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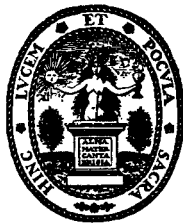
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# John Donne's Poetry

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## A note on texts

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Grierson's Oxford Standard Authors edition of 1933 still offers the most viable and most readily available text; and, unless otherwise stated, the text given will be his. What deviations there are usually derive from Helen Gardner's editions of *The Divine Poems* (Oxford, 1952) and *The Elegies and the Songs and Sonnets* (Oxford, 1965). Once or twice I have adopted a manuscript reading which both these editors have rejected. Reasons for these divergences are given in a footnote. The Sermons are quoted from the ten-volume University of California Press edition, ed. G. R. Potter and Evelyn M. Simpson, and I have used the text of the *Paradoxes* given in Evelyn Simpson's *John Donne: Selected Prose* (Oxford, 1967), which, though not complete, has at least been edited.

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...it will be further found, that when Authors shall have at length raised themselves into general admiration and maintained their ground, errors and prejudices have prevailed concerning their genius and their works, which the few who are conscious of those errors and prejudices would deplore; if they were not recompensed by perceiving that there are select Spirits for whom it is ordained that their fame shall be in the world an existence like that of Virtue, which owes its being to the struggles it makes, and its vigour to the enemies whom it provokes; – a vivacious quality, ever doomed to meet with opposition, and still triumphing over it...

WORDSWORTH, 'Essay Supplementary', 1815