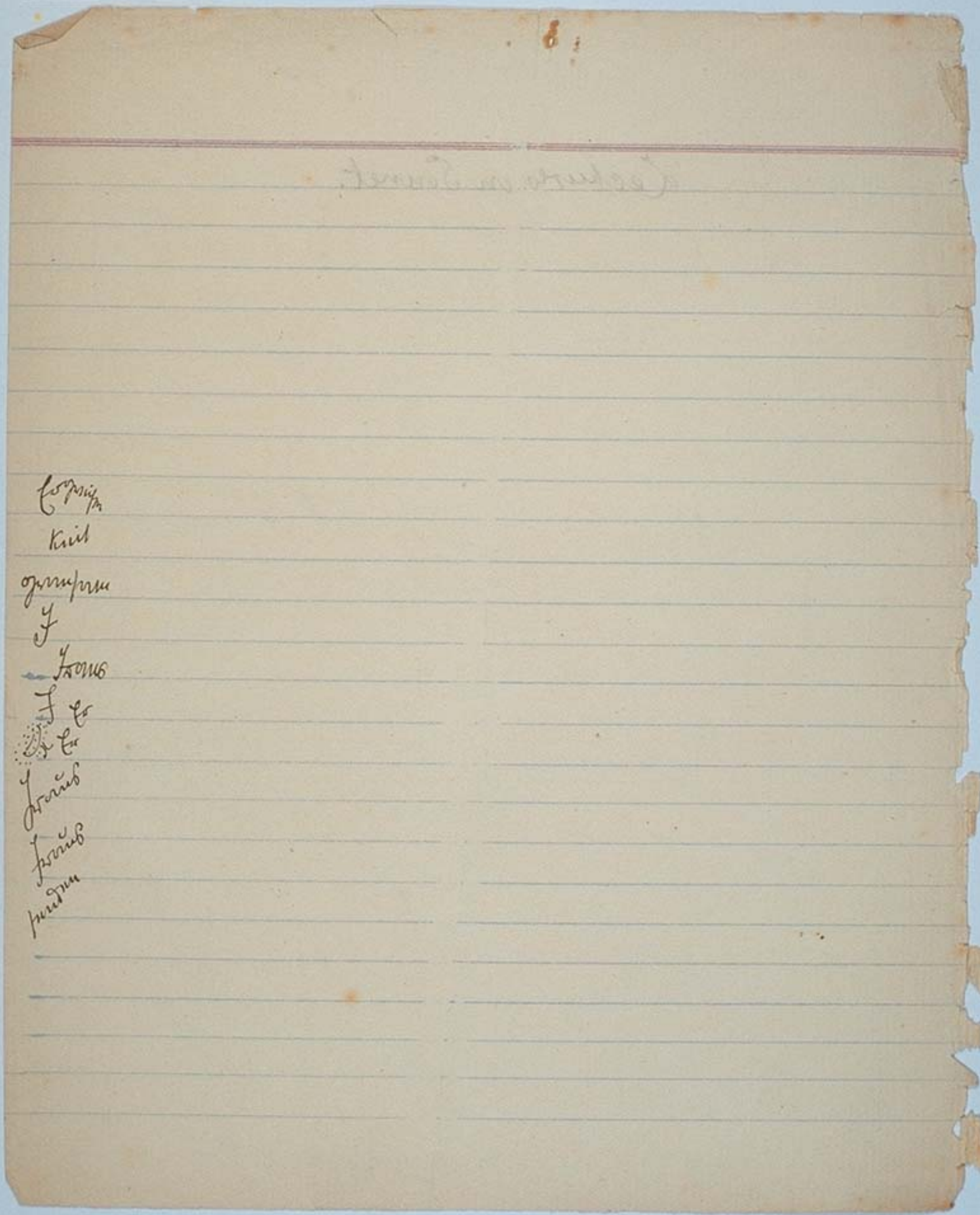
Lectures on Sonnet.



The sonnet of course belongs to the department of lyric poetry It comes from Latin 'sonare' which means to strike an instrument. It differs from other kinds of poetry in elaborate rules which a sonneteer is bound to observe. ~~Not-withstanding~~ However the range of sonnets are remarkably wide. Every mental emotion except the Bacchic or dithyambico is capable of being expressed in a sonnet. (where intellect is suppressed and nervous excitement takes its place)

There are many rules for sonnet of which one may give the following:—

1) It must contain 14 lines of 10 syllables each.

