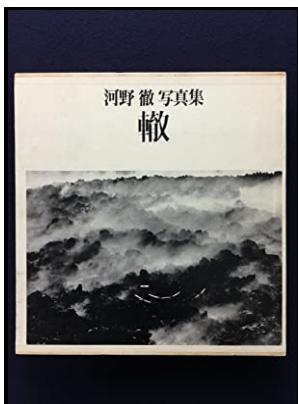


Abraham Cowley: sa vie, son oeuvre

H. Didier - Abraham Cowley (The Diary of Samuel Pepys)



Description: -

- Cowley, Abraham, -- 1618-1667 Abraham Cowley; sa vie, son oeuvre

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Notes: Bibliography: p. [655]-687

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Abraham Cowley

In spite of the troubles of the times, so fatal to poetic fame, his reputation steadily increased, and when, on his return to England in 1656, he published a volume of his collected poetical works, he found himself without a rival in public esteem. He took a practical interest in experimental science, and he was one of those advocating the protection of scientific enterprise.

Abraham Cowley

This became the favourite reading of her son, and he had read it twice before he was sent to school. He died 28th July 1667, aged 49, and was buried in Westminster Abbey, near Chaucer, and Spenser, and a monument was erected to his honor, by George duke of Buckingham, 1675.

Abraham Cowley

He was more successful in imitating the ease and gayety of Anacreon, than the bold and lofty flights of Pindar. In spite of the troubles of the times, so fatal to poetic fame, his reputation steadily increased, and when, on his return to England in 1656, he published a volume of his collected poetical works, he found himself without a rival in public esteem. It was assumed that the rest of the poem had indeed been destroyed or lost until the mid-20th century when scholar discovered the first of two extant manuscript copies of the whole poem among the Cowper family papers.

Abraham Cowley

His attachment to the royal cause, as well as his literary merits recommended him to the notice of the great; he was intimate with lord Falkland, and confidently engaged in the king's service. The long cadences of the with which most of the strophes close, continued to echo in English poetry from down to , but the Odes themselves, which were found to be obscure by the poet's contemporaries, immediately fell into disesteem. These three poems of considerable size, and some smaller ones, were collected in 1633, and published in a volume entitled Poetical Blossoms, dedicated to , the head master of the school, and prefaced by many laudatory verses by schoolffellows.

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To this purpose he performed several dangerous journeys into , , Flanders, the , or wherever else the king's troubles required his attendance. At

Cambridge he wrote some plays, including *The Guardian* 1642 , which was produced after the Restoration as *The Cutter of Coleman Street*.

Abraham Cowley

But despite this problem, Cowley's use of iambic lines of irregular length, pattern, and rhyme scheme was very influential and is still known as English , or Irregular Ode.

Abraham Cowley

During his exile he met with the works of , and determined to reproduce their lofty lyric passion in English. It is not too much to say that this work is the most astonishing feat of imaginative precocity on record; it is marked by no great faults of immaturity, and possesses constructive merits of a very high order.

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