

Contents

Acknowledgements xix

Introduction xxi

POEMS (1935)

An Eclogue for Christmas 3

Valediction 7

Eclogue by a Five-Barred Gate 10

Morning Sun 15

Turf-stacks 15

The Individualist Speaks 16

Train to Dublin 17

Cuckoo 18

The Creditor 19

Perseus 19

To a Communist 20

Sunday Morning 21

Intimations of Mortality 21

Birmingham 22

Nature Morte 23

Upon this Beach 24

Snow 24

Belfast 25

An April Manifesto 25

A Contact 26

Wolves 26

August 27

Aubade 28

The Glacier 28

Spring Voices 29

Museums 29

Spring Sunshine 30

Circe 30

Mayfly 31

Ode 32

from OUT OF THE PICTURE *and* LETTERS FROM
ICELAND (1937)

from Out of the Picture 41

I The Oracle 41

II Riding in Cars 41

III War Heroes 42

IV Pindar is Dead 43

V Les Neiges D'Antan 44

VI Empty Shoes 46

VII The Jingles of the Morning 46

VIII Finale 47

from Letters from Iceland 48

Letter to Graham and Anna 48

THE EARTH COMPELS (1938)

Carrickfergus 55

June Thunder 56

The Sunlight on the Garden 57

Chess 58

The Heated Minutes 59

Iceland 59

Solvitur Acris Hiems (Horace, *Odes*, I. 4) 61

Passage Steamer 62

Circus 63

Homage to Clichés 66

The Hebrides 68

Eclogue from Iceland 72

Eclogue Between the Motherless 82

Leaving Barra 88

Hidden Ice 89

Taken for Granted 90

Sand in the Air 91

The Brandy Glass	92
Now that the Shapes of Mist	92
Christmas Shopping	93
Bagpipe Music	95
Postscript to Iceland	96

AUTUMN JOURNAL (1939) 99

PLANT AND PHANTOM (1941)

Prognosis	167
Stylite	168
Conversation	169
Plant and Phantom	169
Entirely	171
The British Museum Reading Room	172
London Rain	172
Trilogy for X	175
The Closing Album	178
Meeting Point	183
A Toast	184
Order to View	185
Novelettes	186
Débâcle	193
Death of an Actress	193
Bar-Room Matins	195
Flight of the Heart	196
Refugees	197
Jehu	198
The Death-Wish	199
Autobiography	200
The Ear	201
Evening in Connecticut	201
Entered in the Minutes	202
Plurality	204
Plain Speaking	206

Perdita	207
The Dowser	207
The Return	208
Cradle Song for Eleanor	209

SPRINGBOARD (1944)

To Hedli	212
Prayer before Birth	213
Precursors	214
Explorations	215
Mutations	216
Brother Fire	216
The Trolls	217
Troll's Courtship	219
The Revenant	220
Convoy	221
Whit Monday	222
Swing-song	222
Bottleneck	223
Neutrality	224
The Conscript	224
Nuts in May	225
The Mixer	226
Nostalgia	227
Babel	227
Schizophrene	228
Alcohol	229
The Libertine	230
Epitaph for Liberal Poets	231
The Satirist	232
This Way Out	233
Thyestes	233
Prayer in Mid-Passage	234
Prospect	234
The Springboard	235

The Casualty	237
The News-reel	240
The Kingdom	241
Postscript	250

HOLES IN THE SKY (1948)

The Streets of Laredo	253
Hiatus	254
Corner Seat	255
Aftermath	255
Twelfth Night	255
Bluebells	256
Tam Cari Capitis	257
The National Gallery	258
Littoral	259
The Cromlech	260
Carrick Revisited	261
Slum Song	262
The Strand	263
Last before America	264
Western Landscape	265
Under the Mountain	268
No more Sea	268
Godfather	269
Aubade for Infants	270
The Cyclist	270
Woods	271
Elegy for Minor Poets	273
Autolytus	274
Street Scene	275
Relics	276
The Drunkard	277
Hands and Eyes	278
Place of a Skull	279
Slow Movement	279

- Carol 280
The Stygian Banks 282
Letter from India (*for Hedli*) 295

from COLLECTED POEMS 1925–1948 (1949)

