

BOOK REVIEW

Dutch Interior: Postwar Poetry of the Netherlands and Flanders. Edited by James S. Holmes and William Jay Smith. New York: Columbia University Press. 1984. 324 pages.

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The need for comprehensive anthologies of modern and contemporary Dutch literature in English translation has been evident for some time. Recently developed Netherlandic Studies and Writer in Residence programs on the North American continent have led to a number of helpful but limited publications that have only partially addressed this need. A special issue of *Dimension*, for example, published by the University of Texas in 1978, was one of the first to offer a bilingual sampling of both poetry and fiction.

Later anthologies were valuable but even less comprehensive. *Living Space*, published by New Directions in 1979, provided readers with English translations from the "Fifties" movement. *Under Dutch Skies*, published by Windsor's Netherlandic Press in 1981, presented us with a carefully focused selection of Dutch poets in translation; here the poems were chosen for their expression of detail and setting. *Dutch Song*, published in 1982 by Androgynous Books, is a very brief supplement which spans over eighty years but cannot begin to address the need for a volume of representative verse.

It is a particular pleasure, therefore, to come across a more fully developed volume of twentieth-century Dutch poetry in English. **Dutch Interior: Postwar Poetry of the Netherlands and Flanders** includes nearly 300 translated poems and encompasses the work of forty-five modern and contemporary poets. Edited by James S. Holmes and William Jay Smith with an Introduction by Cees Buddingh', the volume embraces the work of over thirty different translators.

The anthology is well thought out, and the poetry is presented under the following major headings for the reader who

may be unfamiliar with the Dutch literary tradition: "1945-1950: Prelude to Experiment"; "The Fifties: The Experimental Revolt"; "The Sixties: Grounding Reality"; "The Seventies: Neo-Reality and a Return to Form."

The editors have assigned larger segments of the anthology to established major poets such as Achterberg, Lucebert, Schierbeek, Campert, Polet, Claus, and Snoek. However, they have also included several poems by lesser-known and more-recent poets such as T'Hooft, Tentije, and Zuiderent. The result is a well-proportioned, representative introductory anthology.

Finally, as might be expected when the editors are themselves highly accomplished poets and translators, the translations in the anthology are of high quality. Holmes teaches translation studies at the University of Amsterdam. Smith, who has translated poetry from many languages, is a former Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress.