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Fulke Greville

Complete Works

DELPHI POETS SERIES

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Fulke Greville

(1554-1628)



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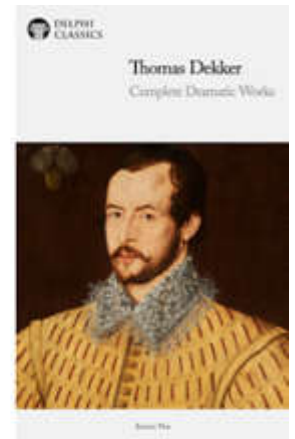
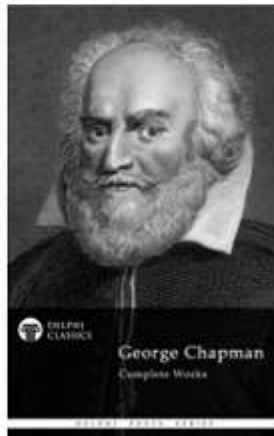
The Delphi Classics Catalogue

A stylized, handwritten signature of Fulke Greville in black ink, written in a cursive script.

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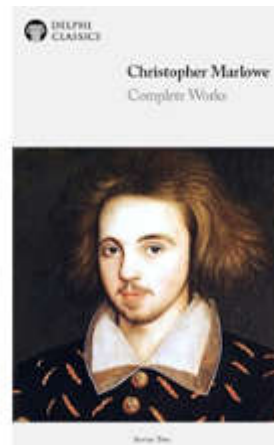
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Fulke Greville



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NOTE



When reading poetry on an eReader, it is advisable to use a small font size and landscape mode, which will allow the lines of poetry to display correctly.

The Life and Poetry of Fulke Greville



Alcester, a market town of Roman origin at the junction of the River Alne and River Arrow in Warwickshire, approximately 8 miles west of Stratford-upon-Avon — Greville was born at Beauchamp Court, near Alcester, in a moated manor house that no longer stands.

Brief Introduction: Fulke Greville



From '1911 Encyclopædia Britannica', Volume 4

FULKE GREVILLE BROOKE, 1st Baron (1554-1628), English poet, only son of Sir Fulke Greville, was born at Beauchamp Court, Warwickshire. He was sent in 1564, on the same day as his life-long friend, Philip Sidney, to Shrewsbury school. He matriculated at Jesus College, Cambridge, in 1568. Sir Henry Sidney, president of Wales, gave him in 1576 a post connected with the court of the Marches, but he resigned it in 1577 to go to court with Philip Sidney. Young Greville became a great favourite with Queen Elizabeth, who treated him with less than her usual caprice, but he was more than once disgraced for leaving the country against her wishes. Philip Sidney, Sir Edward Dyer and Greville were members of the "Areopagus," the literary clique which, under the leadership of Gabriel Harvey, supported the introduction of classical metres into English verse. Sidney and Greville arranged to sail with Sir Francis Drake in 1585 in his expedition against the Spanish West Indies, but Elizabeth peremptorily forbade Drake to take them with him, and also refused Greville's request to be allowed to join Leicester's army in the Netherlands. Philip Sidney, who took part in the campaign, was killed on the 17th of October 1586, and Greville shared with Dyer the legacy of his books, while in his *Life of the Renowned Sir Philip Sidney* he raised an enduring monument to his friend's memory. About 1591 Greville served for a short time in Normandy under Henry of Navarre. This was his last experience of war. In 1583 he became secretary to the principality of Wales, and he represented Warwickshire in parliament in 1592-1593, 1597, 1601 and 1620. In 1598 he was made treasurer of the navy, and he retained the office through the early years of the reign of James I. In 1614 he became chancellor and under-treasurer of the exchequer, and throughout the reign he was a valued supporter of the king's party, although in 1615 he advocated the summoning of a parliament. In 1618 he became commissioner of the treasury, and in 1621 he was raised to the peerage with the title of Baron Brooke, a title which had belonged to the family of his paternal grandmother, Elizabeth Willoughby. He received from James I. the grant of Warwick Castle, in the restoration of which he is said to have spent £20,000. He died on the 30th of

September 1628 in consequence of a wound inflicted by a servant who was disappointed at not being named in his master's will. Brooke was buried in St Mary's church, Warwick, and on his tomb was inscribed the epitaph he had composed for himself: "Folk Grevill Servant to Queene Elizabeth Conceller to King James Frend to Sir Philip Sidney. Trophaeum Peccati."