- To Hedli 301
The North Sea 302
Mahabalipuram 305
The Window 307

TEN BURNT OFFERINGS (1952)

- I Suite for Recorders 315
II Areopagus 321
III Cock o' the North 326
IV Didymus 332
V Our Sister Water 338
VI The Island 343
VII Day of Renewal 349
VIII Day of Returning 355
IX The Death of a Cat 360
X Flowers in the Interval 365

AUTUMN SEQUEL (1954) 371

VISITATIONS (1957)

- To Hedli 494
To the Public 495
To Posterity 495
April Fool 495
Dreams in Middle Age 496
Sailing Orders 497
Donegal Triptych 498
A Hand of Snapshots 501
Wessex Guidebook 504

The Rest House	505
Beni Hasan	506
Return to Lahore	506
Visit to Rouen	507
Time for a Smoke	507
Jigsaws	508
Easter Returns	511
The Other Wing	512
The Burnt Bridge	513
The Tree of Guilt	515
House on a Cliff	516
Figure of Eight	516
Death of an Old Lady	517
Visitations	517

SOLSTICES (1961)

Apple Blossom	527
Invocation	527
The Riddle	528
Notes for a Biography	529
The Slow Starter	532
Il Piccolo Rifuto	533
The Messiah	533
The Atlantic Tunnel	535
Homage to Wren	536
Rites of War	536
Jericho	537
Yours Next	538
Dark Age Glosses	539
Indoor Sports	541
Idle Talk	543
Country Week-End	544
Nature Notes	548
Sleeping Winds	550
The Park	551

The Lake in the Park 551
Dogs in the Park 552
Sunday in the Park 553
Windowscape 553
Solstice 554
Indian Village 555
Jungle Clearance Ceylon 555
Half Truth from Cape Town 556
Solitary Travel 557
Old Masters Abroad 558
Icebergs 559
Vistas 559
Variation on Heraclitus 560
Reflections 561
Hold-Up 561
Restaurant Car 562
The Wiper 562
The Wall 564
The Snow Man 564
The Truisms 565
The Blasphemies 566
Bad Dream 567
Good Dream 569
Selva Oscura 571
All Over Again 572

THE BURNING PERCH (1963)

To Mary 576
Soap Suds 577
Déjà Vu 577
Round the Corner 578
The Suicide 579
Perspectives 579
Château Jackson 580
Pet Shop 581
Flower Show 582

In Lieu	583
The Taxis	583
The Grey Ones	584
After the Crash	585
Spring Cleaning	586
Another Cold May	587
The Pale Panther	588
Réchauffé	588
Ravenna	589
Constant	590
October in Bloomsbury	591
New Jerusalem	591
Charon	592
The Introduction	593
Birthright	594
Children's Games	594
Tree Party	595
Sports Page	596
The Habits	597
Greyness is All	598
As in their Time	598
This is the Life	601
Budgie	602
Memoranda to Horace	603
Star-gazer	607
Goodbye to London	608
Off the Peg	609
Coda	610

APPENDIX 1 BLIND FIREWORKS (1929)

Inaugural Rant	615
Reminiscences of Infancy	615
Child's Terror	615
Child's Unhappiness	617
A Conventional Serenade	618
Spring	620

The Universe 620
Poussin 621
A Serene Evening 621
Gardener Melancholy 622
Sailor's Funeral 622
A Cataract Conceived as the March of Corpses 623
Corpse Carousal 623
Sunset 624
A Night 625
Neurotics 625
Happy Families 626
Song in the Back of the Mind 627
Bound in Stupidity and Unbound 628
Homo Sum 629
The Court Historian 630
This Tournament 630
A Lame Idyll 631
Coal and Fire 632
Falling Asleep 634
The Humorous Atheist Addresses his Humorous Maker 635
Cynicism 635
The Sunset Conceived as a Peal of Bells 636
Candle Poems 637
Glass Falling 638
ΓΝΩΘΙ ΣΕΑΥΤΟΝ 638
Adonis 639
Old Maid 640
Harvest Thanksgiving 640
A Classical Education 641
Evening Indoors 641
Senescence 642
The Lugubrious, Salubrious Seaside 642
The Sea 643
Middle Age 643
Beginning of a Comic-Delirious Drama 644
Impermanent Creativeness 645