2) The fourteen lines are divided into two portions forming the opening and the close and known as the octave and the sestet.

3) The octave must contain only two rhymes and the sestet not more than three.

Wilson's

Sonnet III. 1. Emathian (Macedonian) Conqueror bid spare the
the house of Pindarus (Alexander)
2. The repeated air of sad Electra's poet had
the power of saving the Athenian walls from
ruin

IV. to shun the broadway and the green
'Himself the primrose path of dalliance treads.'
Hamlet

The good part of Mary (meditative woman)
Ruth (entreats her mother-in-law Naomi
to let her live with her after the
death of the husband, the old woman's
son)

The parable of ten virgins (five wise, five
foolish having lamps without oil)

Sonnet.

Sonnet is a revival in the present century after Milton.

Wordsworth sonneteer

American and Canadian sonnets

Originally Italian (Dante, Gabriel, Rossetti)

Strict restriction of the number of lines (14) + syllables (140)

Provence from the 12th till the 16th century (the invasion by Charles V.), the garden of Europe the land of music, poetry, chivalry

Petrarch went to Provence

Fra. ×
Dante
Petrarch

Dante surpasses Petrarch in weight but in technical perfection the latter stands first

Buonaparte.

Octave
1. Quatrain
A He thought to quell the stubborn of Oak
B Madman! – to chain with chains & bind with bands
B That island queen that sways the flood and lands
A From Ind to Ind, but in fair daylight woke,
2
B When from her wooden walls, bit by sure hands,
A With thunders, and with lightnings, and with smoke,
A Peal after peal the British battle broke,
B Lulling the brine against the Coptic sands.

Sestet
1. Tercet
C We taught him lowlier moods, when Elsinore
D Heard the war moan along the distant sea,
F Rocking with shattered spars, with sudden fires
2
C Flamed over: at Trafalgar yet once more
D We taught him; late he learned humility,
F Perforce, like those whom Gideon schooled with briars.

Alfred Tennyson

4) These rhymes must be distinct, employing more than one ~~oo~~ vowel sound for its variation

On his Deceased Wife

Methought I saw my late espoused saint,
Brought home like Alcestis from the grave
Whom Jove's great son to her glad husband gave,
Rescu'd from death by force, though pale & faint.

Mine as whom washt from spot of child-bed taint
Purification in the old law did save
And such, as yet once more I trust to have
Full sight of her in Heaven without restraint,
c Came vested all in white, pure as her mind:
d Her face was veil'd; yet to my fancied sight,
c Love, sweetness, goodness, in her person shind
d So clear, as in no face with more delight.
c But O as to embrace me she inclin'd,
d I wak'd, she fled, and day brought back my night.
Milton.

5) Forced rhyme are inadmissible, i.e., there must be no strange rhymes such as Browning is fond of using in his narrative poems.
That there you cross the common as
I did
And met the party thus presided.

6) There must be no unusual inversion of words.

7) Any very long words which lessen the number of accents and so weakens the verse is not good.

8) The interest, the verbal music and the emphasis must increase towards the close which should always be important part.

The sonnet is the expression of single thought or of emotion or poetically apprehended fact complete in itself

English Sonnet

Chaucer was in Italy & wrote under the influence of Boccacio & Petrarch, yet his genius was not lyrical but narrative

Sir Thomas Wyatt is deficient in technical completeness

Surrey is thought by Leigh Hunt to have precipitated his death by writing a sonnet called Sardanapalus?

Philip Sidney had an Italian colouring

Spenser is scarcely remarkable as a sonneteer

In Italy, the sonnet is sometime a mode of expression of disgust and displeasure. The sonnet for purposes of burlesque has a tail.

Rules:

1) The tail or coda (It. Canda, Fr. queue, Eng. cue) consists of one or more tercets.

2) The first line of each coda must be shorter in line in the body of the sonnet.

3) The first line of each coda must bear a definite proportion to lines in the body of the sonnet.

4) The first short line must rhyme with the 14th. line in the sonnet.

5) New rhymes must be introduced in the second and third of the tercet.

Hence this critic like William Sharp (Sonnet of this Century) divides all English sonnets into four groups:— (1) Sonnets of Shakespearean structure; (2) Sonnets of octave and sestet of Miltonic structure; sonnets of contemporary structure, i.e. all sonnets on the Petrarchan model in which the metrical and intellectual "wave of flow and ebb" (as originally formulated by the present writer in a sonnet on the sonnet which has appeared in most of anthologies) is strictly observed and in which while the rhyme arrangement of the octave is invariable that of the sestet is free: (4) sonnets of miscellaneous structure

From Encyclopaedia Britannica (Sonnet.)