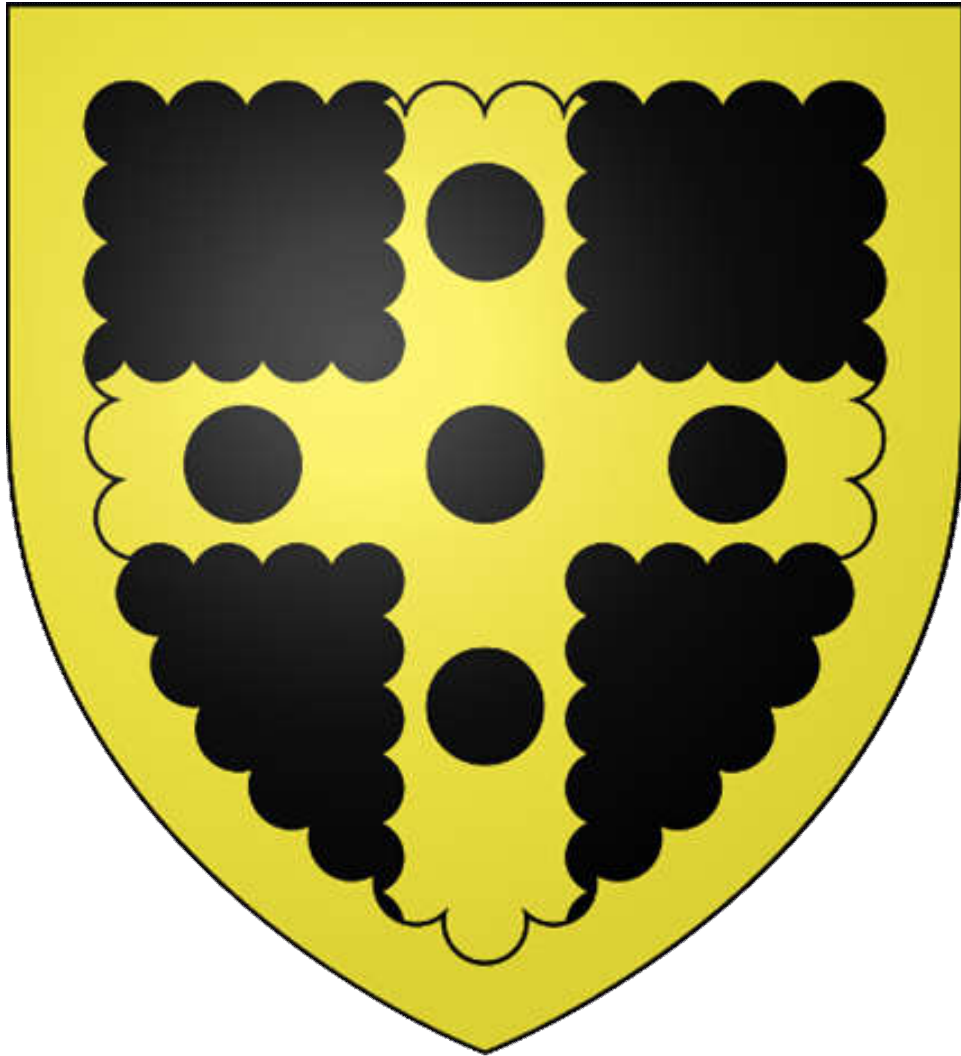
A rhyming elegy on Brooke, published in Huth's *Inedited Poetical Miscellanies*, brings charges of extreme penuriousness against him, but of his generous treatment of contemporary writers there is abundant testimony. His only works published during his lifetime were four poems, one of which is the elegy on Sidney which appeared in *The Phoenix Nest* (1593), and the *Tragedy of Mustapha*. A volume of his works appeared in 1633, another of *Remains* in 1670, and his biography of Sidney in 1652. He wrote two tragedies on the Senecan model, *Alaham* and *Mustapha*. The scene of *Alaham* is laid in Ormuz. The development of the piece fully bears out the gloom of the prologue, in which the ghost of a former king of Ormuz reveals the magnitude of the curse about to descend on the doomed family. The theme of *Mustapha* is borrowed from Madeleine de Scudéry's *Ibrahim ou l'illustre Bassa*, and turns on the ambition of the sultana Rossa. The choruses of these plays are really philosophical dissertations, and the connexion with the rest of the drama is often very slight. In *Mustapha*, for instance, the third chorus is a dialogue between Time and Eternity, while the fifth consists of an invective against the evils of superstition, followed by a chorus of priests that does nothing to dispel the impression of scepticism contained in the first part. He tells us himself that the tragedies were not intended for the stage. Charles Lamb says they should rather be called political treatises. Of Brooke Lamb says, "He is nine parts Machiavel and Tacitus, for one of Sophocles and Seneca.... Whether we look into his plays or his most passionate love-poems, we shall find all frozen and made rigid with intellect." He goes on to speak of the obscurity of expression that runs through all Brooke's poetry, an obscurity which is, however, due more to the intensity and subtlety of the thought than to any lack of mere verbal lucidity.

