

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

xix

STEVIE SMITH

Born in Hull in 1902 as Florence Margaret Smith. She lived in London from the age of three onwards, and was educated at the North London Collegiate School. Worked for Newnes Publishing Company, 1923-53. Published *Novel on Yellow Paper* in 1936, and two other novels. Her poems were often accompanied by her own drawings. Received the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1969. She died in 1971.

Distractions and the Human Crowd	1
Magna est Veritas	1
One of Many	2
The After-thought	2
I Remember	3
Anger's Freeing Power	4
Correspondence between Mr Harrison in Newcastle and Mr Sholto Peach Harrison in Hull	5
Private Means is Dead	5
Satin-Clad	6
Be off!	6
Who is this Who Howls and Mutter?	6
Man is a Spirit	7

EARLE BIRNEY

Born in 1904 in Calgary, Alberta. Educated at Universities of British Columbia, California in Berkeley, and Toronto. His picaresque novel of wartime, *Turvey*, was published in 1949. Has twice received the Governor-General's Award for Poetry. A freelance writer and lecturer since 1968, he has travelled widely in South America, Australasia, Africa and the East.

Can. Hist.	7
Charité Espérance et Foi	8
Twenty-third Flight	10
A Small Faculty Stag for the Visiting Poet	11
Christchurch, N.Z.	12
Museum of Man	12
Sinalóa	12
Hot Springs	13
Poet-tree	14

CONTENTS

A. D. HOPE

Born in Cooma, New South Wales, in 1907. Educated at Sydney University and Oxford. He was Professor of English at the Australian National University, Canberra, until 1969 and then Library Fellow till 1972. He has written on poetry and Australian literature.

Tiger	15
Paradise Saved	16
Prometheus Unbound	17
The Female Principle	17
E questo il nido in che la mia fenice?	18
The House of God	18
The Bed	20
On Shakespeare Critics (from <i>Dunciad Minor</i> : Book V)	20

NORMAN MACCAIG

Born in 1910 in Edinburgh and educated at Edinburgh University. He was a schoolmaster in Edinburgh between 1934 and 1970, and until recently Reader in Poetry at the University of Stirling. With Alexander Scott, he edited *Contemporary Scottish Verse 1959-1969* (1970).

Fetching Cows	21
Movements	22
Sheep Dipping	22
Flooded Mind	23
Orgy	23
In My Mind	24
Old Maps and New	25
Ringed Plover by a Water's Edge	26
Close-ups of Summer	26
Cock before Dawn	27
Gone are the Days	27
The Drowned	28

ELIZABETH BISHOP

Born in Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1911. Educated at Vassar College. She lived in Brazil for sixteen years, and has translated contemporary Brazilian poetry. Lectured at Harvard University. She received the Pulitzer Prize in 1956 and her most recent collection, *Geography III*, won the 1976 Poetry Award of the National Book Critics Circle of America. She died in 1979.

Seascape	29
Large Bad Picture	29
The Shampoo	30
Arrival at Santos	31
A Summer's Dream	32

CONTENTS

12 O'Clock News	33
Manners	35

ROY FULLER

Born in 1912 in Failsworth, near Manchester. Served in Royal Navy. He worked as solicitor to a building society until retirement in 1969, when he became a director. He was elected Professor of Poetry at Oxford, 1968–73, and received the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1970. He has published novels, criticism, and fiction and verse for children.

The Unremarkable Year	36
Edmond Halley	37
Outside the Supermarket	38
Autobiography of a Lungworm	38
The Family Cat	40
Consolations of Art	40
Reading in the Night	41
The Other Side	42
From the Joke Shop	43
Shop Talk	43

R. S. THOMAS

Born in Cardiff in 1913. Educated at University College of North Wales, Bangor. He was ordained priest in 1937, and served as Vicar of St Hywyn, Aberdaron, with St Mary, Bodferin, from 1967 until retirement in 1978. Awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1964. He has compiled selections of George Herbert's and Wordsworth's verse.

