

R S Thomas

Pondering now the being and nature of God, now the mystery of time, now the assault of contemporary lifestyles on the natural world, R.S. Thomas's poetry and prose reflects his Welsh heritage and his determination to be Welsh.

Moved by his own personal attractions to the work of Thomas and guided by his careful reading of it, William V. Davis brings us this excellent collection of essays exploring the distinguished yet controversial poet-priest.

R. S. Thomas (1913- 2000) was born in Cardiff. He studied classics, then theology and, after ordination, served six rural Welsh parishes for most of his life. His first book of poems was

published in 1946. He won the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1964 and published regularly, *Collected Poems 1945-90* marking his eightieth birthday. Focusing on the significance of place, connection and relationship in three poets who are seldom considered in conjunction, Rory Waterman argues that Philip Larkin, R.S. Thomas and Charles Causley epitomize many of the emotional and societal shifts and mores of their age. Waterman looks at the foundations underpinning their poetry; the attempts of all three to forge a sense of belonging with or separateness from their readers; the poets' varying responses to their geographical and cultural origins; the belonging and estrangement that inheres in relationships, including marriage; the

forced estrangements of war; the antagonism between social belonging and a need for isolation; and, finally, the charged issues of faith and mortality in an increasingly secularized country.

Chameleon Poet book goes against the grain of previous readings of the Welsh poet and nationalist R.S. Thomas by revealing him as profoundly indebted to the modes, traditions, and personae of the English literary canon.

Collected Poems: 1945-1990

R.S.Thomas

R. S. Thomas and His Poetry of Faith

R.S. Thomas at Eighty

Collected Poems : R S Thomas

The Way of it

Published to mark the poet's 80th birthday, this collection confirms R. S. Thomas as our

pre-eminent poet. 'This is the book I've been waiting for' Ted Hughes

This electronic version has been made available under a Creative Commons (BY-NC-ND) open access license. Christopher Morgan writes with keen critical insight on the controversial poet R. S. Thomas, considered to be one of the leading writers of the twentieth century. This is the first book to treat Thomas's entire oeuvre and will prove to be an indispensable guide and companion to the complete poems. The book is divided into three parts, each of which interprets the development of a major theme over Thomas's twenty-seven volumes, probing particular themes and particular poems with a meticulous insight. The book also treats Thomas's work as a complex and interrelated whole, as a body of work that comprises a single artistic achievement, and assesses that achievement within the context of an array of major

literary figures from Montaigne to Seamus Heaney and Wallace Stevens. R. S. Thomas: Identity, environment, deity proves invaluable as a beginner's introduction to the Welsh poet, as a student's guide to critical thinking about the poet's work, and as a provocative new step in scholarly studies.

"Strangely Orthodox is a companion to Thomas's devotional poems. This is not literary criticism in the usual sense, but rather a summary of the poet's recurring religious concerns, illustrated by extensive and useful quotation from the poetry itself."--BOOK JACKET.

The theology and the poetry of Welch poet R.S. Thomas.

Chameleon Poet

George Herbert, R.S. Thomas, and the Argument with God

Walking through Advent with R S Thomas
A Stylistic Biography

The Man who Went Into the West
The study places the work of a major religious poet of the late twentieth century in a number of striking new perspectives that allow him to be viewed for the first time as an 'alternative' war poet, a conscience-stricken pacifist, a jealously opportunistic student of art, and an experimental biographer of the modern soul. Published to mark the centenary of the 'ogre of Wales', this volume deals with the

idées fixes that serially possessed the fiercely intense imagination of R. S. Thomas: Iago Prytherch, Wales, his family and, of course, a vexingly elusive deity. Here, these familiar obsessions are set in several unusual contexts that bring Thomas's poetry into startling new relief. The war poetry is considered alongside the poet's early relationship to the English topographical tradition;

comparisons with Borges and Levertov underline the international dimensions of the poetry's concerns; the intriguing 'secret code' of some of Thomas's Welsh-language references is cracked; and his painting-poems (including several hitherto unpublished) are brought centre-stage from the peripheries to which they have been routinely relegated. R. S. Thomas is the author of 20 collections of poetry, a writer of

