



## Selected Poems: John Gay (Paperback)

By John Gay

Carcanet Press Ltd, United Kingdom, 2006. Paperback. Condition: New. New edition. Language: English . Brand New Book. John Gay (1685-1732) was part of the association of wits that included Alexander Pope and Jonathan Swift. But though Gay s exposure of weakness and folly is no less acute than theirs, his wit is characterised by a benign and ironic sense of the fallibility of humankind. Gay is a great master of parody and pastiche, and the quality of Gay s poetry, as Marcus Walsh points out in his introduction, lies in its sense of verbal play . The ironic appreciation of life as it is that makes his Beggar s Opera enduringly popular is present in his poetry. Trivia , which Gay s biographer called the greatest poem on London in English literature , teems with the chaotic energy of the 18th-century city, while The Shepherd s Week is a pastoral of comic realism. This selection enables Gay s poetry to take its place alongside his drama as one of the most distinctive reflections of his age.

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