



## Ivor Gurney

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By John LUCAS.

Northcote House, Tavistock, 2001. Paperback. Condition: New. 1st Edition. 132pp Writers & Their Work Series [In stock in Australia now for immediate despatch] Drawing on biographical information, letters, reminiscences and anecdotes, John Lucas pieces together Gurney's difficult, indeed tragic life, in order to show that Gurney's poetry, while undoubtedly affected by his mental problems, his trench experiences in World War One, and his complex relationship to Gloucester, the Cotswolds and London, is the sane utterance of a deeply radicalised writer. There is no suggestion that Gurney's experiences were unique. On the contrary, they were typical, as he well knew, and as he declares in poems which celebrate the implications of comradeship. What is unique is Gurney's ability to turn these experiences into major poetry. Gurney is the greatest of all those poets who fought in and survived the war and his achievement drastically affects our understanding of 20th century poetry. John Lucas is Research Professor in the Department of English, The Nottingham Trent University. He is author of many publications including John Clare (1994), The Radical Twenties (1997) and On the Track: Poems (2000).

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