

# Dylan Thomas

JAMES STEPHENS

C. DAY LEWIS

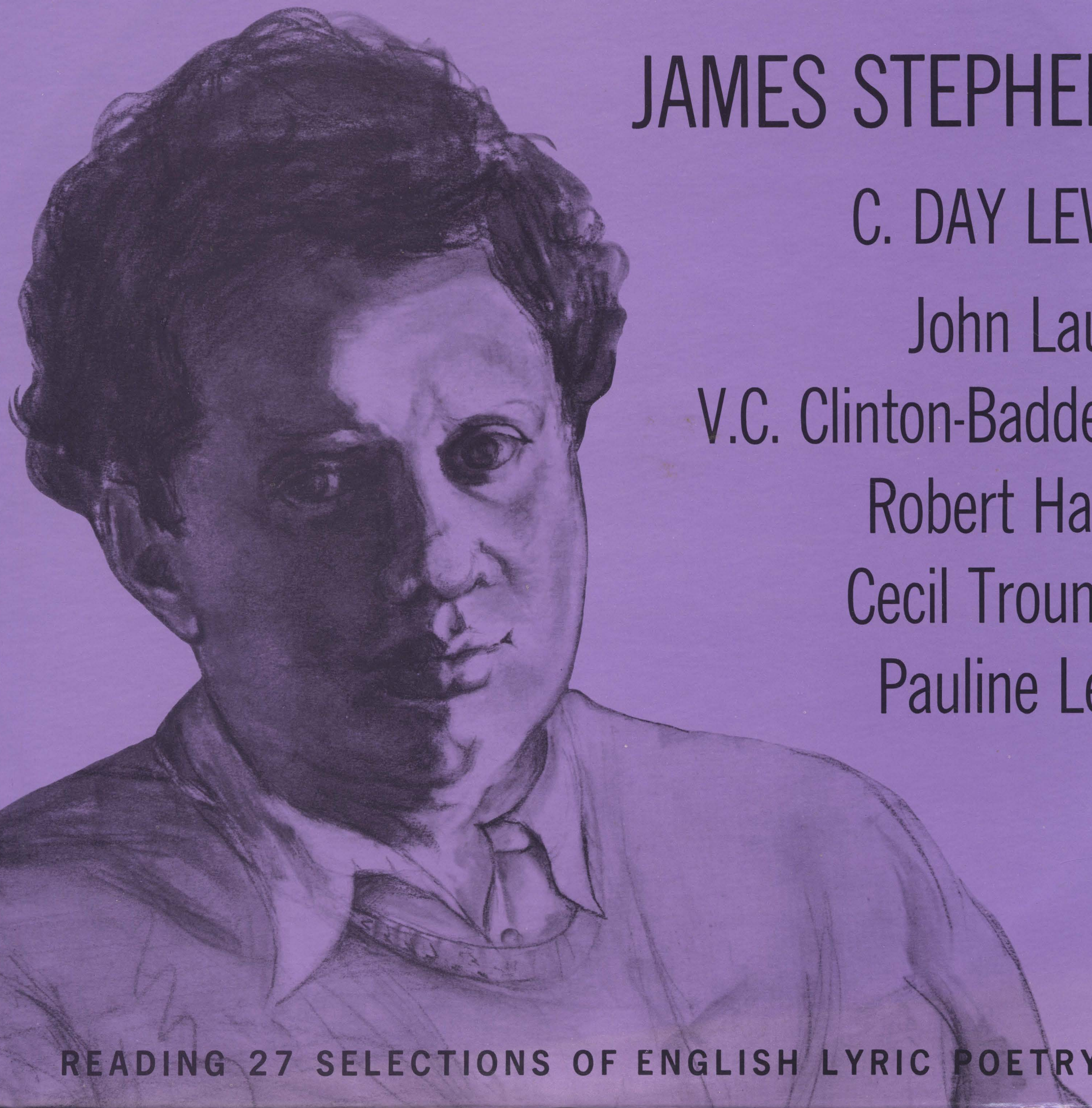
John Laurie

V.C. Clinton-Baddeley

Robert Harris

Cecil Truncer

Pauline Letts



READING 27 SELECTIONS OF ENGLISH LYRIC POETRY



THE FIRST PLANNED, RECORDED

# Anthology of English Literature

Here is preserved some of the finest poetic readings by the famed poet Dylan Thomas . . . recordings made in England in the late 40's before he was toasted at New York cocktail parties, before he frequented the Greenwich Village haunts and traveled the U.S.A. reciting poetry with the assured professional's touch. This is the young Dylan Thomas when his biographers likened him to a Keats and the famed artist Augustus John painted his portrait in a most romantic light. The poet gives a free and easy rendition of Peacock's *The War Song of Dinas Vawr*, a reading that has been proclaimed by many critics as a "masterpiece." Equally interesting is the Dylan

Thomas performance of Peacock's *The Three Wise Men of Gotham*, recited together with the lovable Irish poet James Stephens, actor-scholar V.C. Clinton-Baddeley and engineer E.A.J. Vetter. This record was the first of many in the series THE LONDON LIBRARY OF RECORDED ENGLISH . . . the world's first planned, recorded anthology of English literature. It features James Stephens reading and singing selections of his own poetry as well as superb readings by C. Day Lewis, John Laurie, and many other great English artists. This is also the world's first major achievement in the art of recording poetry.



