

*Collected Poems*  
List of poems in Contents

Preface to <i>Collected Poems</i>	xlili
Preface on the New Baroque Consciousness and the Redefinition of Poetry as Classical Baroque	xlv
Introductory Note by the Poet	lxxvii

**1. A Well of Truth 1958–1963**

Dear Sir	1
A Dream So Vague	1
Why So Dejected?	1
Lines Written in the Depths of Despair	2
Epitaph	2
I Knew a Boy	2
Medusa	2
On Being Accused of Emotional Materialism, i.e. Of Knowing What He Wants	3
The Oath	3
A Life's Theme in an Image (A Fragment of a Destroyed Poem)	3
The Double	3
Stallion	4
At the Grave's Edge (A Fragment)	4
Angels	5
On Revisiting the Greek Islands	6
Elegy on a Neglected Graveyard in Sciathos	6
Chopped-Up Pentameters	6
Blind	7
I Will Call On My Love Again	7
Young and Old	7
The House of Unreason	8
Two Songs from <i>The Molten Owl's Song</i>	8
The Persistent Woman	8
Ode to a Prospect from a Window Frame	9
Nudity of Heavens and Man	9
Externals	10
Two Men Hanged	10
Beauty	11
The Lone Sailsman in Exile	11
Stratford	11
Lament of the <i>Farrash</i>	11
The New Man	11
Faces of the Ages	12
Sunday Morning	12
<i>Chiaroscuro</i>	13
Sun-Light	13
Earthquake	13
Notes	13

**2. A Stone Torch-Basket 1963–1965**

The Expatriate (A Dramatic Monologue set in Japan)	14
----------------------------------------------------	----

I. Wheel	14
II. Mirror	15
III. Cinders	15
IV. Dawn	16
The Seventeenth Century Pilgrim	16
Binsey Green	17
And Scholars Will Ask	17
<i>Odi Et Amo</i>	17
The Nomad	17
The Priest Refuses Death	18
Twilight (First Version)	18
Twilight (Second Version)	18
The Oceanographer at Night	19
Postscript to Bruegel in Tokyo: Dream and Reality	19
Winter in Nara (An Investigation of the Relation between Culture and Death, Civilisation and Eternity)	20
Christ of the Sea-Spray	21
Song of Three Thames-Daughters	22
Notes	22

### 3. The Early Education and Making of a Mystic 1965–1966

The Early Education and Making of a Mystic	24
1. Folkestone	24
2. Holy Grey	24
3. Cricket Captain	25
4. New Year's Eve Dance	25
5. History like the Rushing Dee	26
6. Corps Camp	26
7. Murder in the Dark	27
8. Leaving School	27
9. Etna	27
10. Office Love	28
11. The London Hell	28
12. A Destiny	29
13. The Underground Dead	29
14. An Awakening in London	29
15. Crimes and Virtues	30
16. The Power by the Lake	31
17. The Cricket Club Dance	31
18. A Tearful Surrender	32
19. Hitch-Hiking back from Greece	32
20. A Twirled Stem	33
21. Drugtaking	33
22. A Coffined Counterpane	34
23. A Grubby Soul	34
24. An Amateur Fortune-Teller	35
25. Bookstealing	35
26. Private Eye	36
27. An Isaiah Infected	36
28. Smallpox Alley, Baghdad	36
29. A Priest at the Ambassador's	37

30. Dover Sole and a Whistle	37
31. Three Closenesses	38
32. Quarrel with a Friend	38
33. A Death	39
34. The Splitting of the Dark at the Strawberry Hill Pond	39
35. Demiurge among the Bikinis	40
36. Advice to a Student	40
37. An American Professor	40
38. Paradise Valley	41
39. A Garden Temple	41
40. <i>Satori</i>	42
41. <i>Andrizesthe</i>	43
42.A Vast Palace and a Chiming Clock	43
Notes	44

#### 4. The Silence 1965–1966

The Silence	45
I. Dying: Shadow	45
II. In the Underworld: Moon on the Northern Dead	51
III. Rising: Reflection on the Clouded Ground	65
Notes	79

