

**THE MUSES' LIBRARY. THE POETICAL
WORKS OF JOHN GAY. EDITED WITH A
LIFE AND NOTES BY JOHN UNDERHILL,
VOL. I: LONGER POEMS, EPISTLES AND
EPISTOLARY VERSE, ECLOGUES**

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JOHN GAY & JOHN UNDERHILL

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The Muses' Library

POEMS OF JOHN GAY

VOL. I.

The frontispiece to this volume is reproduced from a portrait of Gay by William Aikman, Sir Godfrey Kneller's follower. The original painting is the property of Lord Scarsdale, and was exhibited at the Grosvenor Gallery in 1887-88, and at the New Gallery ('Guelph Exhibition') in 1891. It represents a life-size bust, in blue gown and cap, and was engraved by 'F. Milvius' (*i.e.* Kytz). Another portrait, also exhibited at the Guelph Exhibition, belongs to the Earl of Loudoun. It shows the poet seated, and has a dog in the foreground. Gay was painted also by Dahl, Zincke, and Hogarth (by the last-named in profile); and in the National Portrait Gallery is an unfinished sketch in oils by Sir Godfrey Kneller, generally supposed to represent him. There is finally the portrait by Richardson (dated 12th August 1732) which was exhibited by the Viscountess Clifden at South Kensington in 1867. That which is here reproduced is said to have been praised by Gay's contemporaries for its fidelity.



John Gay

THE
POETICAL WORKS OF
JOHN GAY

EDITED WITH A LIFE
AND NOTES BY
JOHN UNDERHILL

VOL. I.

LONGER POEMS, EPISTLES
AND EPISTOLARY VERSE,
ECLOGUES



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PREFACE

TWO matters in connection with this edition of Gay's Poems call for brief comment on the part of the Editor.

It should be explained in the first instance that every effort has been made to put forward a complete and trustworthy text. In the case of those pieces which were included by Gay in the quarto edition of his poems in 1720, the revised versions then given have been followed; variations from an earlier form being indicated where they occur. The other poems have for the most part been reprinted from first edition copies. The spelling and the punctuation have in all cases been made to conform to the usage of the present day.

The Introductory Memoir, it may further be explained, contains a summary of the chief facts now ascertainable concerning the life and literary career of John Gay. The writer has