CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH LITERATURE
Volume 1: Poetry, read by the Poets:
Robert Graves, Elizabeth Jennings, Edith Sitwell, C. Day Lewis
Folkways Records FL 9888
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VOL. 1: POETRY

ROBERT GRAVES

Born in 1895, educated at Charterhouse and St. John's College, Oxford, Robert Graves served in France during the 1914 war, and after a life divided between Wales, America, France, Egypt, Switzerland and Spain, now lives in Majorca. Author of Goodbye to All That (1929) and I, Claudius (1934), translator of Suetonius, Lucan, Georges Sand, student of classical myth and classical history, and great in argument about both, Robert Graves has made his greatest reputation as a poet. In 1926, 1938, 1947, and 1959 he published collected editions of his poems, and on each occasion suppressed all that no longer passed his criticism. As a result the 1959 collection is not much bigger than the Collected Poems of 1926. The poems on this record are all taken from Collected Poems, 1959 (published by Cassell) with the exception of Mike and Mandy, which is in Steps, a miscellany of verse and prose by Robert Graves, published by Cassell in 1958.

I'm through with you forever
In the Wilderness
The Troll's Nosegay
Mike and Mandy
Traveller's Curse
Song: Lift Boy

ELIZABETH JENNINGS

Elizabeth Jennings has published three books of poetry—Poems (1953), A Way of Looking (1955) and A Sense of the World (1958). For the first she won the Arts Council Award for 1953, for the second the Somerset Maugham Award for 1956. Like many 19th century poets, Elizabeth Jennings has been deeply influenced by her visits to Italy. Many of the poems in her last book are on Italian subjects, and three of these are included on this disc.

It is particularly right that the poems of Elizabeth Jennings should be read by herself, for they are essentially contemplative—not so much poems about things as poems about their author meditating upon those things. (How often she writes in the first person). The listener stands beside her in San Paolo, or by the Fountain, as she unfolds her thoughts, the manner careful, disciplined, the matter thrilling and new.

In the Night
On a Child Born Dead
The Shot
In a Foreign City
San Paolo Fuori Le Mura,
Rome
Fountain

The recordings were directed by V. C. CLINTON-BADDELEY

(Issued by special arrangement with Jupiter Records, Ltd., London)
EDITH SITWELL

In 1957 Dame Edith Sitwell, in the preface to her *Collected Poems*, explained how, at the time she began to write, it had been necessary to make a break from the deadliness and the familiar patterns of some of the poetry of the preceding period. From the beginning Dame Edith has devoted herself to the resuscitation and the new discovery of rhythmic shapes, and by her reading she is able to bring to the listener something more than he will find on the printed page, for this poetry is like music—written to be heard: indeed it must be heard to be fully enjoyed.

The first three poems were written after 1940. The last, "Scotch Rhapsody", is from that famous early work *Papadie*—an experiment in speed and rhythm, pattern in sound.

Dame Edith has received Honorary Doctor's degrees from four English universities. She was created D.B.E. in 1954, C.B.E. in 1956.

C. DAY LEWIS

Born in 1904, C. Day Lewis spent his early years in Ireland. He was educated at Sherborne School and Wadham College, Oxford, and was for a few years a schoolmaster. His first book of verse was published in 1925, while he was still at Oxford.

Besides his many books of poetry he has translated the Georgics and the *Aeneid* of Virgil; written works of criticism, novels and books for children; and under the name of Nicholas Blake has won a second reputation as a writer of detective fiction. He is also a director of the publishing house of Chatto and Windus.

In 1950 Mr. Day Lewis was created C.B.E. From 1951 to 1956 he was Professor of Poetry at Oxford University.

Although published in the American edition of Mr. Day Lewis's last book, *Pegasus*, the poems on this disc have not yet been printed in book form in England.

Sheep Dog Trials

View from an upper window

The Gate

Additional Jupiter Recordings from Folkways Records


FL0897 CHRISTIAN POETRY AND PROSE selected and read in English by ALEC GUNNESS; Revelations of Divine Love (Julian of Norwich), How Many Heavens (Edith Sitwell), Journey of the Magi (T. S. Eliot), Not Only Death (Hilaire Belloc), Christmas (John Betjeman), The Night (Henry Vaughan), Parables (Christopher Smart), Lines from the Gospel According to Thomas, Letter to St. Jeanne Frances de Chantal (St. Francois de Sales), To St. Teresa (Richard Crashaw), I Sing of a Maiden, Cherry Tree Carol, The Apocrypha (Chapter X), Released by special arrangement with Jupiter Records Ltd., London.

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