

SOUTH AFRICAN
POETRY

A NEW ANTHOLOGY

Compiled by

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with

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With a Foreword by

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WINTER LYRIC

Open the gate of the garden of my dreams;
 Mellowed the grass with glory of old gold;
 Wan are the flowers, but still their rainbow gleams
 With fires of old.

Bright is the sun even as in summer days;
 Down bend the boughs; they know you for
 their kin;
 Sere are their leaves, but with their dying gaze
 They drink your glory in.

AETAT 100

The gods are kind. One hundred years ago
 The morn first made world music for your ears,
 And now time's organ down forgotten years
 Soothes with slow nocturne as the night draws on;
 And all wild tunes and timbres blend as one,
 And all sad sounds and songs of smiles and tears,
 And all mad magic of resounding spheres,
 All, all are garnered in sweet unison.

Nor is there day nor night, nor sun nor moon,
 Nor love nor hate, despair, nor strife nor joy;
 Only the calm the quiet evening brings
 With dreams of deeds achieved in life's brave noon,
 The star-dust dreams you dreamed of when a boy.
 Surely of these the nightingale still sings.

EMERGENCE

Dream not, O dreamer, for thy dream is passing.
 Embalmed within the plentitude of peace
 Stirrs even now thy soul, remote and free.
 Slowly shalt thou forsake those quiet ways
 Of glowing light and warmth and languorous bliss,
 For that far world whereon a fierce light beats,
 And unknown visions are yet apprehended.
 As fine-blown glass, besieged by sound too keen,
 Too sharp for bearing, shivers apart in ecstasy
 And falls, a shower of broken loveliness,
 So shalt thy dream, at that first step of thine
 Touching the unalterable glory of the spheres,
 Dissolve in tortured beauty, and leave thee new and
 unafraid.
 Turn then, O dreamer, to the shining east,
 From where the sun's bright sword shall fall
 Between thy dreams and thee—forever.

YESTERDAY

Tread softly here, for sacred is this place to youth;
 Seek not to amaze it with the world's intrusion
 The pale silences of long-dead years;
 But come with me, soft-stepping,
 And see where yesterday shall meet to-day,
 For one last fragrant hour
 Ere I go hence on the swift dark tide,
 Against whose flood no man can ever strive.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

- VIOLET MITCHELL MEINTJES. Born 1911, Kimberley; contributed to and worked on various South African periodicals; book reviewing; now working in Admiralty Office, Simonstown. Address: "Glencairn," P.O. Simonstown, C.P.
- LIONEL MESKIN. Born 1908, Johannesburg; lawyer; war service in Egypt, Libya, and P.O.W. in Italy and Germany for three years. Address: Durban, Natal.
- RUTH MILLER. Born 1919, Uitenhage; typist; short stories and poems in periodicals; play on South Africa at present in hands of American producer. Address: Johannesburg, Transvaal.
- WOLFE MILLER. Born 1916, Pretoria; employed in town planning; medically unfit for war service. Book on South Africa in hands of publisher; contributes poems and short stories to periodicals. Address: Johannesburg, Transvaal.
- ELIZABETH HAMILTON MOGG. Born 1896, Oswestry, Salop, Wales; former editor of *Zoutpansberg Review*; short stories and poems. Address: Pietersburg, Northern Transvaal.
- BERNARD MORLAND. Born 1891, Cape Town; served in 1914-1918 war in France and Italy and held commission in Devonshire Regiment; wounded and mentioned in despatches; was Captain and Officer Commanding 95th Trench Mortar Battery; in 1939-1945 war did guard duties in Cape Peninsula for duration; grows flowers. Address: Faure, C.P.
- LEONARD AUGUSTINE MOTLER. Born 1888, Eccles, Lancashire; educated at St. John's School for deaf and dumb, Boston Spa, Yorks; contributor to the *Clarion*, editor of *Satire*, 1916-1918; came to South Africa 1921; printer; collaborator in *Style Manual for Printers* and *Printers' Handbook*. Address: Orange Grove, Johannesburg.
- RUTH MARY NEALE. Born 1908; contributor to *The Observer*, *Poetry of Today*, *The Decadent* (England) and the South African Press; worked on *Natal Witness* and was correspondent in Maritzburg for *Natal Mercury*; book reviewing. Lives in Johannesburg.
- NEVILLE NUTTALL. Born 1903, Durban; Headmaster Newcastle High School; verse and prose in South African and overseas periodicals; *Trout Streams of Natal*; *a Fisherman's Philosophy* in hands of publishers.
- JACOBA HELENE DE BEER OLDENDORF. Born 1888 Beaufort West; educated Rhodes University and trained as teacher at Grahams-town Training College; retired from principalship of Girls' High School, Worcester, 1940; essays and poems for magazines. Address: Glencairn, Simonstown, C.P.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

- ALAN JOHN OXLEY. Born 1919 Durban, Natal; educated Highbury, Durban Boys' High School and Natal University College; joined S.A. Artillery in 1942 and served in Madagascar with S.A. 7th Brigade; commissioned 1943 and went North with 6th S.A. Armoured Division; attached to Royal Natal Carbineers; reporter on *Natal Daily News* for a time; now on South African diplomatic service staff, Pretoria; has compiled anthology of University poetry entitled *Sixty-Six*.
- ASTLEY COOPER PARTRIDGE. Born Cape Town 1901; senior lecturer in English at Pretoria University; editor of *Readings in South African English Prose* (van Schaik) and author of study on T. S. Eliot. Address: Mackenzie Street, Brooklyn, Pretoria.
- WILLIAM PLOMER. Born South Africa, 1903. Lives in London. Books of verse include *Notes for Poems*, *The Fivefold Screen*, *Visiting the Caves*, *The Family Tree*; also novelist, publishers' reader, radio critic.
- FRANK TEMPLETON PRINCE. Born 1912, Kimberley; educated at Christian Brothers College, Kimberley, Balliol College, Oxford and Princetown University, U.S.A.; served in the 1939-1945 war as a captain in the British Intelligence Corps; has published one book, *Poems* (Faber 1937). Lives in England.
- EILEEN ADELAIDE REEDER. Born 1910, Johannesburg; ex-commercial artist. Address: Northlands, Johannesburg.
- BRIAN WALDRON ROSE. Born 1915, London; employed in Transvaal Educational Department; various writings including children's plays and poems. Address: Discovery, Transvaal.
- GWEN ROWLAND. Born Elliot, C.P.; *The Soldier and Other Poems*, (Hodder & Stoughton Ltd.), contributor of short stories, children's stories and articles to periodicals; won S.A. Broadcasting competition with one act play; L.G.S.M. (eloc.) London, certificate, Royal Academy Dramatic Art (London). Address: Ashton, C.P.
- LEO NATHAN SALOMON. Born 1896; Kingwilliamstown, C.P.; school teacher; sergeant 2nd Botha Regiment, 5th Infantry Brigade, 1st Division; Abyssinia and Egypt; writings poems and prose. Address: Pietersburg, Transvaal.
- HAROLD FEHRSEN SAMPSON. Born 1891, Grahamstown; son of Hon. Victor Sampson, also a poet; educated St. Andrews, Rhodes University and Oxford (Rhodes Scholar); lecturer in law at Rhodes University; publications *Turn but a Stone*, *Sounds from another Valley*, *The Tree of Sleep*, and *Animals in Amber*.
- A. MARGARET SCHOFIELD. Born Grahamstown, C.P.; teaches art. Address: Oudtshoorn, C.P.