# A Concise Companion to Postwar British and Irish Poetry

Edited by Nigel Alderman and C. D. Blanton



## A Concise Companion to Postwar British and Irish Poetry

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### 4 Region and Nation in Britain and Ireland

Michael Thurston

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**Linda A. Kinnahan** is Professor of English at Duquesne University. She is the author of *Lyric Interventions: Feminism, Experimental Poetry, and Contemporary Discourse* (Iowa, 2004) and *Poetics of the Feminine: Authority and Literary Tradition in William Carlos Williams, Mina Loy, Denise Levertov, and Kathleen Fraser* (Cambridge, 1994).

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Jahan Ramazani is the Edgar F. Shannon Professor of English and Department Chair at the University of Virginia. He is the author of Yeats and the Poetry of Death: Elegy, Self-Elegy, and the Sublime (1990), Poetry of Mourning: The Modern Elegy from Hardy to Heaney (1994), which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, The Hybrid Muse: Postcolonial Poetry in English (2001), and A Transnational Poetics (2009). He co-edited the third edition of The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry (2003) and the eighth edition of The Twentieth Century and After in The Norton Anthology of English Literature (2006). He is a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, an NEH

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# Chronology

#### 1945

German surrender; (UK) dissolution of War Cabinet under Winston Churchill, Prime Minister; Labour government: Clement Attlee, Prime Minister; Japanese surrender; United Nations (UN) chartered; beginning of Nuremberg trials; foundation of World Bank; beginning of widescale nationalization; Family Allowances Act.

Philip Larkin, The North Ship

#### 1946

Winston Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech; National Insurance Act; National Assistance Act; National Health Service Act; nationalization of the Bank of England; nationalization of coal industry; formation of British Arts Council.

Edwin Muir, The Voyage and Other Poems; Dylan Thomas, Deaths and Entrances

#### 1947

Withdrawal of military aid to Greece and Turkey; announcement of Truman Doctrine; India and Pakistan become independent (partition); Jawaharlal Nehru becomes Prime Minister of India; UN partition of Palestine; Transport Act (nationalization of road and rail transport); nationalization of electrical industry; nationalization of Cable & Wireless.

(Ire.) Éamon de Valera's Fianna Fáil government falls in Éire: first Inter-Party government, John A. Costello, Taoiseach; bread rationing ends in Britain; arrival of *Empire Windrush*, rise in West Indian immigration; launch of European Recovery Program (Marshall Plan); Burma (Myanmar), Sri Lanka (Ceylon) become independent; end of colonial rule in Trans-Jordan (Jordan), British Palestine, Egypt (excluding Suez); British Citizenship Act; beginning of Berlin blockade, airlift; assassination of Gandhi.

T. S. Eliot wins Nobel Prize for Literature; W. H. Auden, *The Age of Anxiety*; T. S. Eliot, *Notes towards the Definition of Culture*; Ezra Pound, *The Pisan Cantos* 

#### 1949

Republic of Ireland established, withdraws from Commonwealth; North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); apartheid instituted in South Africa; India adopts constitution; nationalization of gas industry; devaluation of pound sterling.

#### 1950

"Mother and Child Scheme" for public health care in Ireland fails; Britain recognizes People's Republic of China, Israel; London dock strike; nationalization of iron and steel industry; end of fuel rationing; British troops sent to Korea.

David Gascoyne, A Vagrant, and Other Poems

#### 1951

(UK) Conservative government: Winston Churchill, Prime Minister; (Ire.) Fianna Fáil government: Éamon de Valera, Taoiseach; Festival of Britain; Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean defect to Soviet Union.

Keith Douglas, Collected Poems

#### 1952

Death of George VI; Britain produces atomic bomb.

David Jones, The Anathemata

Coronation of Elizabeth II; death of Stalin; London Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers.

Death of Dylan Thomas; D. J. Enright, *The Laughing Hyena and Other Poems*; Louis MacNeice, *Autumn Sequel* 

#### 1954

(Ire.) Second Inter-Party government: John A. Costello, Taoiseach; end of food rationing in Britain; Independent Television Authority established.

Thom Gunn, Fighting Terms; Jon Silkin, The Peaceable Kingdom

#### 1955

(UK) Churchill resigns: Anthony Eden, Prime Minister; formation of European Union; Ireland joins United Nations, declines to join NATO; Bandung Conference; railroad and dock strikes.

