

# **CAN GRANDE'S CASTLE**

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Can Grande's Castle by Amy Lowell

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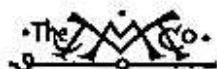
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**AMY LOWELL**

**CAN GRANDE'S  
CASTLE**



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# CAN GRANDE'S CASTLE

BY

AMY LOWELL

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"SWORD BLADES AND POPPY SEEDS,"

"MEN, WOMEN, AND GHOSTS,"

"TENDENCIES IN MODERN AMERICAN POETRY," ETC.

New York

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1918

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Thanks are due to the editor of *The North American Review* for permission to reprint "Sea-Blue and Blood-Red" and "Hedge Island," and to the editor of *The Seven Arts* for a like permission in regard to "Guns as Keys; and the Great Gate Swings."

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*I turn the page and read . . .*

*The heavy musty air, the black desks,  
The bent heads and the rustling noises  
In the great dome*

*Vanish . . .*

*And*

*The sun hangs in the cobalt-blue sky,  
The boat drifts over the lake shallows,  
The fishes skim like amber shades through the undulating weeds,  
The oleanders drop their rosy petals on the lawns,  
And the swallows dive and swirl and whistle  
About the cleft battlements of Can Grande's castle . . . ."*

Richard Aldington. "AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM."

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## PREFACE

THE four poems in this book are more closely related to one another than may at first appear. They all owe their existence to the war, for I suppose that, had there been no war, I should never have thought of them. They are scarcely war poems, in the strict sense of the word, nor are they allegories in which the present is made to masquerade as the past. Rather, they are the result of a vision thrown suddenly back upon remote events to explain a strange and terrible reality. "Explain" is hardly the word, for to explain the subtle causes which force men, once in so often, to attempt to break the civilization they have been at pains to rear, and so oblige other, saner, men to oppose them, is scarcely the province of poetry. Poetry works more deviously, but perhaps not less conclusively.