

I BLACK BRITISH POETRY

Introduction by Fred D'Aguiar 3

John Agard

- Listen Mr Oxford Don 5
- Half-caste 6

Iftikhar Arif

- Ghazal 8
- To a Despondent Evening 8

James Berry

- Old Man in New Country 10
- Spirits of Movement 10'
- New Speaker 12
- Poem for the Wife of an Imprisoned Leader 12

Valerie Bloom

- Longsight Market 15

Jean Binta Breeze

- Riddym Ravings (The Mad Woman's Poem) 17

Faustin Charles

- Omens of the Morning 21

Merle Collins

- Callaloo 23

David Dabydeen

- Coolie Odyssey 27
- Coolie Mother 31

Errol Francis

- Rotogravure 32
- *from* Fragments of the Green Island 33

Gabriel Gbadamosi

- Flying Home 36
- The Boat Passage 36
- Padraic's Point 37
- The Sewing-Box 38

David Haynes

- Mediatrix 39

A. L. Hendriks

- Recollections of the Sun 41

Mahmood Jamal

- Deflowering 43
- Work-in-progress 43

Amryl Johnson

- Identikit 46
- Conqueror of a Forbidden Landscape 47

Linton Kwesi Johnson

- Reggae Fi Dada 49

Jackie Kay

- Baby Lazarus 52
- That Distance Apart 52
- The Mother Poem (two) 55

John Lyons

- Lure of the Cascadura 57
- 'Skin Skin, Yuh Na Know Meh' 57
- Island Muse 58

E. A. Markham

- Towards the End of a Century 61

Grace Nichols

- Caribbean Woman Prayer 65

Albie Ollivierre

- Voice 67
- Talk War 68

Lemn Sissay

- 'What have we got' 70
- 'So Near and yet so Near' 70
- Today Will Pass 72

Levi Tafari

- De Tongue (De First Instrument) 73

II QUOTE FEMINIST UNQUOTE POETRY

Introduction by Gillian Allnutt 77

Gillian Allnutt

- Alien 80
- Comfortable Words 81

Sophie Behrens

- Wedding in the Port 82
- Someone Else 82
- Montecastelli Poem 83
- 'The trees are rustling outside the open window' 83

Eavan Boland

- Nocturne 84
- The Oral Tradition 84

Jeni Couzyn

- Dawn 88
- Cartography of the Subtle Heart 89
- The Message 90

Carol Ann Duffy

- The Dolphins 91
- Telephoning Home 91
- Foreign 92

Alison Fell

- August 6, 1945 93
- Medusa on Skyros 94
- Freeze-frame 95

Angie Gilligan

- Household Dilemma 97
- BATHSHEBA 97
- Mortgage 98

Caroline Halliday

- Music 99
- ode to my daughter's plimsolls and the mess in her room 101

Selima Hill

- The Ram 102
- Looking for Camels 102
- Crossing the Desert in a Pram 103

Frances Horovitz

- In Painswick Churchyard 104
- Irthing Valley 104
- Rain – Birdoswald 105

Libby Houston

- A House 106
- Judging Lear 106
- Scales 107

Maria Jastrzebska

- My Illness and Other Animals 108
- Bi-lingual 108

Liz Lochhead

- An Abortion 110
- Mirror's Song 111

Sue May

- Mildmay Grove 113
- House 113
- Double bass 114

- Lotte Moos
- Sisters? 115
 - Spendthrifts 115
 - The Black Shawl 116

- Evangeline Paterson
- Tribal Homeland 118
 - Dispossessed. 118
 - In a South African Museum 119

- Michèle Roberts
- rite de passage 120
 - Magnificat 121
 - Demeter grieving 122

- Janet Sutherland
- H e a r t h 123
 - 'During long walks' 123
 - Touching heartsease 123

- Michelene Wandor
- Ruth's story, as told to Lilith 125
 - Eve's commentary 126
 - Eve to Lilith 126
 - Lilith to Eve 127

III A TREACHEROUS ASSAULT ON BRITISH POETRY

Introduction by Eric Mottram 131

- Asa Benveniste
- Certainly Metaphysics 134
 - 'We are one with nature O!' 134
 - Infield Outfield 135
 - An End To It 136
 - Blue Crêpe 137

- B. Catling
- Boschlog 138

- Thomas A. Clark
- *from* Sixteen Sonnets 143
 - *from* Twenty Poems 145

- Bob Cobbing
- Worm 147
 - tan 148
 - Alphabet of Fishes 149
 - *from* Three Poems for Voice and Movement 150
 - *from* Beethoven Today 151
 - Blotting Music 152

- Andrew Crozier
- *from* High Zero 153
 - Permanent Wave 155
 - Humiliation in its Disguises 156

- Paul Evans
- Ode 158
 - Two Sonnets 158
 - Infamous Doctrine 159
 - Ode to Tennis 160
 - *from* The Sofa Book 162

- Allen Fisher
- The gardener's preface 163
 - Birdland 164

- Roy Fisher
- On the Open Side 168
 - Emblem 168
 - *from* Wonders of Obligation 169

