

Anonymous, "On seeing Saphira in a Riding Habit"

by admin - Friday, December 04, 2015

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ANONYMOUS

"On seeing SAPHIRA in a Riding Habit"

WHEN *Sapphira*, in her sex's garb we see,
The queen of beauty then she seems to be:
Now, fair *Adonis*, in this male disguise,
Or *Cupid*, killing with his mother's eyes:
No stile of empire's chang'd by this remove, 5
Who seem'd the goddess, seems the god of love.

NOTES:

Title *Riding Habit* "A garment or outfit worn for horse riding; (in later use) a riding dress worn by women or girls, consisting of a long skirt and tight-fitting, double-breasted jacket" (*OED*).

3 *Adonis* In classical myth, a beautiful youth loved by both Aphrodite and Persephone. In extended usage, an Adonis is an extremely handsome young man (*OCD*).

4 *Cupid, killing with his mother's eyes* In classical mythology, the god of love and desire. He is often portrayed as the son of Venus, the goddess of love.

5 *stile* Variant spelling of the word "style."

Source: *The Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. 36 (February 1766), p. 89.

Edited by Sierra Moreno