

SUMMARY: The document below is Latin verses to Oxford composed by George Coryat (d. 4 March 1607). The verses were printed by Coryat's son in 'Postuma Fragmenta Poematum Georgii Coryati Sarisburiensis, Sacrae Theologiae Baccalaurei', *Coryat's Crudities* (1611), Vol. II, (Glasgow: James MacLehose and Sons, 1905), pp. 395-6 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/posthumafragmen00corygoog#page/n416/mode/2up>.

For biographies of George Coryat and his son, the traveller, Thomas Coryat (1577?-1617), see the *ODNB* entries.

Coryat composed these verses to Oxford during Queen Elizabeth's visit to Oxford University in 1566, during which visit Oxford received an honorary MA degree on 6 September. See Nelson, Alan H., *Monstrous Adversary*, (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2003), p. 45.

The English translation below was provided by Alexander Waugh.

For these and other verses by George Coryat, see also Dr Dana Sutton's translation of *Posthuma Fragmenta Poematum* at:

<http://www.philological.bham.ac.uk/coryate/>.

To the most illustrious Earl of Oxford

Brilliant earl, highest adornment of an ancient clan and, above all, great pillar of our English realm, forgive the thin strain of these verses, which are unable to invoke the noblest sounding words. Your fame commends you as do your celebrated virtues and the mighty deeds of your exceptional person. You seek neither external wealth nor praise in poetry (yet he who loves poetry is he whose deeds are worthy of a poem); however, Noble Guest, arriving here with the Queen, you shall be praised with our verses, and since you attract so great a love of the Muses, one such chirps in your ears with these lines. As you accepted poems last night, so shall you receive ours on this day too.

Most devoted to your Honour,
George Coryate

Ad illustrissimum Comitem Oxoniensem

Clare Comes, generis summum decoramen aviti,
Insuper Angliaci magna Columna soli.

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

Da veniam tenui modulanti carmina plectro,
Quod nequit optatis verba referre sonis.
Te tua nobilitas commendat & inclyta virtus,
Fortiaque eximii corporis acta tui.
Nil opis externae quaeris, nec carmina (quamvis
Carmen amet quisquis carmine digna gerit)
Huc tamen adveniens cum Principe nobilis hospes
Carminibus nobis excipiendus eris.
Tum quia Musarum tanto capiaris amore,
Auribus his modulis occinit una tuis.
Tu velut hesterna cepisti carmina nocte,
Hac quoque sic capias carmina nostra die.

Tuo Honori deditissimus,
Georgius Coryatus