## CONTENTS—BOOK I: LYRIC POETRY

### Side One:

- JAMES SHIRLEY (1596-1666): *Death the Leveller* (Cecil Truncer)
- WILLIAM BLAKE (1757-1827): *Jerusalem* (V.C. Clinton-Baddeley)  
*The Tiger* (V.C. Clinton-Baddeley)
- WILLIAM WORDSWORTH (1770-1850): *The Reverie of Poor Susan* (V.C. Clinton-Baddeley)  
*The Solitary Reaper* (C. Day Lewis)  
*She dwelt among the untrodden ways* (Robert Harris)
- SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE (1772-1834): *Kubla Khan* (Robert Harris)
- THOMAS LOVE PEACOCK (1785-1866): *The War Song of Dinas Vawr* (Dylan Thomas)
- JOHN KEATS (1795-1821): *La Belle Dame Sans Merci* (Robert Harris)  
*Meg Merrilies* (John Laurie)
- ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON (1809-1892): *The splendor falls on castle walls* (V.C. Clinton-Baddeley)

### Side Two:

- THOMAS LOVE PEACOCK (1785-1866): *The Three Wise Men of Gotham* (Dylan Thomas, James Stephens, E.A.J. Vetter, V.C. Clinton-Baddeley)
- WILLIAM MORRIS (1834-99): *Inscription for a bed at Kelmscott Manor* (V.C. Clinton-Baddeley)
- THOMAS HARDY (1840-1928): *Weathers* (Cecil Truncer)
- GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS (1844-1889): *Pied Beauty* (V.C. Clinton-Baddeley)
- ALICE MEYNELL (1847-1922): *The Shepherdess* (Pauline Letts)
- A. E. HOUSMAN (1859-1936): *Loveliest of trees the cherry now* (C. Day Lewis)
- RALPH HODGSON (1871-1962): *Gypsy Girl* (V.C. Clinton-Baddeley)
- W. H. DAVIES (1871-1940): *The Kingfisher* (Cecil Truncer)  
*Early Morn* (Pauline Letts)
- WALTER DE LA MARE (1873-1956): *All that's past* (C. Day Lewis)  
*Song of Enchantment* (Pauline Letts)
- EDWARD THOMAS (1878-1918): *If I should ever by chance grow rich* (V.C. Clinton-Baddeley)
- JAMES STEPHENS (1882-1950): *The County Mayo* (James Stephens)  
*The Fifteen Acres* (James Stephens)
- W. J. TURNER (1889- ): *Romance* (V.C. Clinton-Baddeley)
- EDMUND BLUNDEN (1896- ): *Forefathers* (Cecil Truncer)

## THE READERS

### DYLAN THOMAS

The popular Welsh poet gives ample proof of his great ability as a reader of poetry in his stirring rendition of Peacock's Welsh poem *The War Song of Dinas Vawr*. He also joins with the poet James Stephens and others in the excellent reading of *The Three Wise Men of Gotham*. These are the first commercial recordings Dylan Thomas accomplished and perhaps his very best.

### JAMES STEPHENS

The famous Irish poet, who died in 1950, here reads his own poetry in highly characteristic fashion. He wrote many books of both prose and poetry, all of which sparkle with the light, puckish touch of Irish whimsy. His reading here . . . or more exactly, his singing . . . is a real collector's item

### C. DAY LEWIS

Professor of poetry at Oxford University, Lewis is the author of many books. Though well-known as a poet, he has probably reached a wider audience as the detective-story writer "Nicholas Blake."

### JOHN LAURIE

Although he made a reputation in the Old Vic as a Shakespearean actor, Laurie here lends Border Scot accent to give authentic reading to an important Scottish poem. He has had a distinguished career on the stage as well as in films. His readings of Border Ballads are an important part of the earlier Books of this LONDON LIBRARY series.

### ROBERT HARRIS

As an actor in England and on Broadway, Harris performed with London's Old Vic and was for a time the principal player with the Stratford-on-Avon company at the Royal Shakespeare Theater.

### V. C. CLINTON-BADDELEY

A scholar of Jesus College, Cambridge, author of many plays and books on theatre history, he is widely known as a broadcaster and reader of English poetry. Clinton-Baddeley is both an editor and a reader for this series. He plays an important role in the movement to restore interest in the good reading of poetry.

### CECIL TRUNCER

He was, for a long while, one of England's leading actors. Truncer gained further laurels through his very popular broadcasts for the British Broadcasting Corporation.

### PAULINE LETTS

One of the best of English verse speakers, Miss Letts appeared with the Stratford-on-Avon company and was acclaimed for her role in the London production of *Edward My Son*. She was also a contributor to the LONDON LIBRARY's earlier Books.

### JOSEPH COMPTON, C.B.E.

Co-editor of The LONDON LIBRARY. He was Director of the English Festival of Spoken Poetry. Known widely as a compiler of standard anthologies of poetry used in English schools.

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