Shakespeare's Sonnets are most obscure of all his writings. The best critics believe that they are personal not dramatic. If personal we know so little of Shakespeare's private life that we can shed a little light upon their interpretation in a biographical way. Again we do not know to whom they are addressed, whether to a single person or that person was a man or woman.

1. Are the sonnets a personal revelation (Furnivall)
2. Are they dramatic (Browning)
3. Are they written for another? (Boswell)
4. Are they as a sequence addressed to a single person (Dowden)
5. If the person they are addressed to a man? (Furnivall)
6. If the person is a woman are there two women a fair and a dark? (Massey)
7. Are some addressed to a man and others to a woman? Mistr Hay his brother in law & his wife Wm Herbert & a courtezan

For the first section of sonnets one to twenty six we shall go on upon the theory that the person addressed is a young man toward whom it

Shakespeare conceived a romantic friendship such as Socrates displayed in a young man and as we find in the relation of Sidney and his Rubino Manton. Shakespeare wishes him to marry.

In 1598, Francis Meres in a work called Palladis Tamia (Wits' Treasury) dealt with the lights of the English poetry and compared them with the great names of Greece and Rome. He found Shakespeare's counterpart in sweet and witty ~~sonne~~ Ovid. (Venus and Adonis & Lucrece followed by sugared sonnets)

In 1599 appeared a work partly from Shakespeare's pen 'The Passionate Pilgrim' containing sonnets answering pretty closely to his description. But the sonnets which we have now are not published until 1609. & this contained on the title page. "Shakespeare's Sonnets never before imprinted. at London. By G. Eld. for T.T. & are to be sold by William Aspley. T.T. stands for Thomas Thorpe, the publisher

To the only begetter of
These ensuing Sonnets Mr W.H.
All Happiness & Eternitie
Promised by our living Poet
wisheth the well wishing adventurer
to setting forth T.T.

Boswell: "Own" signifies, own, particular, special, begotten naturally signifies one who originates & accosts, produces; not as Boswell would have it one who procures or obtains, ~~although~~. Mr. was attached to the name of peers e.g.i. Lord – was called Mr. Sackville.

If w. it an William Herbert Earl of Pembroke then he was the son of Henry Herbert who married Mary Sidney in 1577 (the third wife) William was born in 1580 & had a brother Philip. He broke off negotiations for a marriage with a Lord admiral's daughter. He did not marry till 1604, having been the Earl for three years. Herbert was an extremely handsome man a proper person of graceful deportment. Very picturesque viva effigie of nobility. He had also winning personality that belonged to Sidney family.

To Herbert & his brother Philip (little Mr. P) was presented a copy of the first Folio 1623

~~immer~~ im Zeitgeist stehen stehen

bald = gleich darauf

beinahe = all but

= to approach somebody with an

einem wenigen Wesens entziehen

einem Wesens Vorwurfen

ace

wirft z. Den Zell offen Unterwürfe gegen

die Kritiker

Bind getroffen fatto

You are music in yourself & yet you refuse
to listen to the music provided for you
Why do you not show satisfaction with the
music that thou loves or receive with
pleasure what is really hurtful to you

The Rules for Sonnet

Examinations on
Sonnet
Examination on Sonnet

The Rules Rules Rules Ru
R. Rules of sonnets:—

- Methough I saw my late espoused saint,
Brought to me like Alcestis from the grave
Whom Jove's great son to her glad husband gave.
Rescu'd from death though pale and faint.

The sonnet of the sixteen
Pang. Metre & Engl. Poetry.

Shakespeare's Sonnet

Div. I 1–26.

Group A 1–17 in which S. advises W. H to marry and beget of a son
"Make thee another self for love of me
That beauty still may live in thine or thee"

Group B. 18–26 in which he merely discourses W's personal beauty & how much he loves him. "Mine eye hath play'd the painter and hath stell'd.
Thy beauty's form in table of my heart.

Div. II. 27–32 his deep love toward W. expressed by thoughts

33–35 Will's sensual faults is blamed but on his repentance is forgiven

36–39 some unfortunate incident has occurred which makes it advisable for S to keep apart from W.

40–42 Will seems to have stolen Shakespeare's Mrs. and S expresses his sorrow & sadness but without bitterness.