Aside	44
Lore	44
The One Furrow	45
A Welshman to Any Tourist	45
The Woman	46
The Hand	46
At It	47
Poetry for Supper	48
Pisces	49
Postscript	49
After Jericho	49

JOHN BERRYMAN

Born in 1914 in McAlester, Oklahoma. Educated at Columbia University and Cambridge. He taught in various American universities, notably the University of Minnesota, 1954–72. Wrote a biography of Stephen Crane (1950), a novel, *Recovery* (published in 1973), and essays on literature, some of which are collected in *The Freedom of the Poet* (1976). He died in 1972.

CONTENTS

A Professor's Song	50
King David Dances	50
Certainty Before Lunch	51
from <i>Eleven Addresses to the Lord</i> : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10	51

RANDALL JARRELL

Born in Nashville, Tennessee in 1914. Educated at Vanderbilt University. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps, and taught at Kenyon College, Sarah Lawrence and the University of North Carolina. Published a novel, *Pictures from an Institution*, in 1954, several collections of criticism, and books for children; also translations of the Brothers Grimm and (in 1976) of Goethe's *Faust, Part One*. He died in 1965.

A Lullaby	56
The Truth	56
A Front	58
A Camp in the Prussian Forest	58
Protocols	60
The Woman at the Washington Zoo	60
In Nature There Is Neither Right nor Left nor Wrong	61
A Sick Child	62
The Lonely Man	63
The Author to the Reader	64

C. H. SISSON

Born in Bristol in 1914. He was educated at the University of Bristol and in France and Germany, and worked in the Civil Service until 1973. He has published novels, translations of Horace, Lucretius and La Fontaine, criticism, and (in 1959) *The Spirit of British Administration and Some European Comparisons*.

Family Fortunes	64
Marcus Aurelius	65
Over the Wall: Berlin, May 1975	66
The Queen of Lydia	68
A and B	69
At First	71

GAVIN EWART

Born in London in 1916. Educated at Wellington College and Cambridge. He has worked for the British Council, as an advertising copywriter and, since 1971, as a freelance writer and part-time teacher. He edited *Forty Years On: An Anthology of School Songs*, 1964.

The Dell	71
The Lovesleep	72

CONTENTS

Fiction: A Message	73
On the Tercentenary of Milton's Death	74
Pastoral	75
An Exeter Riddle	76
From V.C. (a Gentleman of Verona)	76
They flee from me that sometime did me seek	77
Prayer	78

CHARLES CAUSLEY

Born in 1917 in Launceston, Cornwall. Served in Royal Navy. He taught in his native town for many years, and has worked as a full-time writer since 1976. He received the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1967. He has edited anthologies and written verse for children.

At the British War Cemetery, Bayeux	78
For an Ex-Far East Prisoner of War	79
Loss of an Oil Tanker	80
Infant Song	80
Ten Types of Hospital Visitor	81

ROBERT CONQUEST

Born in Malvern in 1917, and educated at the University of Grenoble and Oxford. He worked in the diplomatic service 1946–56, and has since held fellowships at the London School of Economics and at American universities and institutions. He edited the 'Movement' anthology, *New Lines* (1956), and has published two novels, science fiction anthologies, and books on Soviet affairs.

Guided Missiles Experimental Range	86
Lake Success	86
747 (London–Chicago)	87
To be a Pilgrim	89
Appalachian Convalescence	90
Excerpt from a Report to the Galactic Council	91
Generalities	92

ROBERT LOWELL

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1917. Educated at Harvard, Kenyon College and Louisiana State University. He taught in the Universities of Iowa, Boston and Harvard, and at the University of Essex. He published adaptations of Racine: *Phaedra* and Aeschylus: *Prometheus Bound*. He lived in England from 1970 until his death (in New York) in 1977.