international repute,
and the subject of
increasing critical and
academic interest. The
Poetry of R.S. Thomas
was the first critical
work about him, an
invaluable volume which
has yet to be surpassed.
Its author has taken the
opportunity to
completely revise
R. S. Thomas (1913-2000)
is the most recognizable
literary figure in
twentieth-century Wales.
His controversial
politics and public
personality made him a

cultural icon during his life, and the merits of his poetry have continued to be debated in the years after his death. Yet these debates have too-often circled familiar ground, returning to the assumed personality of the poet or to the received narrative of his experience. Even the best studies have focused almost exclusively on ideas and themes. As a result, the poetry itself has frequently been

marginalized. This book argues that Thomas's reputation must be grounded in poetry, not personality. Unlike traditional literary biography, which combines historical facts with the conventions of narrative in an attempt to understand the life of a literary figure, this stylistic biography focuses on the essential relationship between the maker and the made object, giving priority to the latter. R. S.

Thomas began his career by writing sugary, derivative lyrics inspired by Palgrave's Golden Treasury, yet he ended it as a form-seeking experimentalist. This study guides the reader through that journey, tracing Thomas's stylistic evolution over six decades. In so doing, it asserts a priority: not to look at poetry, as many have, as a way of affirming existing notions about an iconic R. S. Thomas, but to

come to terms with the tensions within him as they reveal themselves in the tensions - rhythmic, linguistic, structural - of the poetry itself.

This book is one philosopher's response to the poetry of R. S. Thomas. It examines the poet's struggle with the possibilities of sense in religion: R. S. Thomas has described his poetry as an obsession with the possibility of having 'conversations or linguistic

confrontations with ultimate reality'. Some attempts at giving meaning to religious belief cannot withstand the assaults of criticism. In R. S. Thomas's verse, however, there emerges a hard-won celebration of the worship of a hidden God; a rare achievement in contemporary poetry. In plotting the course of the development of the poetry, the book brings out its many similarities with the thrusts and counter-

thrusts of argument in
the philosophy of
religion in the second
half of the twentieth
century. The book should
be of interest not only
to admirers of R. S.
Thomas, but to
philosophers,
theologians, students of
literature, and to
anyone concerned with
questions concerning the
sense or senselessness
of religious belief.
The Page's Drift
Etched by Silence
R. S. Thomas
A Pilgrimage Through the

Poetry of R S Thomas

R. S. Thomas: Everyman

Poetry

A best of R.S. Thomas's poems
in a beautiful new gift edition R.

S. Thomas (1913- 2000) was

born in Cardiff. He studied

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Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in
1964 and published regularly,

Collected Poems 1945-90

marking his eightieth birthday.

R. S. Thomas is Wales's most
eminent poet in the English

language, and one of the most

acclaimed poets writing in Britain today. Since 1946 he has published twenty-six collections of poetry including his massive *Collected Poems* in 1993. His poems and books have won many prizes including the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1964. Thomas's growing influence on modern poetry has been considerable. This is a result of the poems themselves: Thomas remains a largely private figure, living on the island Anglesey, content to let his writing speak for itself. Thomas's occasional prose writings have consequently been of great importance, providing a glimpse

into the craft of his poems and their concerns. Selected Prose is the only book to collect some of his scattered prose in both languages, many Welsh language articles appearing in translation for the first time. It is a varied selection, both creative and critical, aiming to reflect the major preoccupations of Thomas and his poetry: religion and theology; Wales and its topography; Welsh Nationalism and the language; Nature and the countryside; the poet and his craft. It includes also the translated transcript of an autobiographical radio broadcast.

In language of great strength, simplicity, and beauty, poet R. S. Thomas explores his often-prophetic themes: technology and our use of it to destroy nature and rural life; the search for self and for meaning; and the quest for and dialogue with God. Originally published to mark the author's 80th birthday, it confirms him as a pre-eminent poet.

