



The Complete Works

by William Dunbar, edited by John Conlee

DESCRIPTION:

Scottish poet William Dunbar is usually considered one of the most important figures of fifteenth-century British literature, and may lay claim to being the finest lyric poet writing in English in the century and half between the death of Chaucer in 1400 and the appearance of Tottel's Miscellany in 1557. Dunbar's poems offer vivid depictions of late medieval Scottish society and serve up a striking pageant of colorful figures at the court of James IV (r. 1488-1513), with which he was associated for much of his adult life. The poems are remarkable both for their diversity and variability and for their multiplicity of voices, styles, and tones. The great variety of poems within Dunbar's canon includes religious hymns of exaltation, moral poems on a wide range of serious themes, comic and parodic poems of extreme salaciousness and scatological coarseness, general satires against the times, and satires with much more specific targets, often a single individual. This edition of eighty-four poems attributed to Dunbar includes extensive background material and explanatory notes that are sure to be of interest to students and Dunbar enthusiasts alike. The edition is rounded out with textual notes, an index of first lines, and a glossary.

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These Fair Ladies That Repair to Court Tidings from the Session To the Merchants of Edinburgh
How Dunbar Was Desired to Be a Friar The Dance of the Seven Deadly Sins Of the Tailors and the
Shoemakers [Telyouris and sowtaris, blist be ye] The Devil's Inquest [Renunce thy God and cum to
me] Master Andro Kennedy's Testament Dunbar's Dirge The Twa Cummars [This lang Lentrin it
makis me lene] The Flyting of Dunbar and Kennedy The Tretis of the Tua Mariit Wemen and the
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