#### 5. The Wings and the Sword 1966–1969

Archangel	87
Blighty	94
An Inner Home	97
The Conductor (Or: At The Royal Albert Hall)	98
Two Moral Letters after Horace	99
An Epistle to an Admirer of Oliver Cromwell (Advice to a Young Revolutionary going into Politics)	99
Epistle to His Imperial Highness, on His Birthday	102
A Well-Glazed Jar (A Fragment)	104
A Heresy	105
A Shrub and Smiling Leaders	105
The Rubbish Dump at Nobe, Japan (An Investigation of Nature and History, Pattern and Meaning)	106
<i>Haikus</i>	107
<i>Tankas</i>	107
Sakura-Ba	107
A Chambermaid Lies on the Beach in a White Mini and Laments	107
An Incense Cone Burns in a Storm	108
Blood in the Eye	108
Night: Cathedral and Tower	108
I Have Seen	108
High over Calcutta: A Castle in Spain	109
Steamed Up	109
A Poet Reads the Fire	109
The Greenfly and the Money Spiders	110
Storm and Fire	110
Johnson McVifers	110
A Small Boy looks ahead during his Summer Holidays	110

Nonsense Rhymes for Children	111
Barbary Shores (The Exile)	112
Notes	113

#### 6. Old Man in a Circle 1967

Old Man in a Circle	116
I.    Uncleanness after the Sunset	116
II.   Purging under the Moon	121
III.  Dawn over Mount Brocken	125
Savonarola (A Fragment)	128
Notes	128

#### 7. The Gates of Hell 1969–1972

Orpheus Across the Frontier	131
Providence Which Takes	131
A Banged Door and a Strong Gin-Punch	132
Well, Dried Grasses, Dead Butterfly	132
Lump like a Cannon-Stone	132
Two Damnations	133
Sparkling Pavements and Red Rose-Hips	133
Hopeless	133
A Nothingness	134
The Death of Ought	134
Feast: Skull on a Beach	134
Marquess	135
<i>Geisha</i>	135
Muffin Man	135
Gates of Hell	136
<i>Au Revoir</i>	136
A Wheeled-Away Staircase	136
The Good-Bye	136
Wrecked	137
Despair like Bellbind	137
A Small Girl's Curfew	137
A Drowning in Anguish	138
Cairo	138
Way of Loss	138
Ghadames Spring (Poems like Bubbles)	138
Eurydice Lost: Expectation and a Tear	139
The Fall	139
The Spectre	139
Like a Fruit Machine	140
Danger	140
A Death of Sorts	140
On the Waterfront	140
The Escape	141
Kingdom of Windows	141
Oran: Hell Remembered Again	141
Despair	142
Rain and Sun: A Being like a Snowstorm	142
Faces in Smoke	142

Chamber in Hell	143
Throne	143
Me	143
Thinking Cold	144
Sailor	144
The Wind	144
Orpheus-Philoctetes at High Beach	144
Three, two, one. Aging: An Autumn Leaf and Holly	145
The Overcoat	145
The Wreck	145
Leaking	146
The Hour of Butterflies	146
Dictator	146
Full-Time Lovers	146
The Sacrifice	147
Journey's End	147
October Sea; Abyss	147
Room like a Merry-Go-Round	148
To Think!	148
My Hell	148
Love like Willow	149
My Shopwindow	149
Weathervane and Wind	149
Christmas: Feathers and a White Bedspread	149
January	150
Knot	150
Frost on the Tongue	151
Traitors' Gate	151
Orpheus-Prometheus in the Blackweir Region of Hell	151
Lost Calm	151
Summer Fatigue	152
Disentangled	152
Heart	152
Flow: Moon and Sea	152
Visions: Golden Flower, Celestial Curtain	153
More Visions: The Judge	153
Visions: The Pit and the Moon	153
Visions: Shield of God	154
Flowers in the Soul	154
Orpheus: Holy Fool	154
Fever: Fire and Mercury	154
December 4th	155
An Amputated Limb	155
February Budding, Half Term	155
A Stolen Hour	156
March: Crocuses	156
Hell, March	156
Miniature Rose	156
Law of the Seed	157
A Glacier in the Heart	157
The Void and the Snowdrop	157

