



Thomas Shadwell

# THE VIRTUOSO

Edited by

Juan A. Prieto-Pablos - María José Mora

Manuel J. Gómez-Lara - Rafael Portillo

EDITORIAL UNIVERSIDAD DE SEVILLA

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The cover shows a conjectural reconstruction of the Dorset-Garden proscenium arch

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Now regarded as one of the most amusing plays of the Resoration. Thomas Shadwell's *The Virtuoso* (1676) is an entertaining satire on scientific pretensions and sexual mores. This new critical edition, the first in three decades, is fully annotated to enable today's reader too enjoy and understand the text to the full. The introduction presents a picture of the author and his time as well as the play in the context of the Restoration stage and of the later productions. Making use of the most recent scholarship, the editors also focus on Thomas Shadwell as the direct inheritor of the Jonsonian comedy of humours and his critical attitude towards the new comedy of manners. They also discuss his long standing political and literary feud with John Dryden, who had satirised him mercilessly but who was eventually ousted by Shadwell as Poet Laureate.