The Dead in Europe	93
A Mad Negro Soldier Confined at Munich	93
Skunk Hour	94
Waking Early Sunday Morning	96

CONTENTS

Ford Madox Ford	99
Identification in Belfast (I.R.A. Bombing)	99
The Holy Innocents	100

JOHN HEATH-STUBBS

Born in 1918 in London. Educated at Oxford. He was Visiting Professor of English at Alexandria University, 1955-8, and at Michigan University, 1960-61, and Lecturer at the College of St Mark and St John, London, 1963-72. Has published plays, criticism and translations of Leopardi. He received the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1973.

Preliminary Poem	100
Virgin Martyrs	101
Not being Oedipus	102
The Unpredicted	103
Send for Lord Timothy	103
Carol for Advent	105
The Gifts	106
To a Poet a Thousand Years Hence	106

D. J. ENRIGHT

Born in Leamington, Warwickshire, in 1920, and educated at Cambridge. He taught for twenty-five years, mainly in the East, and now works in publishing in London. Has written criticism, novels (including three for children), translations of Japanese poetry, and a partial autobiography, *Memoirs of a Mendicant Professor*, and edited a choice of Milton's verse.

The Verb 'To Think'	107
In Cemeteries	108
Poet Wondering What He Is Up To	109
R-and-R Centre: An Incident from the Vietnam War	110
Anecdote from William IV Street	112
Guest	112
Midstream	113
History of World Languages	114

HOWARD NEMEROV

Born in New York City, 1920. Educated at Harvard. He has taught in several universities, including Bennington College, 1948-66, and since 1969 Washington University, and has published three novels and a critical book, *Figures of Thought*, 1978. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1977.

To the Rulers	115
September, the First Day of School	116
A Picture	117
The Backward Look	118
Extract from Memoirs	119

CONTENTS

The Death of God	119
Money	119
On Being Asked for a Peace Poem	121
On Certain Wits	122

GEORGE MACKAY BROWN

Born in Stromness, Orkney, in 1921, and educated at Newbattle Abbey College and Edinburgh University. He lives in Orkney, and has written plays, short stories and novels, and stories for children.

Old Fisherman with Guitar	122
Trout Fisher	123
Beachcomber	123
Tea Poems	124
The Desertion of the Women and Seals	126
Carpenter	127
The Keeper of the Midnight Gate	128

RICHARD WILBUR

Born in New York City in 1921, he grew up in New Jersey. Educated at Amherst College and Harvard. He has taught at Harvard, Wellesley College and Wesleyan University. Awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1957. He has published adaptations of plays by Molière and lyrics for a comic opera based on Voltaire's *Candide*.

Advice to a Prophet	129
Loves of the Puppets	130
Shame	131
The Undead	132
John Chapman	134
For the Student Strikers	135
The Writer	135
Pangloss's Song: A Comic-Opera Lyric	136
To the Etruscan Poets	138

KINGSLEY AMIS

Born in South London in 1922. After army service he took a degree at Oxford. Taught at University College, Swansea, for twelve years, and was a Fellow of Peterhouse, Cambridge, 1961-3. He has published thirteen novels since his first, *Lucky Jim* (1954), critical works and a survey of science fiction, *New Maps of Hell* (1961). He edited *The New Oxford Book of Light Verse*, 1978.

The Last War	138
Alternatives	139
Beowulf	140
The Silent Room	140
Nothing to Fear	142

CONTENTS

Ford Madox Ford	99
Identification in Belfast (I.R.A. Bombing)	99
The Holy Innocents	100

JOHN HEATH-STUBBS

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Preliminary Poem	100
Virgin Martyrs	101
Not being Oedipus	102
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Carol for Advent	105
The Gifts	106
To a Poet a Thousand Years Hence	106

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The Verb 'To Think'	107
In Cemeteries	108
Poet Wondering What He Is Up To	109
R-and-R Centre: An Incident from the Vietnam War	110
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To the Rulers	115
September, the First Day of School	116
A Picture	117
The Backward Look	118
Extract from Memoirs	119