Pure Water of Eternity	157
Self-Planting Corn, Graveyard Hawthorn	158
Bruised Plum	158
Time and Eternity (First Version)	158
Visions: Raid on the Gold Mine	159
The Furnace	159
Vision: Snatched by God, a Blue Light	159
Vision: Love like a Grid	159
Rose, Golden	160
Red Rose and Potato-Peeler	160
Ivy and Rainbow	160
Tattershall	161
The Meaning of Life	161
<i>Obida</i> (Hurt)	161
Under a Muslin Net	161
Guy Fawkes Night	162
Shooting	162
Hope and Fear	162
Next Morning: Sunrise and Smoked Glass	163
Tagetes like Shopgirls	163
Possibilities: Dead Leaves and Oak	164
A Bathroom Mirror and a Shadow	164
Will like a Mountain Peak	164
Mirroring: An Ache like a Ripple	164
Birthday like a Gong	165
Starless Caves and Starlit Beach	165
Nature like Meccano	165
Standard: Christmas	166
Gagged	166
Face	166
Blackheath Fog	167
Eyes That See Through The Dark	167
A Tongue at Low Tide	167
Fire like an Adder's Tongue	168
Jealous Oath	168
A Woman like Thunder	168
Pleasantries like Crowbars	169
The Wind that is Wild	169
Dreams like Haggard Faces	170
Three	170
A Past like Shaving Lather	170
The Rainbow in the Water Shower	171
Wheat Germ	171
A Pond like a Well	171
Delilah of the Sidewalks	171
Justice like a Clown's Kiss	172
Success	172
Life like Lilac	172
The Midas Touch	173
Mephistopheles	173
Sea-Wails	173

Masks	174
Sunbathing	174
Fountain	174
Thistles	175
Angles	175
The Pearl	175
The Code	176

Six Songs to be Set to Music:

Breaking	176
Kentish Girl (A Ballad)	177
Song: I Can't Count The Red Sun	177
Time To End It All	178
Song: The Orange Lady	178
Black Chestnut	178
Notes	179

### 8. The Flight 1970

The Flight	181
I. A Green Country	181
II. Chamber in Hell	183
III. Waves on the Shingle	186
IV. Gull over a Clay Pyramid	187
Notes	190

### 9. A Bulb in Winter 1972–1974

Carnations	191
Fragment	191
Carving Knife	191
On the Death, caused by the Israeli Bombing of Damascus, of a Norwegian UN Observer, his Wife and Child	192
Scar	192
Sand	193
Nets	193
Sweet and Sour (On Memnos)	193
Your Brother	194
A Tree that is Wild	194
Snowman	194
Doctor	194
Heavy in Heart (Leaves Falling)	195
Bulbs	195
The Singer	196
The Sun (Remembrance Day)	196
When I Am Old	197
Violets	197
Time	197
Years like Ashes	198
Cold Men, A Cold Sky	198
Taoists	199
I Am Risen	199
Society: The Spring in my Being	199

Providence	199
Toad-Like	200
Time like a Well-Shut Album	200
Key	200
You Who	201
Certificate	201
<i>Séance</i> for a Dead Woman	201
The Heart of a Violet	202
See-Saw	202
Ode: Spring	202
A Buried Heart	202
Jigsaw	203
Clean	203
The Yellowhammer	203
Treasure Trove	204
Yew	204
Integrated Studies	204
Knight	204
The Waterfall Stopped and Cried	205
Copper Fountain	205
Golden City	205
Eternity Ring	206
Night: Silence and Sea (A Second Honeymoon)	206
At Battle: Violent Event, Serene Nature	206
Caves	206
At Bognor	207
Closed	207
Shrivelled	207
Silent Pool	208
Chased	208
Breakwater	208
Trap	208
Trunks	209
Fire and Waterfall	209
Common Entrance	209
Ode to Solzhenitsyn	209
Back and Forth (A Budget of Flowers) (First Version)	210
Back and Forth (A Budget of Flowers) (Second Version)	210
Bird on the Spring	210
Half Way Through	211
Urn	211
A Bitter Pill	211
Painting	212
My Bird	212
Ice	212
Walking Stick	213
Gift like a Flutter	213
The Graveyard	213
A Pear	213
Peace	214
Goldfish	214



