## **Contents**

Foreword by Nadezhda Mandelstam	
Foreword by Donald Davie	
Translator's Preface	1
From STONE (1913)	
	_
Fruit breaking loose from tree Suddenly, from the half-dark hall	20
To cherish only children's books	20
April-blue enamel	20
What shall I do with the body I've been given	2:
An inexpressible sadness	2:
New-mown ears of early wheat	22
Speechlessness	22
Silentium	25 25
Ears stretch a sensitive sail	24
Like the shadow of sudden clouds	24
I grew out of a vicious, viscous swamp	25
Sultry dusk covers the couch	25
Horses stepping slow	26
(Lapse)	26
The sea-shell	27
loathe the light/Of the monotonous stars	28
In the haze your image	28
No, not the moon, but the bright clock-face	29
The one who walks	29
The Casino	30
(Awe)	30
The Lutheran	31
Aya-Sophia	32
Notre Dame	33
Bitter bread, and blazing arid air	34
Horses' hooves The clatter	34
Nature is Roman, & mirrors Rome	35
With transitory acclaim	35
Sleeplessness Homer, stretched sails	36

Tlands of horses gally neigh of glaze	37
Vou are trapped — hunters lure you	38
(Mortification)	38
(Marting security)	
From TRISTIA (1922)	
How the splendour of these veils and of this dress	40
Basilicas where virgins	41
We shall leave our bones in transparent Petropolis	41
Not believing in the miracle of resurrection	42
This night is irredeemable	43
Out of the bottle the stream of golden honey poured	44
Spring's clear-grey / Asphodels	45
Tristia	46
Wasps and bees suck the gravid rose	47
When Psyche, who is life, descends among the shades	47
I have forgotten the word I wanted to say	48
For the sake of pure joy lightheartedly take from the palms	10
of my hands	49
A golden sun, the pyx of the Host	49
Recause I had to let go your arms	50
When the moon takes a walk along the paved ways	51
On my lips a singing name, I stepped	51
I like the grey silences under the arches	52
From POEMS (1928)	
I was washing — at night — in the courtyard	54
Winter — to some — is a blue sky of steaming wine & nuts	55
Rose-coloured foam of fatigue on his sensual lips	56
How the leaven in the loaves grows	56
I climbed into the tousled hayloft	57
My time	58
The one who finds a horseshoe	59
Poems published posthumously	
Poems puviisnea posinamousty	
Armenia	64
Before the storm	65
(The age)	66

(Exequies)	67
Batyushkov	67
I walk out of space	68
You took away my seas, & running jumps, & sky	68
Looming through yellow-mouthed mists	68
Like a tardy present	69
Out of what ore	69
I still have not died; still not alone	70
I look into the frost's face, alone	70
Asthmatic sloth of the asphyxiating steppes	71
(Revelation)	71
(Life is matchless)	72
What has contended with oxide and alloys	72
As a pebble from the sky hurtling down	73
Into the distance disappear the mounds of human heads	73
I hear, I hear the early ice	73
A little boy, his red face shining like a lamp	74
Like Rembrandt, martyr of light & dark	75
Breaks of the rounded bays, of shingle & blue	75
(Wedding Present)	76
Armed with the eyesight and absorption of wasps	76
Eyes keener than a sharpened scythe	77
I'm in a lion's den, plunged in a fort or trench	77
If our antagonists take me	78
(Cathedral)	78
Lines concerning the unknown soldier	79
(Cathedrals of crystal)	80
Oh how much I would like — / Seen by nobody — / To soar	
behind the light	81
Winejug	81
This azure island was exalted by its potters	82
(Equinox)	83
I raise this greenness to my lips	84
The pear tree	84
With her irregular delightful way of walking	85
Notes	86
Acknowledgements	95