CONTENTS

The Death of God	119
Money	119
On Being Asked for a Peace Poem	121
On Certain Wits	122

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Old Fisherman with Guitar	122
Trout Fisher	123
Beachcomber	123
Tea Poems	124
The Desertion of the Women and Seals	126
Carpenter	127
The Keeper of the Midnight Gate	128

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Loves of the Puppets	130
Shame	131
The Undead	132
John Chapman	134
For the Student Strikers	135
The Writer	135
Pangloss's Song: A Comic-Opera Lyric	136
To the Etruscan Poets	138

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The Last War	138
Alternatives	139
Beowulf	140
The Silent Room	140
Nothing to Fear	142

CONTENTS

Langwell	142
Shitty	143
Reborn	144

DONALD DAVIE

Born in 1922 in Barnsley, Yorkshire, and educated at Cambridge. He has taught at Trinity College, Dublin, at Cambridge, and the University of Essex, as Professor of English at Stanford University, California, and now at Vanderbilt University. He has published criticism, adaptations of Mickiewicz and translations of Pasternak, and *A Gathered Church*, a study of the literature of Dissent, 1978. He is editing *The New Oxford Book of Christian Verse*.

A Christening	145
The Priory of St Saviour, Glendalough	146
Barnsley and District	146
To a Teacher of French	148
A Meeting of Cultures	149
G.M.B. (10.7.77)	150

PHILIP LARKIN

Born in Coventry, Warwickshire, in 1922, and educated at Oxford. He has held posts in libraries since 1943 and is at present Librarian of the University of Hull. Awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1965. He has published two novels, *Jill* (1946) and *A Girl in Winter* (1947), written jazz criticism, and compiled *The Oxford Book of Twentieth-Century English Verse*, 1973.

The Explosion	151
Ambulances	152
Posterity	153
Poetry of Departures	154
As Bad as a Mile	155
Mr Bleaney	155
Dublineseque	156
The Card-Players	157
The Dedicated	157
Days	158
Cut Grass	158

VERNON SCANNELL

Born in 1922 in Spilsby, Lincolnshire. Educated at the University of Leeds. Formerly amateur and professional boxer. He was a schoolteacher between 1955 and 1962, and since then has worked as a freelance writer and broadcaster. He has published novels, autobiography, and a book on the poetry of the Second World War, *Not Without Glory*, 1976.

The Old Books	159
The Moth	159

CONTENTS

Dead Dog	160
Words and Monsters	160
Incendiary	161
Six Reasons for Drinking	162
Jailbird	163
The Discriminator	163
Five Domestic Interiors	164

DANNIE ABSE

Born in Cardiff in 1923. Educated at the University of South Wales, King's College, London, and Westminster Hospital. He works part-time as a doctor in a London chest clinic. He has published two novels, several plays, and an autobiography, *A Poet in the Family*, 1974.

Down the M4	165
Tales of Shatz	166
Florida	168
Public Library	170
Peachstone	170
Watching a Cloud	171

ANTHONY HECHT

Born in 1923 in New York City, and educated at Bard College and Columbia University. He served with the U.S. Army in Europe and Japan, and has taught at several universities, since 1967 at the University of Rochester. His second book of poems, *The Hard Hours* (1967), won the Pulitzer Prize. He has co-translated Aeschylus's *Seven Against Thebes*.

'It Out-Herods Herod. Pray you, Avoid it.'	171
Pig	173
The Cost	173
The Ghost in the Martini	175
A Letter	178
A Lot of Night Music	179

LOUIS SIMPSON

Born in Jamaica in 1923, and educated at Columbia University. Took U.S. citizenship and served as combat infantryman. He has worked in publishing, and taught at the University of California, Berkeley, and since 1967 at the State University of New York. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1964. *A Revolution in Taste*, studies of modern poets, appeared in 1979.

