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## VILLANELLE

LAURENCE DAKIN

We spoke of Lovers old in story,  
    With lips athirst and hearts aflame,  
Who lived in fire and died in glory.

Love shaped their lives, and history  
    In gold and purple traced each name,  
We spoke of Lovers old in story.

And Troy burned for love, old Troy,  
    Jewelled with the eyes of Helen's fame,  
Who lived in fire and died in glory.

And Nilus babbling oratory,  
    Some ruined Caesar spilt in blame;  
We spoke of Lovers old in story.

And Sestos fame, once transitory,  
    Was fixed by Hero's burning claim,  
Who lived in fire and died in glory.

Like things ambrosial, gold or ivory,  
    They live in legend bright as flame;  
We spoke of Lovers old in story,  
Who lived in fire and died in glory.