

Delphi Complete Works of John Dryden: Illustrated Delphi Poets 29

John Dryden (1631-1700) was a towering figure in English literature, renowned for his contributions to both poetry and drama during the Restoration era. His works are characterized by their wit, satire, and mastery of language, and they continue to be celebrated and studied today.



Delphi Complete Works of John Dryden (Illustrated) (Delphi Poets Series Book 29) by Emily Sun

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 11082 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Print length : 7828 pages
Lending : Enabled



The Delphi Complete Works of John Dryden is a comprehensive collection of Dryden's major works, including his famous plays, poems, and essays. This edition is meticulously edited and illustrated, making it an invaluable resource for scholars and enthusiasts alike.

Major Works

Plays

Dryden was a prolific playwright, and his works include some of the most famous and influential comedies and tragedies of the Restoration era. Among his most notable plays are:

- *The Conquest of Granada* (1670): A heroic tragedy set in the Spanish kingdom of Granada.
- *All for Love* (1678): A tragedy based on the story of Antony and Cleopatra.
- *The Spanish Friar* (1680): A comedy set in 17th-century Spain.
- *Amphitryon* (1690): A comedy based on the Greek myth of Zeus and Amphitryon.

Poems

Dryden was also a gifted poet, and his works include a wide range of genres, from satirical verse to epic poetry. Some of his most famous poems are:

- *Astraea Redux* (1660): A poem celebrating the restoration of King Charles II to the English throne.
- *Annus Mirabilis* (1667): A poem commemorating the English victory over the Dutch in the Battle of Lowestoft.
- *Absalom and Achitophel* (1681): A political satire targeting the Whig party.
- *The Hind and the Panther* (1687): A religious allegory defending the Roman Catholic faith.

Essays

In addition to his plays and poems, Dryden also wrote a number of influential essays on literary criticism. His most famous essay is:

- *An Essay of Dramatic Poesy* (1668): A dialogue between four characters discussing the relative merits of ancient and modern drama.

Themes and Styles

Dryden's works are known for their wit, satire, and mastery of language. He was a master of heroic couplets, and his poems are often characterized by their polished, elegant style. However, Dryden was also capable of writing in a more playful and humorous vein, as evidenced by his comedies and satirical verse.

Thematic concerns abound in Dryden's works, including:

- **Politics:** Dryden was a staunch supporter of the monarchy, and his works often reflect his political views.
- **Religion:** Dryden converted to Catholicism in 1685, and his later works often explore religious themes.
- **Love:** Dryden's works often explore the complexities of love and relationships.
- **Human nature:** Dryden was a keen observer of human nature, and his works often provide insights into the human condition.

Impact on English Literature

John Dryden had a profound impact on English literature. His plays and poems helped to shape the literary landscape of the Restoration era, and his critical essays continue to be influential today. Dryden's mastery of

language and his ability to express complex ideas in a clear and engaging way have made him one of the most celebrated writers in the English language.

The Delphi Complete Works of John Dryden is an essential collection for anyone interested in English literature. This comprehensive edition provides a wealth of information about Dryden's life and work, and it is a valuable resource for scholars and enthusiasts alike.



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