

The Penguin Book of English Verse

Edited by John Hayward



THE PENGUIN BOOK ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

OF

ENGLISH VERSE

EDITED BY JOHN HAYWARD

*

1561.2



PENGUIN BOOKS

Penguin Books Ltd, Harmondsworth, Middlesex, England
Penguin Books Australia Ltd, Ringwood, Victoria, Australia

—
First published 1956
Reprinted 1958, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1966, 1968

—
This selection copyright © John Hayward, 1956

—
Made and printed in Great Britain
by Cox & Wyman Ltd,
London, Reading and Fakenham
Set in Monotype Bembo

A cloth-bound edition of this book
is published by
Faber & Faber Ltd

This book is sold subject to the condition
that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise,
be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated
without the publisher's prior consent in any form of
binding or cover other than that in which it is
published and without a similar condition
including this condition being imposed
on the subsequent purchaser

THE PENGUIN POETS

D32

THE PENGUIN BOOK OF
ENGLISH VERSE

TO THE READER

THE chief, if not the only end of poetry, Dryden said, is to delight. It is with this end always in view that the following selection of English poetry has been made. A choice from all the poetry written in English verse during the past four hundred years necessarily involves compromise of one kind or another if a satisfactory balance is to be maintained between rival claims and interests. In order to achieve this, certain restrictions had to be imposed if, in the first place, the selection was to be contained within a volume of manageable and economic size and, in the second, was to be as well-proportioned and as representative as possible within its limits.

The range in time has therefore been set to exclude poets born before 1500, the upper limit being fixed by the publication in 1557 of Tottel's *Songes and Sonettes* (the first anthology of recognizably modern English verse), and the lower around the year 1940 when the poets who had grown up between the two World Wars of this century were reaching maturity. The field of choice within these dates has been further reduced by the exclusion of anonymous poems, dramatic verse (but not songs from plays), and dialect verse. To have attempted to do justice to traditional ballads, Elizabethan and Jacobean drama, and – to quote the title of Burns's first book – 'poems in the Scottish dialect' – would have left too little room for an adequate representation of poets with a prior claim to inclusion.

Even so, long poems of the first order such as *The Faerie Queene*, *Paradise Lost*, and *The Prelude* have had to be curtailed to a few extracts – a compromise which does at least enable them to be sampled along with all the other kinds of English verse exemplified in this collection. Although this particular form of compromise was unavoidable if a proper balance was to be preserved in the collection as a whole, it is unfortunately bound to do injustice to poets for whom the long poem is the most satisfactory medium of poetic expression. Such, indeed, were the principal poets of the eighteenth century from Pope to Crabbe; but there are also a few in every generation whose characteristic poems are too long to be given in full and lose in selection much of the peculiar value and interest inherent in their length.

Subject to these limitations, I have tried to concentrate in the

following pages as much as possible of the richness and variety of intellectual and emotional appeal made by the principal poets – some 150 in all – who have written in English throughout the four centuries dividing the first Elizabethan age from the second.

An anthologist must always be indebted to the accumulated taste and judgement of the many critics of the past and of his own time who have insensibly influenced him, not forgetting what he owes to ‘the common sense of readers uncorrupted by literary prejudice’ by which, according to Dr Johnson, ‘must be finally decided all claim to poetical honours’. I am grateful for the help they have indirectly given me. More particularly I wish to thank Mr W. H. Auden, Mr T. S. Eliot, Mr George Fraser, Miss Helen Gardner, and Miss Kathleen Raine for their advice; Mr J. M. G. Blakiston (Moberly Librarian, Winchester College), Mr David Foxon (The British Museum), and Mr John Sweeney (Harvard College) for their assistance in obtaining texts; the Duke of Bedford for the loan of his unique copy of Chapman’s *Eugenia*; and Messrs McLeish, Pickering & Chatto Ltd and Bernard Quaritch Ltd for the loan of other volumes.

JOHN HAYWARD

NOTE ON THE TEXT

The poets represented are in chronological order. The texts reproduced are those of the earliest (usually the first) edition published either with the poet’s authority, or, in the case of posthumous publication, from authoritative manuscript sources. Exceptionally, certain texts have been taken from later editions, revised by the poet during his lifetime or subsequently by his editors in the light of additional textual evidence. The original spelling, punctuation &c. of the copy-texts have been preserved, not for their extrinsic quaintness, but because, after due allowance has been made for the quirks and aberrations (not to mention simple carelessness or ignorance) of compositors before the nineteenth century, they serve to point sense and sound and rhythm. They illustrate, moreover, the evolution of the printed word. Obvious misprints have, however, been corrected and confusing archaic usages (‘then’ for ‘than’, the long *ſ*, *u* for *v*, and *i* for *j*) abandoned.