It is by his biography of Sidney that Fulke Greville is best known. The full title expresses the scope of the work. It runs: *The Life of the Renowned Sr. Philip Sidney. With the true Interest of England as it then stood in relation to all Forrain Princes: And particularly for suppressing the power of Spain Stated by Him: His principall Actions, Counsels, Designes, and Death. Together with a short account of the*

Maximes and Policies used by Queen Elizabeth in her Government. He includes some autobiographical matter in what amounts to a treatise on government. He had intended to write a history of England under the Tudors, but Robert Cecil refused him access to the necessary state papers.

Brooke left no sons, and his barony passed to his cousin, Robert Greville (c. 1608-1643), who thus became 2nd Lord Brooke. This nobleman was imprisoned by Charles I. at York in 1639 for refusing to take the oath to fight for the king, and soon became an active member of the parliamentary party; taking part in the Civil War he defeated the Royalists in a skirmish at Kineton in August 1642. He was soon given a command in the midland counties, and having seized Lichfield he was killed there on the 2nd of March 1643. Brooke, who is eulogized as a friend of toleration by Milton, wrote on philosophical, theological and current political topics. In 1746 his descendant, Francis Greville, the 8th baron (1710-1773), was created earl of Warwick, a title still in his family.

Dr A.B. Grosart edited the complete works of Fulke Greville for the *Fuller Worthies Library* in 1870, and made a small selection, published in the *Elizabethan Library* (1894). Besides the works above mentioned, the volumes include *Poems of Monarchy*, *A Treatise of Religion*, *A Treatie of Humane Learning*, *An Inquisition upon Fame and Honour*, *A Treatie of Warres*, *Caelica in CX Sonnets*, a collection of lyrics in various forms, a letter to an "Honourable Lady," a letter to Grevill Varney in France, and a short speech delivered on behalf of Francis Bacon, some minor poems, and an introduction including some of the author's letters. The life of Sidney was reprinted by Sir S. Egerton Brydges in 1816; and with an introduction by N. Smith in the "Tudor and Stuart Library" in 1907; *Caelica* was reprinted in M.F. Crow's "Elizabethan Sonnet Cycles" in 1898. See also an essay in Mrs. C.C. Stopes's *Shakespeare's Warwickshire Contemporaries* (1907).