D. J. Enright (ed.), *Poetry of the 1950s*; W. H. Auden, *The Shield of Achilles*; Austin Clarke, *Ancient Lights*; W. S. Graham, *The Nightfishing*; Elizabeth Jennings, *A Way of Looking*; Philip Larkin, *The Less Deceived*; Hugh MacDiarmid, *In Memoriam James Joyce*; R. S. Thomas, *Song at the Year's Turning* 

#### 1956

Suez crisis; beginning of the Border Campaign in Ireland; Twentieth Party Congress in Moscow: Nikita Khrushchev's "secret speech"; Soviet invasion of Hungary.

Robert Conquest (ed.), New Lines; Norman MacCaig, Riding Lights

#### 1957

(UK) Eden resigns: Harold Macmillan, Prime Minister; (Ire.) Fianna Fáil government: Éamon de Valera, Taoiseach; Treaty of Rome (Formation of European Economic Community); Ghana, Malaya become independent; Wolfenden Report (on homosexuality and prostitution); Britain tests hydrogen bomb.

Donald Davie, A Winter Talent and Other Poems; Thom Gunn, The Sense of Movement; Ted Hughes, The Hawk in the Rain; Stevie Smith, Not Waving But Drowning

Formation of West Indies Federation; Notting Hill race riots; London bus strike; opening of Preston bypass (M6, first motorway).

#### 1959

(Ire.) de Valera resigns, elected President: Séan Lemass, Taoiseach; Singapore becomes independent; first section of M1 opened.

Geoffrey Hill, For the Unfallen; Elizabeth Jennings, A Sense of the World

#### 1960

Cyprus, Nigeria become independent; Lady Chatterley trial.

Austin Clarke, *The Horse-Eaters*; Ian Hamilton Finlay, *The dancers inherit the party*; Ted Hughes, *Lupercal*; Charles Tomlinson, *Seeing Is Believing* (1958 in US)

#### 1961

Construction of Berlin Wall; South Africa withdraws from Commonwealth.

Roy Fisher, City; Thom Gunn, My Sad Captains and Other Poems: Jon Silkin, The Re-Ordering of the Stones

#### 1962

Commonwealth Immigrants Act; end of postwar National Service.

A. Alvarez (ed.), *The New Poetry*; Brian Coffey, *Missouri Sequence*; Thomas Kinsella, *Downstream*; Christopher Middleton, *Torse 3* 

#### 1963

(UK) Macmillan resigns: Alec Douglas-Home, Prime Minister; France blocks British entry into EEC; Kenyan independence; Profumo affair.

Death of Louis MacNeice; death of Sylvia Plath; Louis MacNeice, *The Burning Perch*; Charles Tomlinson, *A Peopled Landscape*; Rosemary Tonks, *Notes on Cafés and Bedrooms* 

#### 1964

(UK) Election of Labour government: Harold Wilson, Prime Minister; Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Congo, Malta become independent.

Donald Davie, Events and Wisdoms; Elizabeth Jennings, Recoveries; Philip Larkin, The Whitsun Weddings

#### 1965

Gambia becomes independent; unilateral secession of Rhodesia; Death of Winston Churchill.

Death of T. S. Eliot; George Barker, *The True Confessions of George Barker*; Basil Bunting, *Loquitur*; Sylvia Plath, *Ariel* 

#### 1966

(Ire.) Lemass resigns; Jack Lynch, Taoiseach; wage and price controls; England wins World Cup.

Basil Bunting, Briggflatts; Austin Clarke, Mnemosyne Lay in Dust; Roy Fisher, The Ship's Orchestra; Seamus Heaney, Death of a Naturalist

#### 1967

Sexual Offenses Act (repealing laws against homosexuality in Britain).

Death of Patrick Kavanagh; death of John Masefield; Cecil Day Lewis becomes Poet Laureate; Eavan Boland, *New Territory*; Andrew Crozier, *Loved Litter of Time Spent*; Veronica Forrest-Thomson, *Identikit*; Thom Gunn, *Touch*; Ted Hughes, *Wodwo*; Tom Raworth, *The Relation Ship*; John Riley, *Ancient and Modern*; Rosemary Tonks, *Iliad of Broken Sentences* 

#### 1968

Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia; students and workers riot in Paris; Race Relations Act; Enoch Powell's "rivers of blood" speech against immigration.

Geoffrey Hill, *King Log*; Derek Mahon, *Night-Crossing*; Thomas Kinsella, *Nightwalker and Other Poems*; Edwin Morgan, *The Second Life*; J. H. Prynne, *Kitchen Poems*; C. H. Sisson, *Metamorphoses*; R. S. Thomas, *Not that He Brought Flowers* 

#### 1969

Riots in Derry; British troops sent to Northern Ireland; beginning of the Troubles.

George Mackay Brown, *The Year of the Whale*; Donald Davie, *Essex Poems*; Douglas Dunn, *Terry Street*; Seamus Heaney, *Door into the Dark*; Thomas Kinsella, *The Táin*; Michael Longley, *No Continuing City*; J. H. Prynne, *The White Stones*; Charles Tomlinson, *Way of a World* 

#### 1970

(UK) Election of Conservative government: Edward Heath, Prime Minister; dock strike, state of emergency declared; British Petroleum announces North Sea oil discovery; Tonga becomes independent.

W. S. Graham, *Malcolm Mooney's Land*; Tony Harrison, *The Loiners*; Ted Hughes, *Crow*; Peter Porter, *The Last of England*; John Riley, *What Reason Was* 

#### 1971

Currency reform: decimalization of British and Irish pound; beginning of detentions without trial in Northern Ireland; Commons votes to join EEC; Qatar independent.

Death of Stevie Smith; Fleur Adcock, *High Tide in the Garden*; Elaine Feinstein, *The Magic Apple Trees*; Veronica Forrest-Thomson, *Language Games*; Geoffrey Hill, *Mercian Hymns*; J. H. Prynne, *Brass* 

#### 1972

"Bloody Sunday," thirteen killed by British troops in Northern Ireland; British Embassy in Dublin burned; Parliament of Northern Ireland suspended; pound sterling allowed to float on open market; miners' strike.

Death of Cecil Day Lewis; John Betjeman becomes Poet Laureate; Donald Davie, *The Shires*; Seamus Heaney, *Wintering Out*; Thomas Kinsella, *Butcher's Dozen*; *Notes from the Land of the Dead and Other Poems*; Derek Mahon, *Lives*; John Montague, *The Rough Field*; R. S. Thomas, *H'm* 

#### 1973

(Ire.) Fine Gael government: Liam Cosgrave, Prime Minister; Britain and Ireland enter EEC; World oil crisis; IRA bombing campaign begins; Sunningdale Agreement for power-sharing in Northern Ireland (collapses 1974); beginning of coal miners' strike; Bahamas independent.

Death of W. H. Auden; D. J. Enright, *The Terrible Shears: Scenes from a Twenties Childhood*; Michael Longley, *An Exploded View*; Edwin Morgan, *From Glasgow to Saturn*; Paul Muldoon, *New Weather*; Peter Redgrove and Penelope Shuttle, *The Hermaphrodite Album*; John Riley, *Ways of Approaching* 

#### 1974

(UK) Labour government: Harold Wilson, Prime Minister; Local Government Act reforms administrative map; Prevention of Terrorism Act; Grenada independent; Ireland allows sale of contraceptives to married couples.

Death of Austin Clarke; death of David Jones; Allen Fisher, *Place*; Veronica Forrest-Thomson, *Cordelia: or, "A Poem Should Not Mean, But Be"*; Linton Kwesi Johnson, *Voices of the Living and the Dead*; Philip Larkin, *High Windows*; C. H. Sisson, *In the Trojan Ditch*; Anne Stevenson, *Correspondences: A family history in letters* 

#### 1975

Sex Discrimination Act, Equal Pay Act come into force.

Brian Coffey, Advent; Ulli Freer, Rooms; Seamus Heaney, North; Linton Kwesi Johnson, Dread, Beat, and Blood; Derek Mahon, The Snow Party; John Montague, The Great Cloak; F. T. Prince, Drypoints of the Hasidim; R. S. Thomas, Laboratories of the Spirit

#### 1976

(UK) Wilson resigns: James Callaghan, Prime Minister.

Ciaran Carson, *The New Estate*; Thom Gunn, *Jack Straw's Castle*; Trevor Joyce, *The Poems of Sweeny Peregrine* 

#### 1977

- (Ire.) Fianna Fáil government: Jack Lynch, Taoiseach; (UK) Labour–Liberal pact maintains Labour government; Silver Jubilee.
- W. S. Graham, *Implements in Their Places*; Ted Hughes, *Gaudete*; Andrew Motion, *Pleasure Steamers*; Paul Muldoon, *Mules*; Tom Paulin, *A State of Justice*; Denise Riley, *Marxism for Infants*

#### 1978

Beginning of "winter of discontent."