CONTENTS

[Titles in square brackets have been supplied by the editor; titles
in italics are those of works originally published separately]

TO THE READER

146
xxiii

SIR THOMAS WYATT (?1503-1542)	
The lover sheweth how he is forsaken . . .	1
Comparison of love to a streame falling . . .	1
The lover rejoiceth . . .	2
The lover complayneth . . .	2
A renouncing of love	3
Of his returne from Spaine	4
HENRY HOWARD, EARL OF SURREY (?1517-1547)	
A complaint by night . . .	4
Prisoned in Windsor . . .	5
Of the death of sir T[homas]. W[yatt].	6
THOMAS SACKVILLE, EARL OF DORSET (1536-1608)	
[A Vision of War] (Induction. <i>A Myrroure for Magistrates</i>)	7
GEORGE GASCOIGNE (?1542-1577)	
'And if I did what then?'	10
SIR EDWARD DYER (?1540-1607)	
'The lowest Trees have tops'	11
NICHOLAS BRETON (?1545-?1626)	
The Plowmans Song	11
SIR PHILIP SIDNEY (1554-1586)	
From <i>Astrophel and Stella</i>	12
['Just Exchange']	13
['Farewell World']	13
EDMUND SPENSER (?1552-1599)	
From <i>The Faerie Queene</i>	14
From <i>Amoretti</i>	21
<i>Prothalamion</i>	22
GEORGE PEELE (1556-1596)	
[The Voice from the Well] (<i>The Old Wives Tale</i>)	26
'When as the Rie . . .' (<i>The Old Wives Tale</i>)	27
A Sonet	27

<i>Contents</i>	FULKE GREVILLE, LORD BROOKE (1554-1628)	
	Chorus Sacerdotum (<i>Mustapha</i>)	27
	THOMAS LODGE (?1558-1625)	
	Rosalindes Madrigall	28
	ROBERT SOUTHWELL (?1561-1595)	
	Tymes goe by Turnes	29
	The Burning Babe	30
	HENRY CONSTABLE (1562-1613)	
	Damelus' Song to his Diaphenia	31
	CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE (1564-1593)	
	The Passionate Sheepeheard to his love	31
	From <i>Hero and Leander</i>	32
	SIR WALTER RALEGH (?1552-1618)	
	Farewell to the Court	34
	From 'The Last Booke of the Ocean to Scinthia'	35
	[A Lover's Complaint]	37
	The Author's Epitaph	38
	THOMAS NASHE (1567-1601)	
	Song from <i>Summer's Last Will and Testament</i>	39
	SAMUEL DANIEL (1562-1601)	
	Sonnets from <i>Delia</i>	40
	From 'To the Countesse of Cumberland'	41
	SIR JOHN DAVIES (1569-1626)	
	From <i>Orchestra: A Poem of Dauncing</i>	42
	MICHAEL DRAYTON (1563-1631)	
	The Sheepeheard's Daffadill	45
	Sonnets from <i>Idea</i>	47
	[Last Verses]	48
	THOMAS CAMPION (1567-1620)	
	Lyrics from Campion's <i>Bookes of Ayres</i>	48
	['A Pilgrimage towards Loves Holy Land']	52
	GEORGE CHAPMAN (?1559-1634)	
	['Presage of Storme'] (<i>Eugenia</i>)	53
	['Natures naked Jem'] (<i>Ovid's Banquet of Sence</i>)	55
	JOSEPH HALL (1574-1656)	
	Satire XII: ['The love-sicke Poet']	57

