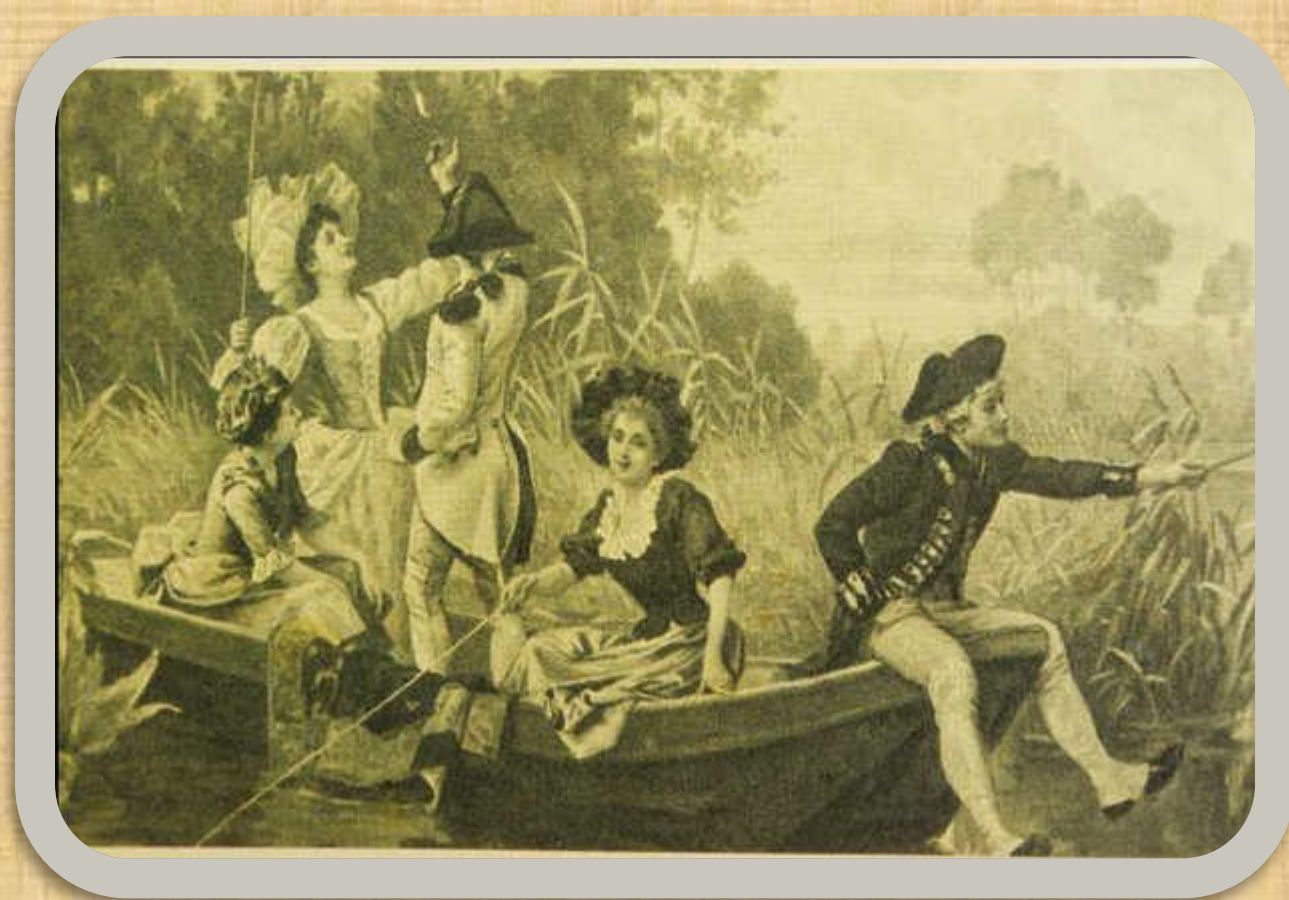


was the first Englishman  
to write biographical  
portraits in the modern  
sense

His portraits of eminent men humble enough to lead ordinary lives have been criticised for being *inaccurate in details* (some of the less holy aspects of their lives being conveniently forgotten out of a desire to present them as moral examples), but they are *simple, clear, warm-hearted and full of interesting insights*.



***"The Compleat Angler  
or the Contemplative  
Man's Recreation"***  
(1653) - a famous  
discourse on the sport  
of fishing



Written at a time of violence and Civil war, it contains, among other things, direct, fresh descriptions of the English countryside.