Arms of Greville: Sable, on a cross engrailed or five pellets a bordure engrailed of the second



Effigies of the poet's parents: Sir Fulke Greville and Elizabeth Willoughby, Alcester Church, Warwickshire



Portrait of a Young Gentleman, believed to be Sir Philip Sydney, by Isaac Oliver, 1605 — Sidney and Greville were lifelong friends.



The "Darnley Portrait" of Elizabeth I, c. 1575 — Greville attended the court of Elizabeth along with Sidney. Greville became a great favourite of the queen, who valued his sober character and administrative skills.



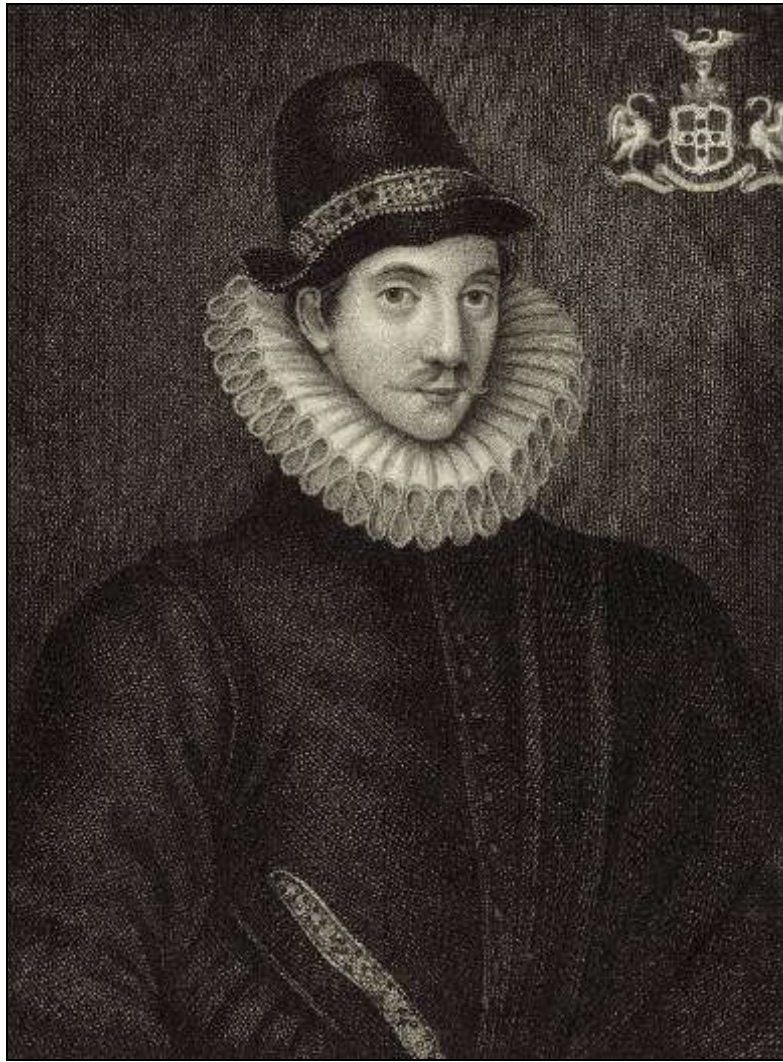
The Battle of Coutras, which took place on 20 October 1587, was a major engagement in the French Religious Wars between a Huguenot (Protestant) army under Henry of Navarre (the future Henry IV of France) and a royalist army led by Anne, Duke of Joyeuse — Greville participated in the Battle of Coutras.



Portrait of James I attributed to John de Critz, c. 1605 — Greville served as Treasurer of the Navy through the early years of the reign of James I.



Greville was granted Warwick Castle by James I in 1604. The castle was in a dilapidated condition when he took possession and he spent £20,000 to restore it to former glory.



Greville by an unknown artist

Complete Poetical Works of Fulke Greville



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