Death of Hugh MacDiarmid; Tony Harrison, From the School of Eloquence and Other Poems; Geoffrey Hill, Tenebrae; Ted Hughes, Cave Birds; Craig Raine, The Onion, Memory

#### 1979

(UK) Conservative government: Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister; (Ire.) Lynch resigns; Charles Haughey, Taoiseach; Irish pound joins Exchange Rate Mechanism; Scottish and Welsh devolution referenda fail; assassinations of Airey Neave and Lord Mountbatten; Warrenpoint ambush.

Fleur Adcock, *The Inner Harbour*; Douglas Dunn, *Barbarians*; Seamus Heaney, *Field Work*; Ted Hughes; *Moortown, Remains of Elmet*; J. H. Prynne, *Down where changed*; Craig Raine, *A Martian Sends a Postcard Home*; Jeremy Reed, *Saints and Psychotics* 

#### 1980

Steel strike; British Aerospace privatized; Zimbabwe becomes independent.

Eavan Boland, In Her Own Image; Linton Kwesi Johnson, Inglan Is a Bitch; Paul Muldoon, Why Brownlee Left; Tom Paulin, The Strange Museum; Jon Silkin, The Psalms with Their Spoils; Ken Smith, Fox Running

#### 1981

(Ire.) Fine Gael–Labour coalition government; Garret Fitzgerald, Taoiseach; (UK) split in Labour party: formation of Social Democratic Party (SDP); British Nationality Act; Brixton riots; deaths of nine IRA hunger strikers in Maze Prison.

Douglas Dunn, St Kilda's Parliament; Tony Harrison, Continuous: Fifty Sonnets from the School of Eloquence; Christopher Logue, War Music; Andrew Motion, Independence

#### 1982

Falklands War; (Ire.) Haughey returns as Taoiseach, succeeded again by Fitzgerald.

Andrew Motion & Blake Morrison (eds), Penguin Book of Contemporary British Poetry; Derek Mahon, The Hunt by Night; Medbh McGuckian, The Flower Master; Christopher Reid, Pea Soup

(UK) General election returns Conservative government; escape of 38 prisoners from Maze Prison; mass demonstrations in London organized by Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament; Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp.

Jean "Binta" Breeze, Answers; George Mackay Brown, Voyages; James Fenton, The Memory of War; Geoffrey Hill, The Mystery of the Charity of Charles Péguy; John Montague, The Dead Kingdom; Andrew Motion, Secret Narratives; Paul Muldoon, Quoof; Grace Nichols, i is a long memoried woman; Tom Paulin, Liberty Tree

#### 1984

Coal Miners' Strike; Trade Union Act; privatization of British Telecom; bombing of Grand Hotel, Brighton.

Death of John Betjeman; Ted Hughes becomes Poet Laureate; David Dabydeen, *Slave Song*; Seamus Heaney, *Station Island*; *Sweeney Astray*; Medbh McGuckian, *Venus and the Rain*; Grace Nichols, *The Fat Black Woman's Poems*; Craig Raine, *Rich*; Peter Reading, *C*.

#### 1985

Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Death of Basil Bunting; death of Philip Larkin; Carol Ann Duffy, Standing Female Nude; Allen Fisher, Brixton Fractals; Tony Harrison, v.; Peter Reading, Ukelele Music; Christopher Reid, Katerina Brac; Denise Riley, Dry Air; Benjamin Zephaniah, The Dread Affair

#### 1986

Riots in Brixton and elsewhere; London Stock Exchange deregulated; British Gas privatized.

Fleur Adcock, *The Incident Book*; Roy Fisher, *A Furnace*; Christopher Middleton, *Two Horse Wagon Going By*; Jon Silkin, *The Ship's Pasture* 

#### 1987

(Ire.) Fianna Fáil government: Charles Haughey, Taoiseach; Single European Act; British Airways privatized.

