

## Richard Brathwait: The First Lakeland Poet



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***(Juliet Kertzmann)***

## RICHARD BRATHWAIT: THE FIRST LAKELAND POET

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Hugill Publications Ltd., Ings Cumbria, 2007. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Signed First Edition. 8vo - over 7¾" - 9¾" tall. Richard Brathwait's 19th century biographer described him as 'a Christian and Upright Man' who was well proportioned, and one of the handsomest men of his day; remarkable for ready wit and humour; charitable to the poor in the extreme, so much as to have involved himself in difficulties by it'. But the truth was different. Richard was a man of his times. As a hard and practical businessman, his neighbours would have been wise to treat him with sensible caution. He was devout in his faith, but still worldly in his ambition. Nor was it just their property that his fellow countrymen might have been wise to protect. His promiscuous behaviour did not cease at the close of his adolescence or even his marriage vows. The author of 'Drunken Barnaby' had much more than just a passing resemblance to the riotous hero of his famous poem. He also had a secret. The one painting that survives gives us a clue into his true character. The lace edged ruff is fastened with a ruby and the chain hangs down to his breast where, what appears to be two jewels, are covered by his right hand. Dressed for his portrait he chooses to partially conceal, what we might assume to be the most splendid item of his dress, and that which he holds closest to his heart. 8vo - over 7¾" - 9¾" tall.

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