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RS Thomas was the greatest religious poet writing in English in the 20th century, but the 270 poems he chose for this definitive selection reveal a wide range of themes and concerns. He was a passionate Welsh patriot, but also an outspoken critic of his countrymen. His poems are an expression of his

lifelong argument with himself, of his insistent search for God. In them he grapples with ideas of Welshness, with issues of technology, pollution, the decline of culture. He wrote too about love, about landscape, nature and birds. His is an urgent, prophetic and unique voice.

Poetry and Theology

R. S. Thomas and His Poetry

Selected Poems

R.S. Thomas: Poet of the Hidden God

R S Thomas

With the season of Advent, the coming of Christ is imminent, and following the contours of the season leads through a rich time of preparation for God-with-us in the

Incarnation. R. S. Thomas, a poet of waiting and anticipation, can be a profound guide for this season. His spiritual and poetic trajectory of discovering the presence of God - divine ' frequencies ' - even in apparent absence, can help lead us into an Advent landscape of surrender, open-hearted discovery, epiphany and encounter. This collection of 28 reflections on Thomas ' s poetry travels through the season, and follows one of the traditional patterns of themes explored in each Sunday of Advent: a Carmelite pattern of waiting, accepting, journeying and birthing. Presents a collection of previously uncollected poems by the Welsh poet. R. S. Thomas (1913-2000) was a major poet of the twentieth century. He was respected by luminaries of the literary establishment, recognized with numerous awards, and nominated for the Nobel

Prize in 1996. Thomas was also a priest of the Anglican Communion who wrestled ceaselessly with problems of faith and doubt in his poetry. John G. McEllhenney makes R. S. Thomas' poems, ministry, and irascible character come brilliantly alive in his new book, *A Masterwork of Doubting-Belief: R. S. Thomas and His Poetry*. McEllhenney, who developed a personal relationship with Thomas during the last decade of the poet's life, draws on his conversations and correspondence with Thomas, as well as his experiences as a clergyman and lover of poetry, and offers readers a unique experience that is part biography, part appreciation, and part religious meditation. *A Masterwork of Doubting-Belief* is an important new contribution to our understanding of R. S. Thomas and an inspiring source of insights for all who struggle with their faith! A celebration of the great Welsh religious

poet's 80th birthday and his long writing career. The specially commissioned essays range across the Thomas canon, from his Welsh hill farmer persona Iago Prytherch, to a comparison with Dylan Thomas, to his unsteady relations with God.

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A Masterwork of Doubting-Belief

Strangely Orthodox

Serial Obsessive

Frequencies of God

Identity, environment, deity

Seven essays from the original 1982 edition, plus seven new ones, analyze the work of Thomas, long considered the leading contemporary poet of Wales, from 1946 to 1990. Includes primary and secondary bibliographies. No index. Available from Dufour Editions, Inc., PO Box 449, Chester

Springs, PA 1942

At his death in 2000, R. S. Thomas was widely considered to be one of the major poets of the English-speaking world, having been nominated for the Nobel prize for Literature. With Dylan Thomas, R. S. Thomas is probably Wales ' s best-known poet internationally. Tony Brown provides an introduction to R. S. Thomas ' s life and work, as well as new perspectives and insights for those already familiar with the poetry. His approach is broadly chronological, interweaving life and work in order to evaluate Thomas ' s poetic achievement. In addition to presenting a full discussion of Thomas ' s poetry, and its movements over time between personal, spiritual and political

concerns, Tony Brown also examines Thomas ' s contribution to the culture of Wales, not just in his writing but also his political interventions and activism on behalf of Welsh language and culture.

R S Thomas is accepted, along with Ted Hughes, Philip Larkin and Seamus Heaney, as one of the great post-war British poets. All his life, he was a minister in the Church of Wales, at a succession of increasingly remote country parishes. This is a hilarious story of this man's life, and that of his household.

Christopher Morgan writes with keen critical insight on the controversial poet R.S. Thomas, considered to be one of the leading writers of the 20th century. This is the first book to treat Thomas's

entire oeuvre and will prove to be an indispensable guide and companion to the complete poems.

