

BORIS
PASTERNAK

FIFTY
POEMS



Translated with an Introduction

by

LYDIA PASTERNAK SLATER

This book contains examples of Pasternak's poetry throughout his life, from his earliest publications to his last poems; some have never been translated before and appear in English for the first time.

It was his poetry that first made Pasternak famous and put him on the list of prospective Nobel-laureates, long before the appearance of his novel. When the Nobel Prize was finally awarded, it was for his 'important contributions to contemporary poetry and the great Russian narrative tradition'.

The translator, Pasternak's younger sister, who spent her youth in Russia and lived since 1935 in England, is equally at home in English and Russian. By the similarity of her upbringing and background she has a deep understanding of her brother's poetry and, a poet in her own right, is well qualified to acquaint the English reader with Pasternak's poems, as they sound when read aloud in their original Russian.

Fifty Poems
Pasternak
George Allen & Unwin Ltd.
10s. 6d. net

In gratitude
from

Lydia Pasternak
Slater

Oxford,
1963

BORIS PASTERNAK

FIFTY POEMS

B Pasternak

TRANSLATED BY LYDIA PASTERNAK SLATER

London

GEORGE ALLEN & UNWIN LTD

This edition first published in 1963

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P27
.A273
1963~~

PG
3476
.P27
.A273

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN
in 10 on 11 point *Platin* type
BY C. TINLING AND CO. LTD.
LIVERPOOL, LONDON AND PRESCOT

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Seventeen of the later poems in this collection appeared in *Poems by Boris Pasternak* in 1958. I should like to thank the publisher, Peter Russell, for permission to reprint them. Similar kind thanks are also due to the following journals: the *Times Literary Supplement*, *Unicorn*, *Arena*, and *Hudson Review*.

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WITNESSES TO THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

EDITED BY ROGER PETHYBRIDGE

C 8vo. 42s. net

The Russian Revolution is undeniably one of the great events in human history. This book is not intended to be a narrative history of the revolution, for as it consists almost entirely of eye-witness accounts, it is not possible to interpret the deep currents that ran together to create the storm. Its aim is to present a series of lantern slides illustrating the major events of the period.

The editor has tried to show how the people who were present and who participated in the revolution looked, talked, thought and acted. He has gathered together many accounts culled from the memoirs of innumerable men from every walk of life and political frame of mind: communists and tsarists, foreign journalists and ambassadors in Petrograd, honest Russian soldiers at the front and ignorant peasants in the countryside.

The many questions posed by the Russian Revolution—Was Lenin really a German spy? Did the Grand Duchess Anastasia really escape the murder of the royal family at Ekaterinburg only to appear in a remote part of Germany many years later?—will perhaps be resolved in future years when historians have been able to sift through the great pile of evidence now accumulating and pronounce objective judgement. They are not answered in this book. Instead, the editor has left the court, leaving the witnesses to reminisce and argue between themselves. They give us no answers; they simply allow us to relive the chaos, the agony and the high drama of the revolution through their eyes and experience.

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