Andrew Crozier & Tim Longville (eds), A Various Art; Ciaran Carson, The Irish for No; Carol Ann Duffy, Selling Manhattan; Seamus Heaney,

The Haw Lantern; Kathleen Jamie, The Way We Live; Edwin Morgan, Themes on a Variation; Blake Morrison, The Ballad of the Yorkshire Ripper and Other Poems; Paul Muldoon, Meeting the British; Tom Paulin, Fivemiletown

#### 1988

SDP merges with Liberal Party to form Social and Liberal Democratic Party; SAS shoot three unarmed IRA members in Gibraltar; transatlantic flight bombed over Lockerbie (Scotland).

Gillian Allnutt et al. (eds), *The New British Poetry*; Jean "Binta" Breeze, *Riddym Ravings and Other Poems*; David Dabydeen, *Coolie Odyssey*; Medbh McGuckian, *On Ballycastle Beach*; Jo Shapcott, *Electroplating the Baby* 

#### 1989

Opening of Berlin Wall; Release of Guildford Four; Iran places *fatwa* on Salman Rushdie.

Death of Samuel Beckett; Simon Armitage, Zoom!; Gillian Clarke, Letting in the Rumour; Selima Hill, The Accumulation of Small Acts of Kindness; George Macbeth, Collected Poems 1958–1982; E. A. Markham, Towards the End of the Century; Grace Nicholls, Lazy Thoughts of a Lazy Woman and Other Poems; Iain Crichton Smith, The Village, and Other Poems

#### 1990

(UK) Margaret Thatcher resigns: John Major, Prime Minister; Poll Tax riots; pound sterling joins Exchange Rate Mechanism; Nelson Mandela released from Robben Island; reunification of Germany.

Eavan Boland, Outside History; Ciaran Carson, Belfast Confetti; Robert Crawford, A Scottish Assembly; Carol Ann Duffy, The Other Country; Paul Durcan, Daddy, Daddy; Elaine Feinstein, City Music; Thomas Kinsella, Poems from Centre City; Glyn Maxwell, Tale of the Mayor's Son; Paul Muldoon, Madoc: A Mystery

#### 1991

Gulf War; release of Birmingham Six; Poll Tax replaced by Council Tax; official end of South African apartheid; dissolution of Soviet Union; Ireland agrees to sign Maastricht Treaty.

Lavinia Greenlaw, The Cost of Getting Lost in Space; Seamus Heaney, Seeing Things; Linton Kwesi Johnson, Tings an' Times; Jackie Kay, The Adoption Papers; Liz Lochead, Bagpipe Muzak; Michael Longley, Gorse Fires; Mebdh McGuckian, Marconi's Cottage; Andrew Motion, Love in a Life; Sean O'Brien, HMS Glasshouse

#### 1992

(Ire.) Haughey resigns; Albert Reynolds, Taoiseach; Maastricht Treaty signed; sterling crisis; Britain withdraws from European Exchange Rate Mechanism; Irish voters approve a loosened abortion law, guaranteeing access to information and travel abroad

Simon Armitage, *Kid; Xanadu*; Jean "Binta" Breeze, *Spring Cleaning*; U. A. Fanthorpe, *Neck-Verse*; Thom Gunn, *The Man with Night Sweats*; Glyn Maxwell, *Out of the Rain*; Tom Raworth, *Catacoustics*; Peter Reading, *3 in 1*; Denise Riley, *Stair Spirit*; Benjamin Zephaniah, *City Psalms* 

#### 1993

Downing Street Declaration affirms right of Northern Ireland to selfdetermination; Maastricht Treaty comes into force.

Ciaran Carson, First Language; Gillian Clarke, The King of Britain's Daughter; Carol Ann Duffy, Mean Time; Paul Durcan, A Snail in my Prime; Lavinia Greenlaw, Night Photograph; Jackie Kay, Other Lovers; E. A. Markham, Letter from Ulster and the Hugo Poems; Don Paterson, Nil Nil; Denise Riley, Mop Mop Georgette

#### 1994

(Ire.) Fine Gael coalition government: John Bruton, Taoiseach; IRA declares ceasefire; Nelson Mandela becomes President of South Africa; privatization of coal industry; opening of Channel Tunnel; Church of England begins ordination of women.

Eavan Boland, In a Time of Violence; Roy Fisher, Birmingham River; Kathleen Jamie, The Queen of Sheba; Medbh McGuckian, Captain Lavender; Derek Mahon, The Yaddo Letter; Paul Muldoon, The Annals of Chile

#### 1995

David Trimble becomes leader of Ulster Unionist party.