Arundel	214
Pain	215
A Chill like Smoke	215
A Feeling like an Acorn	215
Water Music	215
Migrations	216
Rhododendron	216
The Undeclared	216
Notes	216

#### **10. The Pilgrim in the Garden 1973–1974**

In Marvell's Garden, at Nun Appleton	220
Westminster Abbey	221
At Stoke D'Abernon	222
Tattershall Castle	223
Worcester College and Port Meadow Revisited	224
Royal Victoria Hotel, St. Leonard's	225
Dunford House	226
Stanhope Gardens	227
Century House: On a Patriot (Or: On the Unfortunate Necessity of Governments)	228
High Beach Church	229
Sompting Abbots	230
Chester Court, Sussex Square	231
Journey's End (13th Elegy)	232
Strawberry Hill	232
Porthleven	233
Brompton Oratory	234
Hill Place	235
The Royal Observatory, Greenwich	237
Loughton Methodist Church	238
Chigwell School	239
Queen Charlotte's Hospital	242
Our Lady of Victories	244
Brechin Place	245
Notes	246

#### **11. The Night Sea-Crossing 1974**

Blind Churchill to the Night	249
The Night-Sea Crossing (A Symphonic Poem in Sonata Form)	250
Notes	259

#### **12. Visions Near the Gates of Paradise 1974–1975**

Remembrance Day	260
A Trunk and a Heart Attack	260
St. Lucies Day	260
The Swing	261
The Pyramid	261
Lantern	261
Houses like Talents	261
The Lock	262
Stinging the Beehive	262

A Klæber Among Women	262
Power like an Overcoat	263
Fencing: Two Selves	263
Naughting	263
Baby	263
Swingalongamax	264
City of Destruction	264
The Way Opens	264
The Blind	265
Generations	265
Recurrence	265
A Sheikh in his Harem	265
Southwark Cathedral	266
God	266
Electricity	266
Backward Images	267
Seed	267
Cherry Blossom	267
Sunday	268
Man and Nature: Renewal	268
Providence like a Pentagram	268
Black Shoes, Blue Socks	269
Care	269
Robbery	269
C Sharp, F Sharp	269
The Valentine	270
Evil like Hurdles	270
If	270
The Summons	271
Life	271
Paradise	271
Victoria Station	272
The Ruin	272
Headstone of the Temple	273
Springcleaning	273
The Now	273
Poems like Vases	273
Pilgrims' Pavement (In Canterbury Cathedral)	274
A Waking	274
A Boiling Sea	274
The Keep (On an Anniversary)	275
Seed of God	275
Sacrifice	275
The Purpose of Life	276
De-Frosting	276
At-One-Ment	276
The Call	276
The Way Really Opens (To an M.P.)	277
Church like a Tree	277
The Wind that Bloweth	277
The Spiral Whirl	278

Women like the Wind	278
A Kyrielle at Easter	278
A Sixty-Four Thousand Pound Ruin	279
The Windmill	279
The Newly Dead	279
Sculptors	279
Forgiveness like a Gardener	280
Light like the Ocean	280
Perhaps like a Butterfly	280
Swallowtail by the Stream	281
Hostages from the Bridge	281
A Joyful Sob	281
Circuit	281
Apples on an Invisible Tree	282
Splinters in the Flesh	282
A Vision Near the Gates of Paradise	282
Notes	283

### **13. The Four Seasons 1975**

The Four Seasons	284
Summer	286
Autumn	290
Winter	294
Spring	299
Notes	306

### **14. Lighthouse 1975**

Lighthouse	307
I. Storm Wind and Lamp Fire	308
II. Waves over the Watch-Tower	310
III. The Breaking of the Cloud	313
Notes	314

### **15. The Weed Garden 1975**

The Weed Garden	315
1. The Soul in Autumn	316
2. How the Summer Ended	319
3. A Thought for Winter	322
4. Lily for a Distant Spring	325
Notes	330

### **16. The Labyrinth 1976**

The Labyrinth	331
Notes	335

### **17. Whispers from the West 1976–1979**

A Quarter Past Four	336
The Moon (On our Second Anniversary)	336
Nets in Drizzle	336
Fall Out	337

At Roche Chapel	337
Lightning over Polruan	337
Lady of Garian	338
Trenarren	338
Arthur's Innocence	338
The Broken Marriage-Picture	339
The Shell	339
Worldly Power	339
To a Serviceman on Frontier Duty in Germany, A Reply	340
Sindy	340
My Flat Little Mouse	340
Evil like Wind-Blown Leaves	341
A Tidal Wave and Migrating Swallows	341
Angels near a Fairground Hell	341
Love like a Length of Cloth	342
Lament of the Cast-Off Shirt	342
Like a Tin of Fly Spray	342
A Shadow and a Butterfly	343
Girls like Crocuses	343
A Broken Curtain-Rail and the Light	343
A Crash and Candlelight	344
A Boo-oom and an Undeaf Ear	344
Souls in Nuts and Bars	344
A Ruined Tower and Grubby Souls	345
Soft Fingers and Stabbing Lead (Or: A Barber like an Embalmer)	345
Snow	346
God like a Television Lever	346
Dancing Wraiths	347
Poor Souls	347
Re-Run	348
Perhaps, My Love	348
Providence	348
A Telephone Call and a Tent	349
A Morning Thing (Or: Love like a Furtive Sin)	349
Hospital Garden	349
A First-Class Citizen	350
Spectre of a Cloud	350
A Naughty Fish and a Cat	350
Blackbird in the Gardens	351
My Typist and a Tuppenceworth	351
Sparks from a Muse	352
Fins	352
Totterings	352
Telephones	353
The Entryphone	353
A Sedan-Chair and Dorset Rocks	353
Funeral like an Eel in a Green Sea	353
Decisions	354
We Two Are Three	354
Freedom like a Constant Wife	354
Russian Cross	355

A Coat of Arms	355
A Shower of Pussy Willow and Hazel Catkins	356
Words like Ditches	356
Ritual like a Knight's Candlelight	356
Ambassador of the Eternal	357
Moon	357
A Plasticine Soul	357
Bank Balance like an Honest Wife	357
The Elysian Club	358
Squandering Time	358
New Powers	359
Form like a Radiator	359
Bringing Evil Down	360
Cold War	360
Fly-Wheeled Away	361
The Heart of Celery	361
Time a Minute Away	361
Wind in a War Cemetery	362
Near Cabourg	362
A Wish by Water	362
Heaven: Glass like the Windows of a Soul	363
The Present Moment (Or: Being)	363
Is There a God? Is There a Sun?	364
Rapt	364
<i>Tankas</i>	365
1. Mind like Broken Glass	365
2. Serene	365
3. Illusions	365
4. A Humpty Dumpty Man	365
5. Daisy Chain	365
<i>Haikus</i>	365
A Mallard and a Law of Nature	365
Two-thirty a.m.: Parenthood	366
Driftwood Girls	367
Communities like Apples	367
Tradition like a Splendid Wall	367
After the Eclipse	368
Illusions like Cotton Wool	368
Volcano	368
Gold	369
Gargoyle	369
The Disgust of Death	369
Souls like Pigeons	370
Pollen	370
A Muscular Sensibility	370
No Pros	371
Overflow	371
Ghost Town	371
Energy Techniques	372
Wistful Time-Travellers (First Version)	372
Leaves that Feed	373