	<i>Contents</i>
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564-1616)	
From <i>Sonnets</i>	58
[Age and Youth]	65
The Phoenix and the Turtle	65
Songs from Plays	67
JOHN WEBSTER (?1580-1638)	
[Summons to Execution] (<i>The Dutchesse of Malfy</i>)	70
[Dirge] (<i>The White Diuel</i>)	70
BEN JONSON (1572-1637)	
'Come my Celia . . .'	71
'Drinke to me onely . . .'	71
On my first Sonne	72
Epitaph on S[alomon].P[avy].	72
From 'To Penshurst'	73
That Women are but Mens Shaddowes	73
From 'An Epistle to Lady Rutland'	74
From 'A Celebration of Charis'	74
An Ode. To Himselfe	75
[Proportion]	76
'Slow, slow, fresh fount' (<i>Cynthia's Revels</i>)	77
JOHN DONNE (1572-1631)	
The Good-Morrow	77
Lovers Infinitenesse	78
'Sweetest Love I do not goe'	79
A Nocturnall upon S. Lucies Day	80
A Valediction: Forbidding mourning	81
The Extasie	82
Elegie: His Picture	84
From <i>The Second Anniversarie</i>	85
Holy Sonnets	86
A Hymne to Christ	87
Hymne to God my God, in my Sicknesse	88
FRANCIS BEAUMONT (1584-1616) & JOHN FLETCHER (1579-1625)	
Songs from Plays	89
LORD HERBERT OF CHERBURY (1583-1648)	
Elegy over a Tomb	93

Contents	WILLIAM DRUMMOND OF HAWTHORNDEN (1585-1649)	
	‘Like the <i>Idalian</i> Queene’	94
	‘Sweet <i>Spring</i> , thou turn’st . . .’	94
	‘As in a duskie and tempestuous Night’	95
	[‘The World a Hunting is’]	95
	FRANCIS QUARLES (1592-1644)	
	Canticle	96
	HENRY KING (1592-1669)	
	The Exequy	97
	JAMES SHIRLEY (1596-1666)	
	Song from <i>Cupid & Death</i>	100
	Song from <i>The Contention of Ajax & Ulysses</i>	101
	WILLIAM STRODE (?1602-1645)	
	On Westwall Downes	102
	WILLIAM HABINGTON (1605-1654)	
	Song from <i>The Queene of Arragon</i>	103
	THOMAS RANDOLPH (1605-1635)	
	An Ode to Mr Anthony Stafford	104
	GEORGE HERBERT (1593-1633)	
	From ‘Easter’	106
	Jordan	106
	Even-Song	107
	Deniall	108
	Vertue	109
	The Pearl	109
	The Collar	110
	The Pulley	111
	The Flower	112
	Love	113
	RICHARD CRASHAW (?1613-1649)	
	A Hymn to . . . Sainte Teresa	114
	On a Young Married Couple	119
	From ‘M. Crashaws Answer for Hope’	119
	HENRY VAUGHAN (1622-1695)	
	The Retreat	120
	Corruption	121

	122	Contents
Man	122	
The World	123	
[Friends Departed]	124	
['I walkt the other day']	125	
THOMAS TRAHERNE (?1636-1674)		
From 'The Salutation'	127	
From 'Solitude'	128	
From 'Christendom'	128	
On News	130	
ABRAHAM COWLEY (1618-1667)		
The Change	132	
EDWARD BENLOWES (?1603-1676)		
From <i>Theophila</i>	132	
ANDREW MARVELL (1621-1678)		
Bermudas	134	
To his Coy Mistress	135	
The Definition of Love	136	
The Garden	137	
[The Kingfisher] ('Upon Appleton House')	139	
SIR WILLIAM D'AVENANT (1606-1668)		
From <i>Gondibert</i>	139	
'The Lark now leaves his watry Nest'	140	
To the Queen, entertain'd at night	141	
The Philosopher and the Lover	141	
JOHN MILTON (1608-1674)		
[On his 24th Birthday]	142	
Lycidas	142	
[On his Blindness]	147	
[Katherine Milton: died MDCLVIII]	148	
From <i>Paradise Lost</i>	148	
[Epilogue] (Samson Agonistes)	155	
SAMUEL BUTLER (1612-1680)		
From <i>Hudibras</i>	156	
ROBERT HERRICK (1591-1674)		
To the Virgins, to make much of Time	158	
Delight in Disorder	159	