Adam's Legacy 646
Twilight of the Gods 647

APPENDIX 2 UNCOLLECTED EARLY POEMS,
1924–1930: A SELECTION

Death of a Prominent Businessman 653
The Dissolution of Valhalla 653
'The ways are green and gorgons creep' 654
Circe 655
Nocturne 656
Spring 656
In the Cathedral 657
Summer Remembered 658
En Avant 659
Cradle Song for Miriam 659
Epitaph for Louis 660
Paradise Lost 661
From Down Here 662
Address from my Death-Bed to Dr. Bruno, the Concrete
Universal 663
Laburnum 664
Elephant Trunk 664
Trapeze 665
Neurospastoumenos 666
The Prodigal Son, or, The Dog Returns to his Vomit 673
Hinges Kill Themselves 674
Threnody 675

APPENDIX 3 THE LAST DITCH (1940)

To Eleanor Clark 678
Prognosis 679
The Coming of War 680
Meeting Point 686
A Toast 687
London Rain 688

The British Museum Reading Room	690
Primrose Hill	690
Departure Platform	691
Novelettes	692
Three Poems Apart (For X)	697

APPENDIX 4 THE REVENANT: A SONG-CYCLE FOR HEDLI ANDERSON (1942)

I 'He went away'	703
The First Interlude	703
II 'Tinker Tailor'	704
The Second Interlude	705
III 'Who is coming up the road, or is it only'	705
The Third Interlude	706
IV 'Prisms of April, snows of May'	706
The Fourth Interlude	707
V 'So he was all mine'	707
The Fifth Interlude	708
VI 'Legend tells me of kings who sleep in caves'	709
The Sixth Interlude	710
VII 'Can it be you?'	710
The Seventh Interlude	712
VIII 'Where are we going, my only love?'	712
The Eighth Interlude	713
IX 'You told me we were going somewhere'	713
The Ninth Interlude	714
X 'We are near the end of the road, so you say'	714
The Tenth Interlude	715
XI 'So you have betrayed me, you have deceived me'	715
The Eleventh Interlude	716
XII 'A girl speaks to her dead lover'	716

APPENDIX 5 UNCOLLECTED POEMS, 1932–1963

Sleep	721
Everyman His Own Pygmalion (<i>Moriturus me saluto</i>)	722

Insidiae 723
from *Out of the Picture*
1. Lyric from a play 724
2. The Daily News 724
3. Hymn of the Collectors 725
4. Announcer's Song 726
5. Venus' Speech 727
6. Auctioneer's Speech 729
Auden and MacNeice: Their Last Will and Testament 730
Sonnet 746
Thank You 747
Rugby Football Excursion 748
Salute 749
Dialogue in Stornoway 750
Auld Scots Sang 753
Life of Lord Leverhulme 754
Men of Good Will 759
Picture Galleries 760
Coming from Nowhere 761
The Expert (*Novelettes*) 762
The Gates of Horn 763
Exile 764
Ballades 765
O'Connell Bridge 769
The Sense of Smell 769
from Octets 773
Casualty of War 775
Straight Words to a Crooked Poet 776
Sentries 777
Enfant terrible 777
Week-end 778
Canzonet 779
Prologue (to *The Character of Ireland*) 779
Thalassa 783

APPENDIX 6 CONTENTS OF *EIGHTY-FIVE POEMS:*
SELECTED BY THE AUTHOR (1959)

APPENDIX 7 PREFACES AND INTRODUCTIONS BY
LOUIS MACNEICE

'Note' to <i>Autumn Journal</i>	791
'Foreword' to <i>Poems 1925–1940</i>	791
'Preface' to <i>Collected Poems 1925–1948</i>	792
On <i>Visitations</i>	793
'Foreword' to <i>Eighty-Five Poems: Selected by the Author</i>	794
On <i>Solstices</i>	794
On <i>The Burning Perch</i>	795
Textual notes to <i>Collected Poems</i>	797
Textual notes to Appendices	809
Index of titles (with dates of composition)	819
Index of first lines	00