John Lyly (1554? – 1606)

*Euphues: The Anatomy of Wit (1579)*

A didactic romance with flimsy plot but interesting for its style. Characterized by a wide vocabulary, alliteration, ornate language, elaborate simles, odd combinations of words, syntactical symmetry.

Euphuistic language

I have read that the bull being tied to the fig-tree loseth his strength, that the whole herd of deer stand at the gaze if they smell a sweet apple, that the dolphin by the sound of music is brought to the shore. And then no marvel it is that if the fierce bull be tamed with the fig-tree, if that women being as weak as sheep be overcome with a fig, if the wild deer be caught with an apple, that the tame damsel is won with a blossom, if the fleet dolphin be allured with harmony, that the women be entangled with the melody of men’s speech, fair promises and solemn protestations. But folly it were for me to marke their mischiefs, sith I am neither able, neither they willing to amend their manners, it becometh me rather to show what our sex should do, than to open what yours doth.