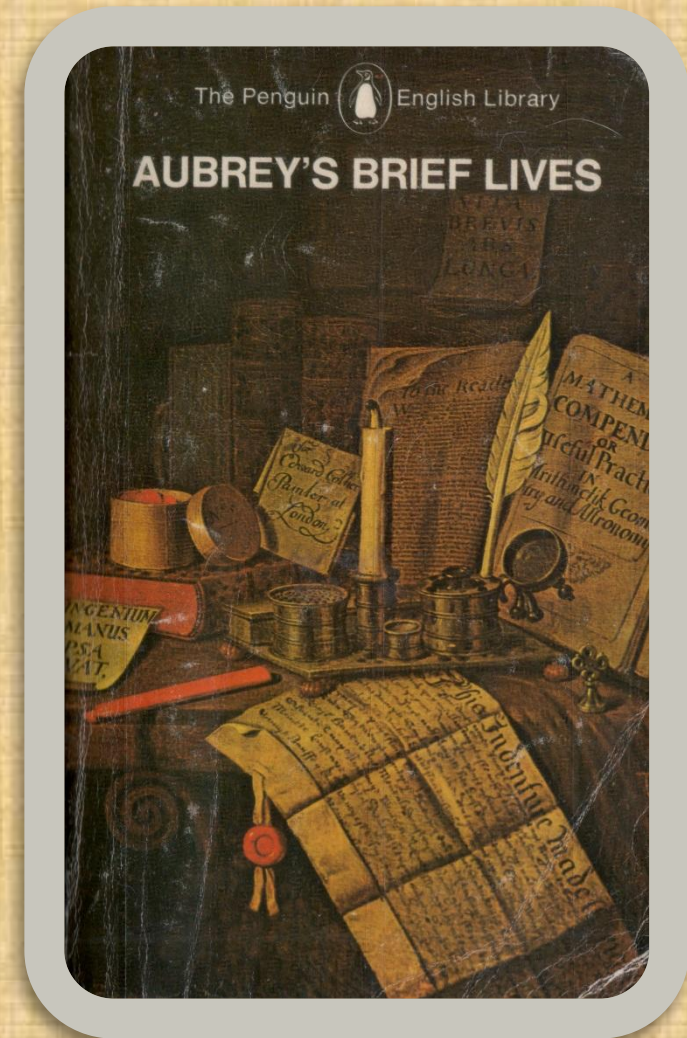
# John Aubrey (1626-1697)





# collection of short biographies “*Brief Lives*”

more gossipy, more informal  
and, since he was less  
respectful of his subjects,  
frequently more entertaining





# John Milton (1608-1674)



## epic poem "*Paradise Lost*" (1667)

a long poem in twelve books, written to "justify the ways of God to men"

In concerns both the Fall of the Angels and the fall of Man (the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden). The poem is highly allegoric. ( God - a symbol of monarchy; Angels, Satan - the parliament). It is characterized by its duality (two independent views do together). J.Milton chose his themes from the Bible, but under his treatment they became revolutionary in spirit.

The revolutionary poets of the 19th century said that in "Paradise Lost" J.Milton refused to accept the conventional Bible story - blending of materialism and religious idealism.



# Andrew Marvell (1621-1678)



The son of the clergyman with Puritan views, A. Marvell, had until 1651 moderate political sympathies.

He regarded Parliamentary success as a historical necessity.





He travelled abroad in France,  
Holland, Switzerland, Spain, and Italy  
from 1642-1646.



In 1650, A.Marvell became the tutor of twelve-year-old Mary Fairfax (later Duchess of Buckingham), the daughter of the retired Lord General of the parliamentary forces. At the Yorkshire seat of the Fairfax family Marvell seems to have written, over a period of about three years, most of his non-satiric English poems.

## Style:

intellectual subtlety of the Metaphysicals with a kind of sensuous immediacy.

A. Marvell's wit had a "*tough reasonableness beneath the slight lyric grace*" which, playing over "*the great traditional commonplaces of European literature*", renews them (T. S. Eliot)