Things	181
Hubert's Museum	182
Summer Storm	183
Tonight the Famous Psychiatrist	183
On the Lawn at the Villa	184

CONTENTS

A Son of the Romanovs	184
Before the Poetry Reading	186
Chocolates	188

PATRICIA BEER

Born in Exmouth, Devon, in 1924. Educated at Exeter University and Oxford. She has taught in universities in Italy and England, and is now a full-time writer living in London and Devon. She has published an account of childhood, *Mrs Beer's House*, 1968, a study of women characters in nineteenth-century women novelists, *Reader, I Married Him*, 1974, and more recently a novel.

The Postilion has been Struck by Lightning	189
Leaping into the Gulf	189
Dilemma	190
Birthday Poem from Venice	191
Creed of Mr Nicholas Culpeper	192
Witch	193
Gallery Shepherds	193
In the Cathedral	194
The Letter	195
Christmas Carols	195

JAMES K. BAXTER

Born in 1926 in Dunedin, New Zealand, and educated at Otago University, Dunedin, and Victoria University, Wellington. He worked as a labourer, a schoolmaster, a journalist and a social worker, and published numerous plays and essays on poetry and New Zealand poetry in particular. He died in 1972.

Mandrakes for Supper	196
A Family Photograph 1939	197
To a Print of Queen Victoria	198
Evidence at the Witch Trials	199
The Inflammable Woman	200
News from a Pacified Area	200
A Dentist's Window	201
The Apple Tree	202
The Buried Stream	202

CHARLES TOMLINSON

Born in Stoke-on-Trent in 1927, and educated at Cambridge and the University of London. Since 1956 he has taught at the University of Bristol, with visits to American universities. He is a painter, and has collaborated in translations of Tyutchev and Machado. He is currently editing *The Oxford Book of Verse in English Translation*.

Charlotte Corday	203
In Arden	205

CONTENTS

The Death of Will	206
Macduff	207
Mr Brodsky	207
A Dream	209
Civilities of Lamplight	209

THOM GUNN

Born in Gravesend, Kent, in 1929. Educated at Cambridge and Stanford University, California. He has lived in San Francisco since 1954, and taught at the University of California, Berkeley, between 1958 and 1966. He is currently a freelance writer. He has edited selections from Fulke Greville and Ben Jonson.

The Wheel of Fortune	210
The Allegory of the Wolf Boy	210
Jesus and his Mother	211
In Santa Maria Del Popolo	212
Breakfast	213
from <i>Misanthropos</i> (section 9)	214
Street Song	215
Expression	216

PETER PORTER

Born in 1929 in Brisbane, Australia. He has lived in London since 1951, and worked as a reporter, a bookseller, a clerk and (for ten years) in advertising, and is now a freelance writer and broadcaster. He has written two radio plays, edited a choice of Pope's verse, and published a volume of 're-creations', *After Martial* (1972).

An Exequy	217
Non Piangere, Liù	220
May, 1945	221
Mort aux chats	221
Gertrude Stein at Snails Bay	222

A. K. RAMANUJAN

Born in 1929 in Mysore, South India, and educated at the University of Mysore and Indiana University, Bloomington. He taught in India between 1950 and 1958, and now lives in Chicago, teaching Dravidian Studies at the University of Chicago. He has translated classical Tamil love poems and religious lyrics from the medieval Kannada.

Some Indian Uses of History on a Rainy Day	224
The Hindoo: he doesn't Hurt a Fly or a Spider either	226
Small-scale Reflections on a Great House	227
The Last of the Princes	231

CONTENTS

TED HUGHES

Born in Mytholmroyd, West Yorkshire, in 1930. Educated at Cambridge. He has worked as a rose gardener, a night watchman and a reader for the Rank Organization. In 1956 he married the American poet, Sylvia Plath, who died in 1963. Has written plays and poems for children, edited selections from Emily Dickinson and Shakespeare, and adapted Seneca's *Oedipus*. He received the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1974.

