

IN BRIEF



Matthew Sweeney's latest collection from Cape is entitled *The Bridal Suite*, which is misleading as most of it's about death. Which is not to say it's gloomy: no, Sweeney keeps things at all times buoyant with sudden zany swerves and relentless humour. So much so that it's hard to see how this is a collection and not just a group of poems thrown together to fill out Cape's handsome covers. Albert Goldbarth's *Adventures in Ancient Egypt* (Ohio State UP) is similarly impious in the face of death, but more engaging in his use of form, which he stretches in all kinds of ways to accommodate the whole gamut of human emotion.

Anthony Hecht in *Flight Among the Tombs* (Oxford) parries the Grim Reaper with all the expertise of an old master. Humorous feints, affecting *touchés*. The woodcuts by Leonard Baskin are an excellent complement and compliment to the poetry. This is an outstanding collection by one of the most outstanding poets in the US.

Hecht is one of the old school, as is Edgar Bowers whose *Collected Poems* (Knopf) must count as one of the best books published last year. There's only 168 pages here, which makes Geoffrey Hill look prolific in comparison. But the poetry compensates with its complex, engaging, bejewelled surfaces. He refers on occasion to Paul Valéry (see Alistair Elliot's recent translation of *La Jeune Parque* from Bloodaxe), whose patience and exquisite artistry Bowers has obviously learnt from. Honourable mention should also be made of Sandy Solomon's *Pears, Lake, Sun* (Peterloo) and Linda Gregerson's *The Woman Who Died in Her Sleep* (Houghton Mifflin) and—slightly older these, but no worse for that—Karen Volkman's *Crash's Law* (Norton) and Lucie Brock-Broido's *The Master Letters* (Knopf).

And the greatest American poet of them all, in this century at least, Wallace Stevens, has now been fittingly honoured by the Library of America who have brought out his *Collected Poetry and Prose*, edited by Frank Kermode and Joan Richardson. It'll cost you \$35, but it's in a sturdy hardback edition and has everything you could possibly want, from "The Auroras of Autumn" to the insurance executive's short essay on "Surety and Fidelity Claims".

And lastly, another thick volume: *These Jaundiced Loves*, (Peterloo) Christopher Pilling's translation of Tristan Corbière's *Les Amours Jaunes*. Corbière is still one of the great unread classics, and in Pilling has found his best translator yet. Warmly recommended.

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

- SARAH BROOM is a research student at Oxford.
- HARRY CLIFTON contributed to *Metre* 1 and 3. His most recent collection in *Night Train Through the Brenner*.
- MICHAEL FOLEY lives in London.
- TOM FRENCH lives in Dublin. His work has appeared in *Metre* and many other journals.
- VONA GROARKE'S second collection, *Poems about Houses*, is forthcoming from the Gallery Press
- BRIAN HENRY is an editor of *Verse*. He has published poetry and criticism widely, and is currently spending a year in Australia.
- EDWARD HIRSCH'S most recent collection of poems is *Earthly Measures* from Knopf.
- ELIZABETH JENNINGS' *Collected Poems* are published by Carcanet. She lives in Oxford.
- JAMES LIDDY teaches at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee and has published numerous books of poetry.
- MICHAEL LONGLEY'S most recent collection is *The Ghost Orchid* (Cape, 1995). *A New Selected Poems* appears this year.
- ELIZABETH LOWRY is an assistant editor of *Thumbscrew*, and reviews for the *TLS* and *Poetry Review*.
- CATHAL MCCABE was born in Newry, and lives in Poland, where he works for the British Council.
- EDWIN MORGAN was born in Glasgow in 1920. His *Collected Poems* was published by Carcanet in 1990, and his *Collected Translations* in 1996; his most recent collection is *Virtual and Other Realities*.
- DON PATERSON won the T.S. Eliot prize for his second collection, *God's Gift to Women* (Faber, 1997).
- SELWYN PRITCHARD'S *Stirring Stuff* appeared from Sinclair-Stevenson in 1993. He lives in Australia.
- JUSTIN QUINN is an editor of *Metre*. His second collection, *Privacy*, is forthcoming from Carcanet.
- IAIN SINCLAIR recently published *Lights Out for the Territory* (Granta).
- CONOR O'CALLAGHAN contributed to *Metre* 1 and 3. His second collection, *Seatown*, is forthcoming from Gallery Press.
- MARY O'CONNOR has published work widely in magazines. She lives in South Dakota.
- PAULO TEIXEIRA was born in Mozambique in 1962 and has lived in Portugal since 1974. He has published nine collections of poetry.
- BILL TINLEY won the Patrick Kavanagh prize in 1996, and is an editor of *Sotto Voce* Press. He lives in Maynooth.
- CHARLES TOMLINSON'S *Collected Poems* are published by Oxford.
- ISTVÁN VÖRÖS lives in Budapest; his most recent book is *A csodaöreg*.
- RICHARD ZENITH has translated widely from Portuguese.