***"To His Coy Mistress"***

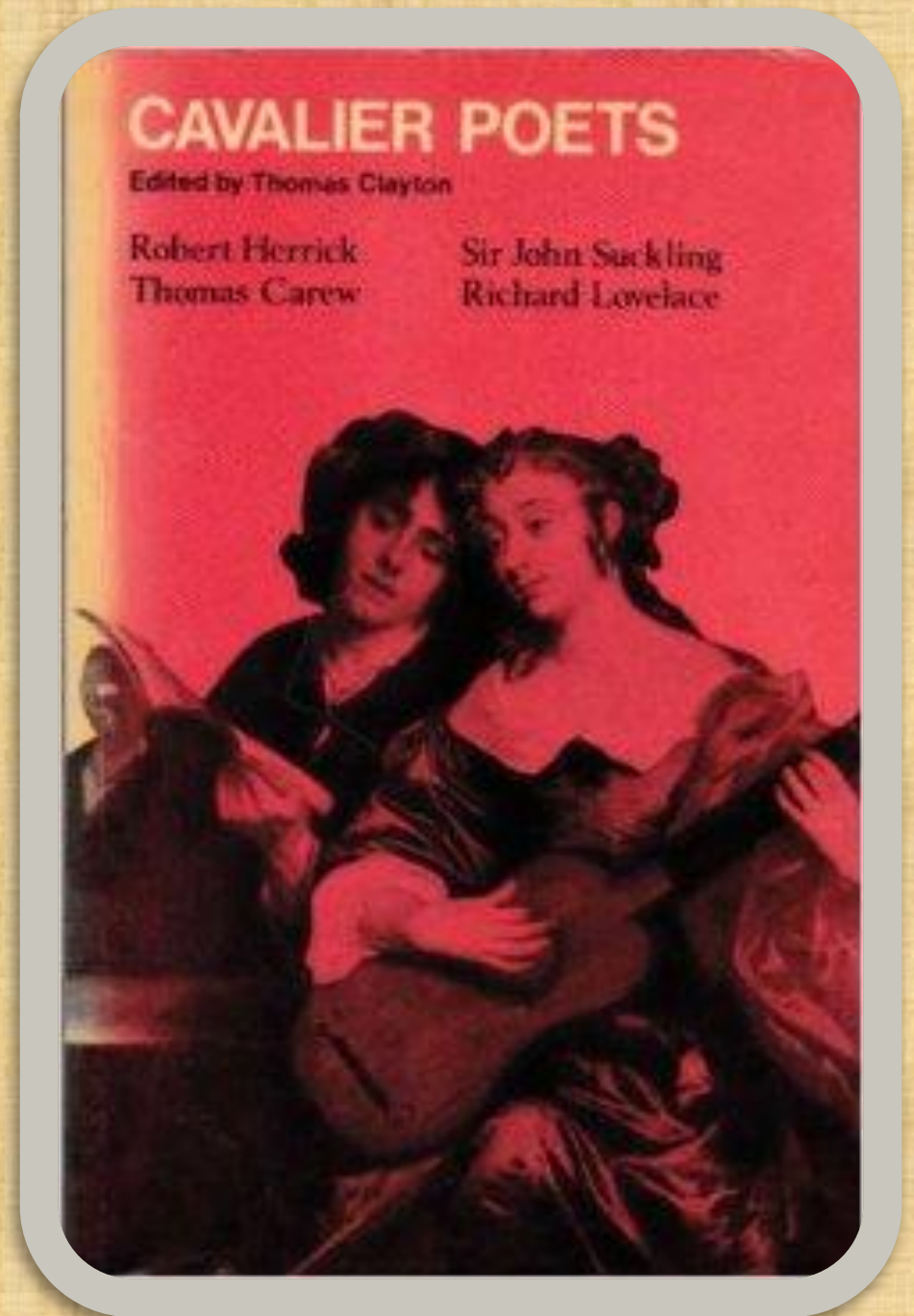
***"An Horation Ode upon Cromwell's Return  
from Ireland"***

!!!! are often described as the greatest political poems in England



# The Cavalier Poets

The group of poets were supporters of Charles I



**Style:**

**their verse is characterized by short firm lines, lively diction and graceful wit.**

**The brightest representatives of the group were: T.Carew, Sir J.Suckling and R.Lovelace.**

# Thomas Carew (1595-1640)





Nothing is known of T.Carew's education  
before he matriculated at Merton  
College, Oxford, in 1608

From 1613 to 1616 Carew served as secretary to Sir Dudley Carleton on embassies to Italy and the Netherlands.

After being fired for making insulting remarks about Carleton and his wife, T.Carew returned to England for a futile search for employment.

T.Carew had a reputation for mischief that stayed with him all of his adult life. This reputation did nothing to damage his career as a poet, soldier, and courtier.



*"A Divine Mistress"* and *"Disdain Returned"*, were prized for their wit.

Much of T.Carew's poetry was sexually explicit far beyond the norms of his age, and he was a reputed libertine.

Yet he translated nine of the Psalms and wrote one of the finest elegies of the period: *"An Elegy on the Death of the Dean of St. Paul's Dr. John Donne."* It is a solemn tribute to J.Donne's contribution to English poetry and the English Language.

Perhaps the most interesting of T.Carew's achievements is his verse criticism of his contemporaries. Formal criticism was in its infancy during the early 17th century.