Wilfred Owen's Photographs	232
Her Husband	232
Examination at the Womb-door	233
A Childish Prank	234
Esther's Tomcat	235
A Dove	235
The River in March	236
Leaves	237
Full Moon and Little Frieda	238

DEREK WALCOTT

Born in St Lucia, West Indies, in 1930, and educated at the University of the West Indies. He has taught in America, and several of his plays have been performed in London and New York. He lives in Trinidad, working as a reviewer, an art critic and director of the Trinidad Theatre Workshop.

Volcano	239
New World	240
The Virgins	241
Nights in the Gardens of Port of Spain	241
The Whale, His Bulwark	242
A Country Club Romance	243
Force	245

GEOFFREY HILL

Born in 1932 in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, and educated at Oxford. He was visiting lecturer in English at the University of Michigan 1959-60, and has taught at the University of Leeds, where he now holds a chair, since 1954. His version of Ibsen's *Brand* was performed and published in 1978.

Genesis	245
Picture of a Nativity	247
The White Ship	247
'Domaine Public'	248
In Piam Memoriam	249
Two Chorale-Preludes	249
A Short History of British India (1, 2 and 3)	250

CONTENTS

PETER REDGROVE

Born in Kingston, Surrey, in 1932. Read Natural Sciences at Cambridge. He has worked as a scientific editor and journalist, and lectured in America, and is currently Resident Author at Falmouth School of Art. A novelist and playwright, he has also written (with Penelope Shuttle) a book on the psychology of menstruation, *The Wise Wound* (1978).

Christiana	252
The Curiosity-Shop	253
Intimate Supper	253
The Million	254
Dog Prospectus	255
Design	257
Red Indian Corpse	257
Serious Readers	258

JON STALLWORTHY

Born in London, in 1935, of New Zealander parents, and educated at Rugby and Oxford. He worked for Oxford University Press and the Clarendon Press between 1959 and 1977, and is now Anderson Professor of English at Cornell University, New York. He has published two critical books on Yeats and a biography, *Wilfred Owen* (1974), collaborated in translations of Polish and Russian poetry, and compiled *The Penguin Book of Love Poetry* (1973).

A Letter from Berlin	258
Miss Lavender	260
A Question of Form and Content	260
The Beginning of the End	261
Walking against the Wind	263
Again	263
War Story	264
Sindhi Woman	264

SEAMUS HEANEY

Born in County Derry, Ireland, in 1939. Educated at Queen's University, Belfast, where he later lectured after teaching at St Joseph's College of Education, Belfast. Visiting Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, 1970-71. Since 1975 he has taught in Carysfort College, Dublin, where he is now Head of the English Department.

Death of a Naturalist	265
The Outlaw	266
Rite of Spring	267
A Drink of Water	267
Limbo	268

CONTENTS

The Skunk	268
Whatever You Say Say Nothing	269

DEREK MAHON

Born in Belfast in 1941, and educated at Trinity College, Dublin. He has lectured at the Language Centre of Ireland in Dublin, at the University of Sussex, at the New University of Ulster, Coleraine, and currently lives in London. He edited *Modern Irish Poetry*, 1972.

I Am Raftery	272
Grandfather	273
My Wicked Uncle	273
The Banished Gods	274
A Disused Shed in Co. Wexford	275
The Snow Party	277

DOUGLAS DUNN

Born in 1942 in Inchinnan, Renfrewshire, Scotland. Educated at the Scottish School of Librarianship and the University of Hull. He worked as a librarian in Ohio, 1964-6, and at the University of Hull, 1969-71. He lives in Hull, as a freelance writer and radio and television playwright. He edited *A Choice of Byron's Verse*, 1974.

The Patricians	278
A Removal from Terry Street	279
Glasgow Schoolboys, Running Backwards	279
After the War	279
Warriors	280
Remembering Lunch	281
The House Next Door	283
A Dream of Judgement	284

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	285
------------------	-----

INDEX OF FIRST LINES	291
----------------------	-----

INDEX OF AUTHORS	299
------------------	-----