

ALMOST ISLAND

Contributors: Spring 2014

Arvind Krishna Mehrotra's *Collected Poems 1969-2014* is to be published in Penguin Modern Classics later this year. He lives in Dehra Dun, India.

Bohdan Ihor Antonych (1909-37) took the folklore language and traditions of the Lemke region, which was part of Poland between the first and second world wars, and transplanted them into literary Ukrainian. He was born in the village of Novytsia where his father was a parish priest and took a Slavic studies degree at Lviv university. He worked as an editor to finance his literary career and died of pneumonia having produced a remarkable volume of poetry in a short lifetime. The ecstatic tone and dazzling imagery of his poetry seem effortless. However Ukraine's occupation led to the neglect of this author who arguably surpasses any of his East European contemporaries in terms of the quality, scope and humanity of his work.

Irwin Allan Sealy is the author of *The Trotter-nama*, *The Brainfever Bird*, and other novels, and a travel book, *Yukon to Yucatan*. He lives in the foothills of the Himalayas and is apprenticed to a bricklayer.

Ishion Hutchinson (<http://ishionhutchinson.com>) was born in Port Antonio, Jamaica. His poetry collection, *Far District: Poems* (2010), won the PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award. Other honors include a Whiting Writers' Award and the Academy of American Poets' Larry Levis Prize. He is the Meringoff Sesquicentennial Assistant Professor of English at Cornell University and a contributing editor to the literary journal, *Tongue: A Journal of Writing & Art*.

Jeffrey Yang is the author of the poetry collections *Vanishing-Line* and *An Aquarium*. He is the translator of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Liu Xiaobo's *June Fourth Elegies*, Su Shi's *East Slope*, and *Rhythm 226*, an anthology of Tang and Song Dynasty poems. Yang is the editor of the poetry anthologies *Birds, Beasts, and Seas: Nature Poems* from New Directions and *Time of Grief: Mourning Poems*, and co-editor of the annual anthology of world literature, *Two Lines: Some Kind of Beautiful Signal*. He works as an editor at New Directions Publishing and New York Review Books.

Lewis Hyde is a poet, essayist, translator, and cultural critic with a particular interest in the public life of the imagination. His 1983 book, *The Gift*, illuminates and defends the non-commercial portion of artistic practice. *Trickster Makes This World* (1998) uses a group of ancient myths to argue for the kind of disruptive intelligence all cultures need if they are to remain lively, flexible, and open to change. Hyde's most recent book, *Common as Air*, is a spirited defense of our "cultural commons," that vast store of ideas, inventions, and works of art that we have inherited from the past and continue to enrich in the present. A MacArthur Fellow and former director of undergraduate creative writing at Harvard University, Hyde teaches during the fall semesters at Kenyon College, where he is the Richard L. Thomas Professor of Creative Writing. During the rest of the year he lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he is currently a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University.

Magnus William-Olsson (b. 1960, Stockholm, Sweden), poet, literary critic, and translator, has published nine volumes of poetry, four books of essays on poetry, and two books of autobiographical tales. He has translated poetry from ancient and modern Greek (Sappho and Cavafy), Spanish (Antonio Gamoneda, Alejandra Pizarnik and Gloria Gervitz), Portuguese (Paulo Henriques Britto) and Danish (Pia Tafdrup) into Swedish. His collected poems, titled *Ögonblicket är för Pindaros ett litet rum i tiden* (*The Moment for Pindar is a Small Space in Time*) was published 2006. A book of twenty-seven sonnets followed in 2010. In 2011 came a book on poetry and poetics, *Läsningen föregår skriften - poesins aktualitet* (*Reading Precedes Writing - the Actuality of Poetry*). His poems have been translated into more than fifteen languages. In 2013, a new collection of poetry, *Homullus absconditus*, was published. William-Olsson is also the editor-in-chief of two series of books, *W&W - Internationell poesi* (the most prestigious series in Sweden for international poetry) and *Ariel/Litterär Kritik*, a series of Scandinavian essays. He has been awarded several prizes, among others the Karl Vennbergs pris (2005), the Bellmanpriset (2010) and the Gunnar Ekelöfpriset (2011).

Mani Rao is the author of eight poetry books and a poem translation of the *Bhagavad Gita*. Her poems and essays are in *Indian Literature*, *Wasafiri*, *Meanjin*, *Almost Island*, *eXchanges*, *Fulcrum*, *Iowa Review*, *Colorado Review* and other journals, and anthologies from W.W.Norton, Penguin, BloodAxe and Harper Collins. (See manirao.com for a full list).

She has performed at literary festivals internationally, and translations of her poems have been published in seven languages. She was a Visiting Fellow at the Iowa International Writing Program in 2005 and 2009, and the 2006 Iowa International Programs writer-in-residence. Mani worked in advertising and television fields in India, Hong Kong and New Zealand for 20 years. She has an MFA, and is currently doing a PhD in the USA. Her translation of Kalidasa's work is forthcoming from Aleph Books.

Otilie Mulzet translates from Hungarian and Mongolian. Her translations of Szilárd Borbély's poetry has been excerpted in *The American Reader* and *Asymptote*; an excerpt from Borbély's novel *The Dispossessed* appeared in *The White Review*. Other translations include *Lazarus* by Gábor Schein (Triton, 2010). Translations from the work of László Krasznahorkai include *Animalinside* (Sylph Editions/American University in Paris, and New Directions, 2010; 2nd edition, Sylph editions/AUP, 2012), *Seiobo There Below* (New Directions, 2013), and *Destruction and Sorrow Beneath the Heavens* (forthcoming, Seagull Books). She is also working on an anthology of Mongolian folk-tales and completing a dissertation on the linguistic analysis of Mongolian riddles and proverbs.

Steve Komarnyckyj's literary translations and poems have appeared in *Vsesvit* magazine (Ukraine's most influential literary journal), *The North*, the *Echo Room*, *Envoi*, the *Los Angeles Review* and *Modern Poetry in Translation*. His first book of poetry in translation, *The Raspberry's Eyelash*, a selection of one of the most powerful poets in any language, Pavlo Tychyna, was published by Poetry Salzburg in December 2011. The book was described as a "revelation" by Sean Street, poet and Radio 4 broadcaster. His selection of Ihor Pavlyuk's translated poetry, *A Flight over the Black Sea*, was published by Waterloo Press in 2014 and won an English PEN award. He and his partner Susie run Kalyna Language Press, a publisher and agency which among other things strives to bring neglected Ukrainian and minority language authors to a wider audience.

Togara Muzanenhamo was born in Lusaka, Zambia to Zimbabwean parents. He was raised on his family's farm thirty miles south of Harare, and educated in Paris and The Hague. He has worked as a journalist, screenplay editor and copywriter. His poems have appeared in journals in Africa, Europe and the U.S. His first collection of poems, *Spirit Brides*, was published by Carcanet Press.