

I10 Heere lyes a treasure in this pitte

Notes. This dispassionate assessment is one of several poems on Raleigh to explore the dubious benefits of his reputation for “wit”.

Heere lyes a treasure in this pitte
the wonder of his tyme for witte.
butt to small purpose did itt serve
his witt could nott his head preserve:
his living was belov’d of none,
yett most men did his death bemone:
heaven hath his soule, the world his fame,
the grave his corps, stukelye¹ his shame.

5

Source. Bodleian MS Eng. Hist. c.272, p. 51

Other known sources. Raleigh, *Poems* 197; Bodleian MS Aubrey 6, fol. 79r; Houghton MS Eng. 1278, item 10

I10

¹ *stukelye*: Lewis Stukeley, the Vice-Admiral of Devon and Raleigh’s kinsman, who escorted Raleigh to London after his return from Guiana and who then gave evidence against him on their arrival. Stukeley was widely attacked at the time for betraying his kinsman.