Contents	ROBERT HERRICK - cont.	
	To Dianeme	159
	To Meddowes	160
	To Daffadills	160
	His Poetrie his Pillar	161
	THOMAS CAREW (?1595-?1639)	
	The Spring	162
	'Aske me no more . . .'	162
	SIR JOHN SUCKLING (1609-1642)	
	'Oh for some honest Lovers ghost'	163
	Loving and Beloved	164
	RICHARD LOVELACE (1618-1657)	
	To Lucasta going beyond the Seas	165
	To Lucasta going to the Warres	166
	The Grasse-Hopper	166
	To Althea, from Prison	167
	THOMAS STANLEY (1625-1678)	
	La Belle Confidente	168
	JOHN HALL (1627-1656)	
	The Call	169
	SIR JOHN DENHAM (1615-1669)	
	[The Thames] (<i>Cooper's Hill</i>)	170
	EDMUND WALLER (1608-1687)	
	'Goe lovely Rose'	171
	The Selfe Banished	172
	Of the Last Verses in the Book	172
	CHARLES COTTON (1630-1687)	
	To Mr Isaac Walton	173
	Laura sleeping	174
	EDWARD TAYLOR (?1644-1729)	
	Upon a Wasp chilled with Cold	175
	JOHN DRYDEN (1631-1700)	
	[The Fire of London] (<i>Annus Mirabilis</i>)	176
	From <i>Absalom and Achitophel</i>	177
	A Song for St Cecilia's Day, 1687	180

To the University of Oxford, 1674	181	<i>Contents</i>
To the Memory of Mr Oldham	182	
Songs from Plays	183	
SIR CHARLES SEDLEY (?1639-1701)		
‘Not <i>Celia</i> , that I juster am’	186	
‘Love still has something of the Sea’	187	
RICHARD LEIGH (b. 1649)		
Sleeping on her Couch	188	
JOHN WILMOT, EARL OF ROCHESTER (1647-1680)		
Love and Life	188	
‘Absent from thee’	189	
From <i>A Satyr against Mankind</i>	189	
MATTHEW PRIOR (1664-1721)		
A Better Answer	192	
A Simile	193	
An English Padlock	194	
ANNE FINCH, COUNTESS OF WINCHILSEA (1661-1720)		
A Nocturnal Reverie	196	
WILLIAM CONGREVE (1670-1729)		
‘False though she be . . .’	197	
AMBROSE PHILIPS (1674-1749)		
To Miss Charlotte Pulteney	198	
JONATHAN SWIFT (1667-1745)		
A Description of the Morning	199	
The Day of Judgement	199	
From <i>Verses on the Death of Dr Swift</i>	200	
ALEXANDER POPE (1688-1744)		
From <i>Windsor Forest</i>	202	
From <i>An Essay on Criticism</i>	203	
From <i>The Rape of the Lock</i>	205	
[Epitaph] Intended for Sir Isaac Newton	206	
To Mrs M[artha]. B[ount]. on her Birthday	207	
From <i>An Essay on Man</i>	207	
From <i>Of the Characters of Women</i>	208	

<i>Contents</i>	JOHN GAY (1685-1732)	
	'Sleep, O Sleep'	212
	'Love in her Eyes sits playing' (<i>Acis & Galatea</i>)	212
	JOHN DYER (?1700-1758)	
	From 'Grongar Hill'	213
	JAMES THOMSON (1700-1748)	
	From <i>Winter</i>	214
	WILLIAM SHENSTONE (1714-1763)	
	'O'er desert plains, and rushy meers'	217
	SAMUEL JOHNSON (1709-1784)	
	[The Scholar's Life] (<i>The Vanity of Human Wishes</i>)	218
	[Lines on the Death of Mr Levett]	219
	JOSEPH WARTON (1722-1800)	
	From <i>The Enthusiast: Or, The Lover of Nature</i>	220
	WILLIAM COLLINS (1721-1759)	
	Ode to Evening	222
	[St Kilda] ('Ode on the Popular Superstitions of the Highlands')	224
	THOMAS GRAY (1716-1771)	
	<i>An Elegy written in a Country Church Yard</i>	225
	CHRISTOPHER SMART (1722-1771)	
	[Adoration] (<i>A Song to David</i>)	228
	OLIVER GOLDSMITH (?1730-1774)	
	From <i>The Deserted Village</i>	230
	CHARLES CHURCHILL (1731-1764)	
	[A Criticaster] (<i>The Rosciad</i>)	234
	WILLIAM COWPER (1731-1800)	
	The Castaway	236
	The Shrubbery	237
	[Town and Country] (<i>The Task</i>)	238
	WILLIAM BLAKE (1757-1827)	
	From <i>Poetical Sketches</i>	
	'How sweet I roam'd'	239
	'My silks and fine array'	240
	From <i>Songs of Innocence</i>	
	The Divine Image	240