Death of Donald Davie; Seamus Heaney wins Nobel Prize for Literature; James Berry, *Hot Earth, Cold Earth*; Michael Longley, *The Ghost Orchid*; Derek Mahon, *The Hudson Letter*; Sean O'Brien, *Ghost Train* 

#### 1996

IRA bomb destroys Arndale Centre, Manchester.

Death of George Mackay Brown; Seamus Heaney, *The Spirit Level*; Geoffrey Hill, *Canaan*; Grace Nichols, *Sunris* 

#### 1997

(UK) Labour government: Tony Blair, Prime Minister; (Ire.) Fianna Fáil government: Bertie Ahern, Taoiseach; Scotland, Wales referenda pass; control of Hong Kong transferred to China; death of Diana, Princess of Wales; Ireland permits divorce under certain circumstances.

Simon Armitage, CloudCuckooLand; Jean "Binta" Breeze, On the Edge of an Island; Lavinia Greenlaw, A World Where News Travelled; Ted Hughes, Tales from Ovid; Derek Mahon, The Yellow Book; Andrew Motion, Salt Water

#### 1998

Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement; establishment of Northern Ireland Assembly (First Minister: David Trimble).

Death of Ted Hughes; appointment of Andrew Motion, Poet Laureate; Seamus Heaney, *Beowulf*; Geoffrey Hill, *The Triumph of Love*; Ted Hughes, *Birthday Letters*; Jackie Kay, *Off Colour*; Glyn Maxwell, *The Breakage*; Medbh McGuckian, *Shelmalier*; Paul Muldoon, *Hay* 

#### 1999

Scottish Parliament opens (Scottish Labour government: Donald Dewar, First Minister); Welsh Assembly established.

Carol Ann Duffy, *The World's Wife*; Kathleen Jamie, *Jizzen*; Don Paterson, *The Eyes*; J. H. Prynne, *Poems* 

#### 2000

(Scot.) Death of Dewar: Henry McLeish, First Minister; last prisoners leave Maze Prisoner under Northern Ireland Peace Process.

Death of R. S. Thomas; Thom Gunn, Boss Cupid; Jo Shapcott, Her Book

#### 2001

(Scot.) MacLeish resigns: Jack McConnell, First Minister; attacks on New York, Washington; US and UK attack Afghanistan; race riots in Burnley, Bradford.

Death of Elizabeth Jennings; Ciaran Carson, *The Twelfth of Never*; Lavinia Greenlaw, *Mary George of Allnorthover*; Seamus Heaney, *Electric Light*; Selima Hill, *Bunny*; Trevor Joyce, *with the first dream of fire they hunt the cold*; Sean O'Brien, *Downriver*; Benjamin Zephaniah, *Too Black, Too Strong* 

#### 2002

(Ire.) Fianna Fáil–Progressive Democrats government; euro introduced in Ireland; Irish voters accept Nice Treaty in second referendum; suspension of Northern Ireland Assembly following "Stormontgate"; Golden Jubilee.

Glyn Maxwell, *The Nerve*; Paul Muldoon, *Moy Sand and Gravel*; Alice Oswald. *Dart* 

#### 2003

United States and Britain attack Iraq.

Ciaran Carson, Breaking News; Lavinia Greenlaw, Minsk

#### 2004

Ireland votes to reform citizenship law.

Death of Thom Gunn; Kathleen Jamie, *The Tree House*; Michael Longley, *Snow Water*; Tom Paulin, *The Road to Inver* 

#### 2005

London transport bombings; Irish recognized as a working language by the European Union.

Carol Ann Duffy, Rapture; Jackie Kay, Life Mask; Derek Mahon, Harbour Lights; Alice Oswald, Woods, etc.

#### Chronology

#### 2006

Government of Wales Act gives Welsh Assembly enhanced legislative powers; St Andrews Agreement restores Northern Ireland Parliament.

Seamus Heaney, District and Circle; W. N. Herbert, Bad Shaman Blues; Paul Muldoon, Horse Latitudes; Robin Robertson, Swithering

#### 2007

(UK) Blair resigns: Gordon Brown, Prime Minister; (Scot.) minority government: Alex Salmond (National), First Minister; Northern Ireland Assembly reconvenes: Ian Paisley, First Minister; Martin McGuinness, Deputy First Minister.

Edwin Morgan, A Book of Lives; Sean O'Brien, The Drowned Book

#### 2008

(N. Ire.) Paisley resigns: Peter Robinson, First Minister; global financial crisis.