

THE PENGUIN BOOK OF FIRST WORLD WAR POETRY

EDITED AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY JON SILKIN

SECOND EDITION



PENGUIN BOOKS

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PENGUIN TWENTIETH-CENTURY CLASSICS

THE PENGUIN BOOK OF FIRST WORLD WAR POETRY

Jon Silkin was born in London in 1930, and educated at Wycliffe and Dulwich colleges. In 1947 he spent a year working as a journalist, which was followed by two years' national service in the army as a teacher in the Education Corps. After leaving the army he worked as a manual labourer in London for six years, followed by two years of teaching English to foreign students in a language school. During these years Ion Silkin established his reputation as a poet. Thereafter he held the Gregory Fellowship in Poetry at the University of Leeds (1058-60), and in 1965 moved to Newcastle where he co-edits the literary magazine Stand. Jon Silkin has visited America several times, giving poetryreading tours, and has taught at the Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa. His volumes of poetry include The Peaceable Kingdom (1954), Nature with Man (1965), which was awarded the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize, The Principle of Water (1974), The Little Time-keeper (1076), The Psalms with Their Spoils (1980), The Ship's Pasture (1986) and Selected Poems (1988). He has also published Out of Battle (1987), a critical study of the poetry of the First World War, and, with Jon Glover, has edited The Penguin Book of First World War Prose.

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A CHOICE OF TWENTIETH - CENTURY CLASSICS

The Sea of Fertility Yukio Mishima

'Mishima's thrilling storytelling is unique; there is nothing like it. His flashing style is perfect for his dark motives and there are times when his words are so splendid, and his concepts so tragic, that reading him becomes a profound experience' – Ronald Blythe in the Sunday Times

Nineteen Eighty-Four George Orwell

'It is a volley against the authoritarian in every personality, a polemic against every orthodoxy, an anarchistic blast against every unquestioning conformist ... Nineteen Eighty-Four is a great novel and a great tract because of the clarity of its call, and it will endure because its message is a permanent one: erroneous thought is the stuff of freedom' – Ben Pimlott

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Daphne Rooke is one of South Africa's finest post-war novelists and *Mittee*, set in nineteenth-century Transvaal, remains her masterpiece. Juxtaposing violence and sexuality, the novel is a searing indictment of the alienation created by the excesses of Afrikaaner nationalism.

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A CHOICE OF TWENTIETH - CENTURY CLASSICS

Between the Acts Virginia Woolf

'Her posthumous novel ... suggests several new directions ... Its weave of past and present, quotidian reality and imminent catastrophe, the thin line between civilization and barbarism, its erotic overtones and continual humour make a powerful and prophetic statement' – The Times

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes Anita Loos

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes had its first acclaimed appearance in Harpers Bazaar and was later made famous on stage and screen. In this brilliant satire of the Jazz Age Anita Loos has created the funniest Bad Blonde in American literature.

The Living and the Dead Patrick White

To hesitate on the edge of life or to plunge in and risk change – this is the dilemma explored in *The Living and the Dead*. 'Scene after scene is worked out with an exactness and subtlety which no second-string novelist can scent, far less nail to paper' – *Time*. 'He is, in the finest sense, a world novelist' – *Guardian*

Go Tell It on the Mountain James Baldwin

'Mountain is the book I had to write if I was ever going to write anything else. I had to deal with what hurt me most. I had to deal with my father'—James Baldwin. 'Passionately eloquent'—The Times

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Blending memories and family myths, Mary McCarthy takes us back to the twenties, when she was orphaned in a world of relations as colourful, potent and mysterious as the Catholic religion. 'Superb ... so heart-breaking that in comparison Jane Eyre seems to have got off lightly'—Anita Brookner

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