From <i>Songs of Experience</i>	
The Clod and the Pebble	241
The Sick Rose	241
The Tyger	241
London	242
Infant Sorrow	243
Auguries of Innocence	243
From <i>The Book of The</i>	246
From <i>Milton</i>	
[The New Jerusalem]	247
[Birdsong]	247
Epilogue (<i>The Gates of Paradise</i>)	248
GEORGE CRABBE (1754-1832)	
[The Pauper's Funeral] (<i>The Village</i>)	248
[Peter Grimes] (<i>The Borough</i>)	249
[Jonas Kindred's Household] (<i>Tales</i>)	250
[The Dejected Lover] (<i>Tales of the Hall</i>)	251
CHARLOTTE SMITH (1749-1806)	
Elegiac Sonnet	252
THOMAS RUSSELL (1762-1788)	
Sonnet suppos'd to be written at Lemnos	252
WILLIAM LISLE BOWLES (1762-1850)	
Sonnet. July 18th 1787	253
SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE (1772-1834)	
Frost at Midnight	253
Kubla Khan	255
Dejection. An Ode	257
WILLIAM WORDSWORTH (1770-1850)	
[‘My heart leaps up’]	261
‘She dwelt among the untrodden ways’	261
‘A slumber did my spirit seal’	261
From ‘Lines composed . . . above Tintern Abbey’	262
[‘The world is too much with us’]	263
The Solitary Reaper	263
From ‘Intimations of Immortality’	264
[To Catherine Wordsworth]	265
Afterthought	265
From <i>The Prelude</i>	266

Contents	SAMUEL ROGERS (1763-1855)	
	Captivity	272
	WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT (1794-1878)	
	To a Waterfowl	272
	WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR (1775-1864)	
	[The Sea-Nymph's Parting] (<i>Gebir</i>)	273
	Ianthe	274
	Rose Aylmer	274
	Dirce	275
	[Ternissa]	275
	[Envoi]	275
	THOMAS MOORE (1779-1852)	
	'At the mid hour of night'	275
	GEORGE GORDON, LORD BYRON (1788-1824)	
	'She walks in beauty'	276
	To Ianthe (Dedication. <i>Childe Harold</i>)	276
	[The Eve of Waterloo] (<i>Childe Harold</i>)	278
	['My days of love are over'] (<i>Don Juan</i>)	280
	['The Isles of Greece'] (<i>Don Juan</i>)	281
	'So we'll go no more a roving'	283
	PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY (1792-1822)	
	Ode to the West Wind	284
	Chorus from <i>Hellas</i>	286
	From <i>Adonais</i>	287
	Sonnet	290
	Ozymandias	290
	Mutability	291
	'One word is too often profaned'	291
	On Fanny Godwin	292
	'A widow bird sate mourning' (<i>Charles the First</i>)	292
	JOHN KEATS (1795-1821)	
	On first looking into Chapman's <i>Homer</i>	292
	Ode to a Nightingale	293
	Ode on a Grecian Urn	295
	To Autumn	296
	Ode on Melancholy	297
	From 'Hyperion'	298
	'Bright star, would I were stedfast'	300

GEORGE DARLEY (1795-1846)	
The Mermaidens' Vesper Hymn	301
[The Unicorn]	301
THOMAS HOOD (1799-1845)	
The Sea of Death	302
Silence	303
JOHN CLARE (1793-1864)	
Emmonsail's Heath in Winter	304
Mary	304
I am	305
'Love lives beyond the Tomb'	305
RALPH WALDO EMERSON (1803-1882)	
Hamatreya	306
'Give all to love'	308
Merops	309
Concord Hymn	309
THOMAS LOVELL BEDDOES (1803-1849)	
'We have bathed, where none have seen us'	310
EDGAR ALLEN POE (1809-1849)	
To Helen	311
The City in the Sea	311
Romance	313
ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON (1809-1892)	
Tithonus	314
[The Sleeping House] (<i>Maud</i>)	316
['There is none like her'] (<i>Maud</i>)	316
Songs from <i>The Princess</i>	317
[Elaine's Song] ('Lancelot and Elaine')	318
[Vivien's Song] ('Merlin and Vivien')	318
From 'Morte d'Arthur'	319
From <i>In Memoriam</i>	320
'Break, break, break'	324
Crossing the Bar	324
HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW (1807-1882)	
From 'To a Child'	325
From 'Evangeline'	325
To the Driving Cloud	326