

## ALMOST ISLAND

### Contributors: Winter 2016

**Aditi Machado** is the author of two chapbooks, *Route: Marienbad* (Further Other Book Works, 2016) and *The Robing of the Bride* (Dzanc, 2013), and a forthcoming first book of poems, *Some Beheadings* (Nightboat, 2017). Her translation of Farid Tali's *Prosopopoeia* will appear from Action later in 2016. Excerpts from these projects have recently appeared in *FOLDER Magazine*, *Volt*, *The Capilano Review*, *Poor Claudia*, *World Literature Today*, and elsewhere. Aditi is from Bangalore, India, but currently lives in Denver, USA, where she is working on her doctoral dissertation. She edits poetry-in-translation for *Asymptote*.

**Andre Badoo** is a Trinidadian poet and writer. His second book of poems, *BURN*, was published by Shearsman Books and longlisted for the 2016 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature. His poetry has appeared or is due at *Boston Review*, *Blackbox Manifesto*, *Caribbean Review of Books*, *Cincinnati Review*, *Moko*, *Poetry Review* (UK), *St Petersburg Review* and elsewhere. His third book, *Pitch Lake*, is forthcoming from Peepal Tree Press in 2017.

**Arun Sagar's** first collection of poems, *Anamnesia*, was published by Poetrywala (Mumbai) in 2013. He lives and works in Sonipat.

**Jee Leong Koh's** latest book of poems *Steep Tea* (Carcenet) is a *Financial Times* Best Book of 2015. Jee is the author of three other books of poems and a book of *zuihitsu*. His work has been shortlisted for the Singapore Literature Prize and translated into Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian, and Latvian. Originally from Singapore, he now lives in New York City, where he edits the arts blog *Singapore Poetry* and runs the Singapore Literature Festival in NYC.

**Jeffrey Yang** is the author of the poetry collections *Vanishing-Line* and *An Aquarium*. He is the translator of Ahmatjan Osman's *Uyghurland, the Farthest Exile* (with the author), Liu Xiaobo's *June Fourth Elegies*, Su Shi's *East Slope*, and Bei Dao's autobiography *City Gate, Open Up*. He is the editor of the poetry anthologies *Birds, Beasts, and Seas: Nature Poems from New Directions* and *Time of Grief: Mourning Poems*, as well as the collection *The Sea*

*Is a Continual Miracle: Sea Poems and Other Writings by Walt Whitman.* Yang works as an editor at New Directions Publishing and New York Review Books.

**Jibanananda Das** is the most significant poet in Bengali literature in the post-Tagore era. He was the most significant in the Kallol era, which pioneered modernism in Bengali literature. His collections include *Jhora Palok* (Fallen Feathers, 1927), *Dhushor Pandulipi* (Grey Manuscript, 1936), *Bonolata Sen* (1942), *Moha Prithibi* (Great Earth, 1944), *Shaat'ti Tarar Timir* (The Darkness of Seven Stars, 1948). Jibanananda died in a tram accident in 1954. In 1955, his *Shreshtha Kabita* (Best Poems) received the Sahitya Akademi Award from the National Academy of Letters. Posthumous collections include *Rupasi Bangla* (Beautiful Bengal, 1957), *Bela Obela Kalbela* (Times, Bad Times, End Times, 1961). Several of his works were published posthumously, which include several unpublished poems, novels and short stories. His critical study of poetry was published as *Kobitar Katha* (Some Words on Poetry). All the poems translated here are from his third collection *Bonolata Sen*.

**Michael Scharf's** most recent poetry collection is *For Kid Rock / Total Freedom*. His critical essays have been published in *Poetry*, *Boston Review*, *Poets & Writers*, *Jacket*, and other publications. From 1997-2006 he served as poetry reviews editor at *Publishers Weekly*. He is based in Shillong and New York.

**Reshma Aquil** (1955–2012) was born in Allahabad, India. She was educated at St. Mary's Convent and later, at the University of Allahabad, where she received her M.A. and Ph.D. She went on to teach in the Department of English there, specialising in 19th century literature. Her first book of poetry, *Sleeping Wind* was published by Ethos in 2001. Later volumes were *Shadows of Fire* and *The Unblending*. Her poems have appeared in *Poetry India: Voices of Many Worlds* (British Council Division and the Poetry Society, India), *Chandrabhaga*, *Kavya Bharti*, *Hudson Review*, *Tonight: An Anthology of World Love Poetry* (The Poets' Printery, South Africa), *Softblow*, and *The Literary Review*.

**Souradeep Roy** is currently a research scholar at the Department of English, University of Delhi, working on anthologies of Indian English poetry. He has translated the Hugryalist poet Phaluni Ray and is working on a performance project "Chotoloker Kobita", based on the Hungry Generation movement in Bengali literature, with his performance collective, Notice

Board. His poems are forthcoming, or have appeared in, *The Missing Slate*, *Quarterly Literary Review Singapore*, *Fulcrum*, *Aainanagar*, and *The Sunflower Collective*, among others. He was shortlisted for the Mary Ballard Poetry Chapbook Prize, and the Raedleaf India Poetry Award in 2014.

**Vilas Sarang** (1942–2015) was one of the most significant modernist Indian writers and wrote remarkable short stories, poems, novels, and criticism in his first language Marathi as well as in English. Born in Karwar and educated in Mumbai and at Indiana University, he taught English literature in various countries and was head of the English department in Mumbai University for several years. His short stories have been collected in *The Women in Cages*. He also published four novels – *In the Land of Enki*, *The Dinosaur Ship*, *Tandoor Cinders*, and *The Dhamma Man* – and two collections of poetry – *A Kind of Silence* and *Another Life*.