- Bill Griffiths
- To Tom Saunders on His Imprisonment 173
 - Terzetto: Brixton 173
 - Animal 174
 - Into Prison 175
 - After Stroke 176

- For P-Celtic: found text from Machen 177
- Compass Poem 178
- Lee Harwood
 - As Your Eyes Are Blue . . . 179
 - Animal Days 180
 - Text for a Poster (2) 183
- John James
 - For the Safety of Lovers 185
 - On Leaving the Footpath 185
 - Cambridge 186
 - After Christopher Wood 187
 - Sister Midnight 188
- Tom Leonard
 - *from* Unrelated Incidents 191
 - *from* Ghostie Men 192
 - A Summer's Day 193
 - On Knowing the Difference Between Prejudice, Discrimination, and Oppression 193
 - *from* Situations Theoretical and Contemporary 194
- Barry MacSweeney
 - Blackbird: elegy for William Gordon Calvert 195
- Eric Mottram
 - Brief Novel (3) 201
 - 'Smell of canyon rain storm' 203
 - Peace Project (5) 203
- Wendy Mulford
 - Valentine 207
 - In a Hot Country 208
- The Moon 208
- Egypt 209
- The Green Chateau 210
- Mr and Mrs 210
- Goodbye to the Bay of Naples 211
- Jeff Nuttall
 - The Whore of Kilpeck 212
 - Three Scenes: Todmorden 213
 - Dub Eleven 214
- Douglas Oliver
 - The Oracle of the Drowned 215
 - Snowdonia at a Distance 216
 - The Ferry Pirate 217
 - *from* The Infant and the Pearl 219
- Tom Pickard
 - valentine 223
 - detente 223
 - recipe: pastime for the unemployed 224
 - gypsy music in Krakow 225
 - dawn raid on an orchard 226
- Tom Raworth
 - South America 228
 - Cross Divide 228
 - Horse Power 229
 - Nothing 234
- Denise Riley
 - Poor Snow 235
 - Housing 235
 - Do So 236
 - It Really is the Heart 236
 - What I Do 237

■ Affections Must Not 237

■ Work 238

Peter Riley

■ Ospita 240

Colin Simms

■ Otter, Redewetter 245

■ ARCS above OXUS 245

■ Three Years in Glen

Garry 246

■ St Kilda–Wren, 1957 247

Iain Sinclair

■ Painting with a Knife 249

■ Star 249

■ A Bull called Remorse 250

■ German Bite 251

■ Hurricane Drummers: Self-
Aid in Haggerston 251

Ken Smith

■ Living with the Boss 253

■ Snobby Roberts'
Message 253

■ The Night Whispers 253

■ Jack's Postcards 256

■ Writing in Prison 257

Gael Turnbull

■ They Have Taken 258

■ Residues: Thronging the
Heart 258

IV SOME YOUNGER POETS

Introduction by Ken Edwards 265

Tony Baker

■ (for Geraldine) 271

■ Two Poems 271

Paul Brown

■ *from De Rebus* 274

Richard Caddel

■ Wyatt's Dream 277

■ Two Movements Which
Begin at the Head and End
at the Feet 277

■ Going Home 278

■ Translation from a Lost
Source 278

■ Vers Negre 279

■ Enchanter's
Nightshade 279

■ Uncertain Steps 279

■ The Paths 281

Cris Cheek

■ *from* drawing on the
traditions 282

Kelvin Corcoran

■ Volitionist Economics 285

■ A Slogan will not
Suffice 285

■ Nobody Thinks Hard
Enough for Poetry 287

■ Two Poems 288

Andrew Duncan

■ The Poet and the
Schizophrenic 289

■ In the Red Grove 290

Ken Edwards

■ 'You must change your
life' 293

■ The Firmament Doth
Shake 293

■ Geraniums, South
London 295

Peter Finch

■ The Computer's First
Proverbs 298

■ Passion Shaved Beneath the
Grain-Silo 299

■ Customize the Grass 299

Ulli Freer

■ Take the Toys from the
Boys 300

Glenda George

■ QUASI QUASI . . . as if,
repeated 303

Ralph Hawkins

■ The Colours He Came To
See 308

■ Cattle 309

■ Birds 310

■ Imperfect Air 311

David Miller

■ Primavera 312

Geraldine Monk

■ Poem for August 315

■ Beneath the Radar 316

■ Spring Bank 317

■ Make-Up 318

Maggie O'Sullivan

■ Lottery & Requiem 319

■ Busk, Pierce 320

Elaine Randell

■ Watching Women With
Children 325

Gavin Seleric

■ Fyllr 330

■ Garland 330

■ 'Watching the night
sky' 331

■ Paris 1912 332

■ Exit on Feedback 333

■ Azimuth 334

Robert Sheppard

■ *from* Letter from the
Blackstock Road 336

■ The Materialization of Soap
1947 338

John Wilkinson

■ Five Poems 340

THE POETS 345