Poets' Meeting

The Bread of Truth

Selected Prose

Collected Later Poems, 1988-2000

Identity, Environment, Deity

R.S. Thomas (1913-2000) is one of the major poets of the twentieth-century, the greatest Welsh poet since Dylan Thomas, and one of the finest religious poets in the English language. This substantial gathering of his late poems shows us the final flowering of a truly great poet still writing at the height of his powers in his 70s and 80s. It begins with his autobiographical sequence, *The*

Echoes Return Slow, unavailable for many years, and also includes, Counterpoint, Mass for Hard Times, No Truce With the Furies, and his final collection, Residues. In R.S. Thomas - A Stylistic Biography, Daniel Westover traces Thomas's poetic development over six decades, demonstrating how the complex interior of the poet manifests itself in the continually shifting style of his poems. This collection of poems by Wales' most famous poet-priest, R S Thomas, is interspersed with short reflections and questions for exploration that connect the timeless poetry to the landscape that inspired it. Originally produced locally for

visitors to the North Wales village and church where R S Thomas was the parish priest, its appeal extends to all who know and love the raw honesty and sparse, striking style of the poetry, and whose own faith and questions are mirrored in it.

Aberdaron still welcomes streams of visitors, R S Thomas aficionados and pilgrims en route to the nearby holy island of Bardsey. This book brings the poetry alive in a fresh way and provides a pilgrim guide to the locality, along with reflections that enable armchair readers everywhere to enter more deeply into the world of the poems. All royalties will continue to go to maintaining the church at Aberdaron.

Published to mark the centenary of the sometime ‘ ogre of Wales ’ , this volume (by the executor of his unpublished literary estate) deals with the id é es fixes that serially possessed his fiercely intense imagination: Iago Prytherch, Wales, his family, and of course a vexingly elusive Deity. Here, these familiar obsessions are set in several unusual contexts that bring his poetry into startling new relief: his war poetry is considered alongside his early poetry ’ s relationship to English topographical tradition; comparisons with Borges and Levertov underline the international dimensions of his concerns; the intriguing ‘ secret code ’ of some

of his Welsh-language references is cracked; and his painting-poems (including several hitherto unpublished) are moved centre stage from the peripheries to which they 've been routinely relegated.

R.S. Thomas and the Literary Tradition

Belonging and Estrangement in the Poetry of Philip Larkin, R.S.

Thomas and Charles Causley
Uncollected Poems

Conceding an Absence Images of God Explored

Miraculous Simplicity: Essays on R.s. Thomas (c)

R.S. Thomas's presentation of God has given rise to controversy and dissent.

Exploring Thomas's techniques of

creating his images of God, Elaine Shepherd addresses the problems surrounding the language of religion and of religious poetry. Refusing to limit herself to conventionally religious poems, and drawing on material from the earliest work to Counterpoint and beyond, she identifies the challenges with which Thomas confronts his readers. The sequence of close readings engages the reader in an exploration of language and image: from the image of woman as constructed by the Impressionist to the non-image of the mystical theologian.

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George Herbert (1593-1633) and R.S.

Thomas (1913-2000), each a major English poet and an Anglican priest, lived in very different times, one before the Scientific Revolution, the Enlightenment, and industrialization, and one following. Yet the two men and their poetry bear striking resemblances: Both loved nature and music, both were pacifists, and both struggled with the claims of faith, the nature of the spiritual life, and the recurrent silences of God. This book demonstrates that when their lives and poems are studied side by side, each man enhances our understanding of the other. The first essay deals with their sense of calling as priests and poets. The work then explores topics that relate to their roles as parish priests: ministry, the Bible, the

Eucharist, and prayer. Several essays follow dealing with broader questions of the human condition: faith, sin, love, reason and science, and nature. The work concludes by considering their poems about Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter.

The Life of R.S. Thomas

The Echoes Return Slow

Collected Poems 1945-1990

Meaning and Mediation in the Poetry
of R.S. Thomas

R.S. Thomas