Sir Philip Sidney was the grandson of the Duke of Northumberland and the son of one of Queen Elizabeth I's ladies-in-waiting. Sidney was born in Kent and educated at Shrewsbury School and Oxford University. As a young man, he traveled to France, Germany, and Italy and joined Queen Elizabeth’s court. Sidney died of gangrene at the age of 32 after sustaining a battle wound in the Netherlands. None of his work was published during his lifetime.