

## Contents

Prologue page 17

### PATRICK KAVANAGH 1904–1967

Inniskeen Road: July Evening	21
To the Man after the Harrow	21
<i>from</i> Tarry Flynn	22
Shancoduff	24
Peace	24
Pursuit of an Ideal	25
The Great Hunger	26
Pegasus	55
Temptation in Harvest	57
Bluebells for Love	60
Advent	62
A Christmas Childhood	63
Memory of my Father	65
The Long Garden	66
Art McCooey	67
Spraying the Potatoes	69
Memory of Brother Michael	70
Innocence	71
Prelude	72
Kerr's Ass	75
Epic	76
The Hospital	76
Come Dance with Kitty Stobling	77
In Memory of my Mother	78

CONTENTS

LOUIS MACNEICE 1907–1963

River in Spate	81
Sunday Morning	82
Train to Dublin	83
Snow	85
Eclogue between the Motherless	86
Valediction	93
Carrickfergus	97
The Brandy Glass	99
<i>from</i> Autumn Journal	99
Cushendun, <i>from</i> The Closing Album	104
Meeting Point	105
Novelettes III: <i>The Gardener</i>	106
Flight of the Heart	110
Autobiography	111
Prayer before Birth	112
Epitaph for Liberal Poets	114
Under the Mountain	115
Woods	116
Elegy for Minor Poets	118
Slow Movement	120
<i>from</i> Autumn Sequel	121
<i>from</i> A Hand of Snapshots	127
Nature Notes	129
Reflections	131
Hold-up	132
The Truisms	132
The Blasphemies	133
Bad Dream	136
Soap Suds	138
The Suicide	139

## CONTENTS

The Taxis	140
Charon	141
The Introduction	142
Tree Party	142
Coda	144

### THOMAS KINSELLA 1928–

In the Ringwood	147
Another September	149
Baggot Street Deserta	150
Love	153
Song	154
Downstream	155
Mirror in February	158
Wormwood	159
Ballydavid Pier	160
Leaf-eater	162
Ancestor	162
Touching the River	163
His Father's Hands	164
Tao and Unfitness at Inistiogue on the River Nore	168

### JOHN MONTAGUE 1929–

Soliloquy on a Southern Strand	175
The Water Carrier	177
The Trout	178
A Drink of Milk	179
Tim	181
Like Dolmens round my Childhood, the Old People	182
A Welcoming Party	184

## CONTENTS

All Legendary Obstacles	186
11 rue Daguerre	187
A Bright Day	188
The Road's End	189
Return	192
Clear the Way	193
The Country Fiddler	194
The Cage	195
Coming Events	197
Last Journey	197
Penal Rock: Altamuskin	199
Mad Sweeny	199
Windharp	201
Tracks	201
Herbert Street Revisited	203
Sunset	206
The Silver Flask	206

### MICHAEL LONGLEY 1939-

Leaving Inishmore	211
No Continuing City	212
Persephone	214
In Memoriam	215
Wounds	217
Letter to Derek Mahon	218
Letter to Seamus Heaney	220
Skara Brae	222
Swans Mating	223
Caravan	223
The Lodger	224
Fleance	225

## CONTENTS

Man Lying on a Wall	226
The Linen Workers	227
Second Sight	228
The Third Light	229

### SEAMUS HEANEY 1939–

Follower	233
The Diviner	234
Personal Helicon	234
The Forge	235
Thatcher	236
The Peninsula	237
Requiem for the Croppies	238
Night Drive	238
The Given Note	239
The Plantation	240
Bogland	242
The Other Side	243
The Tollund Man	246
Summer Home	248
Mossbawn: Two Poems in Dedication	250
1. Sunlight	250
2. The Seed Cutters	251
A Drink of Water	252
A Postcard from North Antrim	253
The Otter	255
The Skunk	257
A Dream of Jealousy	258
Field Work	258
The Harvest Bow	261
In Memoriam Francis Ledwidge	262

CONTENTS

Sloe Gin	264
The Birthplace	265
Changes	267
A Hazel Stick for Catherine Ann	269
Widgeon	270
<i>from</i> Station Island	271

DEREK MAHON 1941-

Glengormley	277
The Poets of the Nineties	278
In Carrowdore Churchyard	279
The Spring Vacation	280
Grandfather	281
My Wicked Uncle	282
An Unborn Child	283
The Studio	285
Lives	286
Poem Beginning with a Line by Cavafy	289
Father-in-Law	290
Homage to Malcolm Lowry	291
The Snow Party	291
The Last of the Fire Kings	293
Nostalgias	295
The Mute Phenomena	295
A Disused Shed in Co. Wexford	296
Autobiographies	298
Courtyards in Delft	301
Tractatus	302
A Lighthouse in Maine	303
A Garage in Co. Cork	305

## CONTENTS

### PAUL DURCAN 1944–

Letter to Ben, 1972	311
They Say the Butterfly is the Hardest Stroke	312
November 1967	313
General Vallancey's Waltz	313
Y Ireland 1972	314
Combe Florey	315
Nessa	316
In Memory of Those Murdered in the Dublin Massacre, May 1974	317
The Kilfenora Teaboy	318
Ireland 1977	319
Making Love outside Áras an Uachtaráin	320
Micheál Mac Liammóir	321
Sally	323

### TOM PAULIN 1949–

States	327
Settlers	328
Thinking of Iceland	328
From	331
Inishkeel Parish Church	332
Cadaver Politic	333
The Hyperboreans	334
Ballywaire	336
Newness	337
Arthur	337
Personal Column	340
Song for February	341
Still Century	342
Anastasia McLaughlin	343

## CONTENTS

Where Art is a Midwife	345
The Other Voice	346
Desertmartin	353
Descendancy	354
The Book of Juniper	355
Politik	363
Off the Back of a Lorry	364
A Rum Cove, a Stout Cove	365
A Written Answer	366
Manichean Geography I	367
Of Difference Does it Make	368
And Where Do You Stand on the National Question?	368

### MEDBH McGUCKIAN 1950–

Smoke	373
Tobacco Hole	373
June	374
Gateposts	374
The Cure	375
Tulips	376
Mr McGregor's Garden	377
The Sofa	378
Slips	379
To my Grandmother	380
The Seed-Picture	380
Champagne	382
The Flower Master	382
The Standing	383
The Moon Pond	384
The Aphrodisiac	385

## CONTENTS

Power-Cut	386
The Flitting	387
On not being your Lover	388
Aviary	389
The Hard Summer	390
Venus and the Rain	391
Felicia's Café	392
Biographical Notes on Contributors	393
Index of Titles	395
Index of First Lines	403
Acknowledgements	411