# Sir John Suckling (1609-1641)



J.Suckling matriculated at Trinity College, Cambridge in 1623 but left without taking a degree in 1626.





18 y.o. - a military and  
ambassadorial career in  
the Low Countries

+

joined the English  
soldiers serving in the  
army of Gustavus  
Adolphus during  
the 30 Years' War.





knighted in  
September 1630

returned to the English court in *May*, 1632, where he became very popular through his wealth and charm





a gamester,  
invented the game  
of cribbage



J.Suckling treated poetry casually, as a pastime, never committing himself to serious study of literature



his poetry suffers from irregularity.

## Style:

inclined in the direction of J. Donne's style, with its elaborate metaphors and explosive passion

lacks the depth of feeling





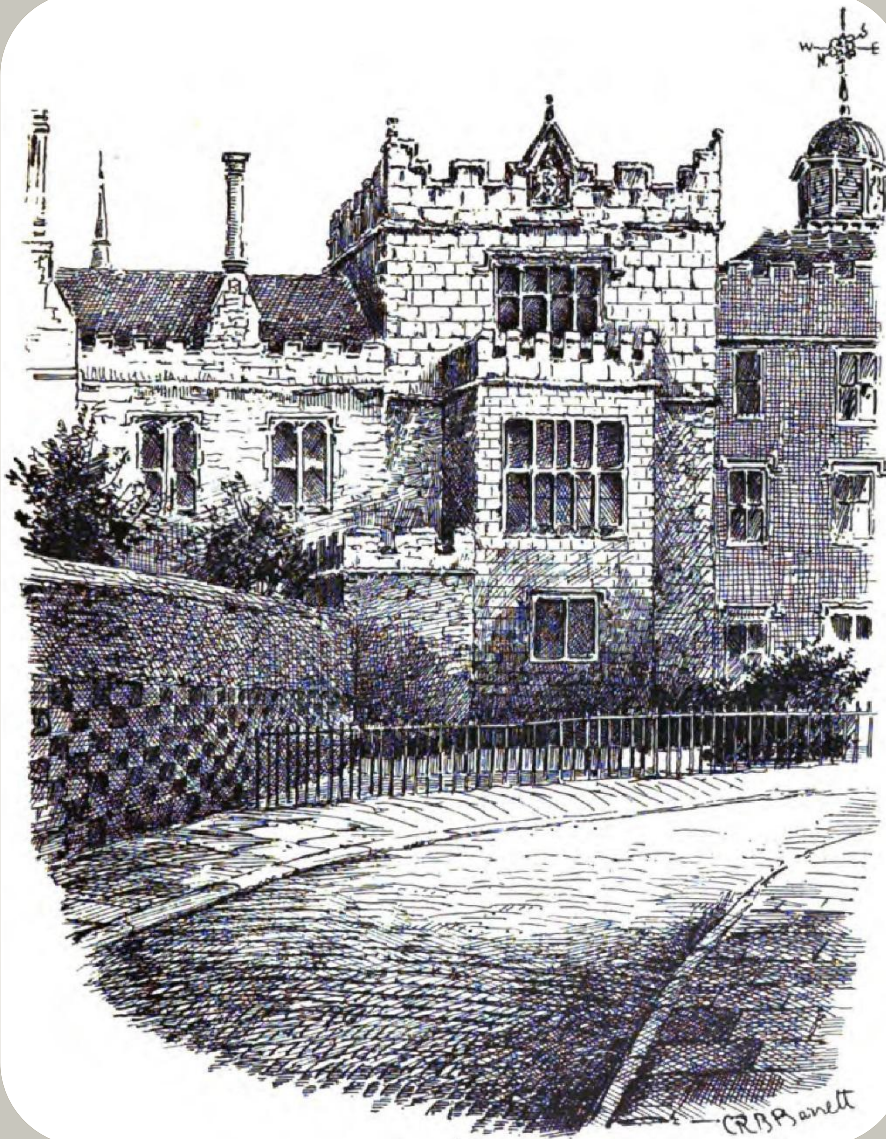
# Richard Lovelace (1618-1658)



RICHARD LOVELACE.  
From an original picture at Dulwich College.

born into an old and wealthy  
Kentish family in 1618 in Woolwich





educated at  
Charterhouse  
School and at  
Gloucester  
Hall, Oxford





attractive,  
handsome,  
witty,  
the very model of a courtier

➔ a key figure at court

➔ close to the king

➔ took part in the King's military  
expeditions to Scotland in 1639-1640

imprisoned in Westminster Gatehouse  
from April 30 to June 21, 1642



financially ruined by his support of the royalists

lived on charity

died in poverty in 1658

