

**OXFORD
POETRY, 1921**

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Oxford poetry, 1921 by Alan Porter & Richard Hughes & Robert Graves

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ALAN PORTER & RICHARD HUGHES & ROBERT GRAVES

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EDITED BY
ALAN PORTER, RICHARD HUGHES,
ROBERT GRAVES

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OXFORD BASIL BLACKWELL
MCMXXI

THE EDITORS of this year's Oxford Poetry, the work of undergraduates who have been in residence since the date of the last collection, have attempted to make the volume more representative of Poetry and less representative merely of Oxford than its predecessors. There is always at Oxford a fashion in verse as much as in dress, and, to judge from the bulk of contributions submitted, this fashion has not changed materially since last noted and recorded in print. Mr Jones-Smith, of Balliol, still writes musically of brimming chalices, vermilion lips, chrysoprase, lotuses, arabesques and darkling spires against glimmering skies; Miss Smith-Jones, of Somerville, is equally faithful to her scarlet sins, beloved hearts, little clutching hands, little pattering feet, rosaries, eternity, roundabouts, and glimmering spires against darkling skies. Exclusion of these worn properties has given the fewer writers than usual represented here, extended elbow room, and a chance of showing some individual capacity for better or worse.

Most of the pieces have already appeared serially in *The London Mercury*, *The Spectator*, *The Westminster Gazette*, *The New Statesman*, *The Nation and Athenæum*, *The Observer*, and the other leading literary reviews.

For permission to use copyright poems, our thanks are due to Messrs Christophers, publishers of Mr Golding's 'Shepherd Singing Rag-time,' and to Messrs Sidgwick and Jackson, publishers of Mr Rickword's new volume 'Behind the Eyes.'

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F. N. W. BATESON

T R E S P A S S E R S

GAUNTLY outlined, white and still,
Three haystacks peer above the hill;
Three aged rakes thrust sprawlingly
Fantastic tendons to the sky,
In the void and dismal yard
Farmer's dog keeps rasping guard,
Challenging night's trespassers,
The solemn legions of the stars;
Growling ignominious scorn
At Cancer and at Capricorn.
The yellow stars, serene and prim,
Tolerantly stare at him.