Summary Article: **Campion, Thomas**
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English poet and musician. He was the author of the critical *Art of English Poesie* (1602) and four books of *Ayres* (1601–17), for which he composed both words and music.

The *Art of English Poesie* is an attack on the use of rhyme and a plea for the adoption of unrhymed metres formed on classical models, such as are used in Campion's own 'Rose-cheeked Laura, Come'. He also wrote *Poemata* (1595), in Latin, containing poems, elegies, and epigrams.

Campion was born in Witham, Essex. Educated at Cambridge and other European universities, he then studied law, but left this profession and practised medicine in London.

He published a first collection of airs to the lute with Philip Rosseter in 1601 and four more followed between about 1613 and 1617, all the words of the songs being his own. He composed masques that are among the best of their kind, and produced many fine lyrics notable for their metrical finish. His songs are verbally delicate, and he composed most of his own settings for them; the balance between the lyrics and the music is sensitive and satisfying. The best known are 'There is a Garden in her Face' and 'My Sweetest Lesbia, Let Us Live and Love', a translation from Catullus.

In 1613 he published a book on counterpoint, and wrote the poetry for *Songs of Mourning* on the death of Prince Henry, set by Giovanni Coprario. His poem 'Neptune's Empire' was set for chorus and orchestra by Ernest Walker.

**Works** five books of airs to the lute (over 100) and three separate earlier songs; songs for the production of four masques, 1607–13, including *The Mask of Flowers*.

**quotations**

Campion, Thomas

**documents**

Campion, Thomas: 'Blame Not My Cheeks'

Campion, Thomas: 'There is a Garden in Her Face'

**weblinks**

Selected Poetry of Thomas Campion (1567–1620)

**audios**

Campion, Thomas Never Weather-beaten Sail

https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/campion_thomas_1567_1620

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