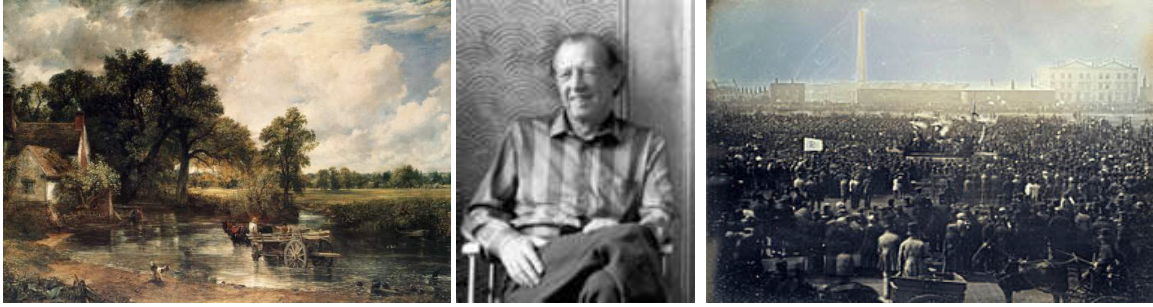


## Raymond Williams and *The Lonely Londoners*



In his book *The Country and the City*, Raymond Williams argues that English literature has a longstanding historical fascination with ideas of city and country. He is particularly interested in how geographical space itself can contour ideas of social structure and artistic achievement. Accordingly, space becomes political and problematic, and being a Marxist, Williams wants us to think about what representations and readings of the city and country can teach us about ideology and social structure.

1. Outline the visual images and metaphorical associations Williams makes of the country and city. Explain how we perceive these two spaces and how they are opposed to one another.
2. If we read the landscape of London presented in Selvon's novel, what do we find? Is it a happy pastoral scene, a vibrant metropolis, or something else entirely?
3. Williams argues that perceptions of space are filtered through an individual - consider how this works in *Lonely Londoners*.