Winter Wind	374
A Flowering	374
Westerners and Desire: A Dialogue between Body and Soul (Or: Between the Maenads and Orpheus)	374
A Finger of Lightning	375
Illusions like Blossom	375
The Price of a House	376
The Fall of the West	377
Grass and Brambles, Pulsing	379
April Daffodils	379
<i>Tanka</i>	379
A Tin-Lid Mind	380
Skeleton	380
Crested Newt	380
The Consolation	381
The Height of the West	381
Fallen London	381
Decay	382
Guest, Guessed	382
Garden (On the Third Anniversary)	382
The Sea-Crossing	382
Imagination: Tree of Candles	383
Robin in Snow	383
A Robin looks at Humankind	383
Wasp, Buzzing	384
Source	384
Strawberry Hill Pond	385
Tooting Fair	386
Wet Rot	386
Vitality Globules	386
Eagle	386
Bee	387
Crab	387
Head	387
Prison	387
Philoctetes Detached	388
Wobblings	388
Suns	388
A Frosty Grave	389
Discoverer	389
<i>Tanka</i>	389
Frail Western Cities	389
Eternity Caught	390
Stillness within Motion	390
Lopping Time	390
Plant	390
Sun, Shade	391
Time's Mowing-Machine	391
Singing Birds	391
Fly	391
Creation	391

Snow, Ice	392
Beyond the Veil	392
Bobbing Law	392
Life that Might Have Been	392
Urn, Time	393
The Teleport	393
Fifth Anniversary	393
The Sea is Wild	393
Fingers of Providence	394
Notes	394

### 18. Lady of the Lamp 1979

Lady of the Lamp	398
1. Rapt in a Hotel Room	398
2. Light from a Warm House	398
3. Like an Earth-Mother	398
4. My Soul	399
5. A Bee-Like Soul	399
6. The Burden	399
7. Glass Goldfish	399
8. The Shell	400
9. Lord with a Sword	400
10. Eurydice	400
11. Blindfolds: Lady of the Lamp	400
12. Near-Wife	401
13. Ten Wives	401
14. Breaststroke, Drowning	401
15. Greyness	402
16. The Mask	402
17. Dream Cottage	402
18. Secret Place	402
19. Chaffinch Song	403
20. Enemy	403
21. Horseshoe	403
22. Blowlamp	404
23. Web	404
24. Sea of Light	404
25. Portrait	404
26. Blue Tit	405
27. The Mugger	405
28. Kerb-Crawling	405
29. Curate	406
30. Barrier	406
31. Wilderness	406
32. Swan-Upping	406
33. Warm Fire	407
34. The Challenge	407
35. Encampment	407
36. Dustpan	408
37. Solitude	408
38. Door	408

39. Stalemate	408
40. Mutiny	409
41. Softness	409
42. Parting	409
43. Cushion	410
44. Mariner	410
45. Friendships	410
46. Ivy and Oak	410
47. Locket	411
48. Taoist Lady	411
49. Nun	411
50. World like a Wife	412
51. Kite	412
52. Tribunal	412
53. Immobility	412
54. Snowman, Melted	413
55. Neglected	413
Notes	413

### 19. The Fire-Flower 1980

Preface on the Metaphysical Revolution	415
A Metaphysical in Marvell's Garden	424
A Crocus in the Churchyard	425
Fire-Void (A Rubbish Dump at Nobe, Japan: An Investigation of Nature and History, Pattern and Meaning)	426
Sea-Fire	427
A Mystic Fire-Potter's Red Sun-Halo	428
An Aesthete's 'Golden' Artefacts	429
Pear-Ripening House	430
Clouded-Ground Pond	431
Two Variations on One Theme	431
1. Time and Eternity (Second Version)	431
2. The Bride of Time	432
A Stonemason's Flower-Bowl	433
An Obscure Symbolist's Rock-Tree	433
The Tree of Imagination	435
Firethorn	436
A Temple-Dancer's Temple-Sleep	437
A Metaphysical's Light- <i>Mandala</i>	439
The Fire-Flower	440
Notes	442

### 20. Quartet: Beauty and Angelhood 1981

Beauty and Angelhood	
1. High Leigh	457
2. Hawkwood	458
3. Kent House	459
4. St. Peter's Convent	460
Notes	461

### 21. The Wind and the Earth 1981



The Wind and the Earth	476
1. Reddening Leaves	476
2. Rosy Cheeks, Blurred Eyes	476
3. Nothing Said	476
4. African Violet	477
5. Turnip Lanterns	477
6. Chill Fingers	477
7. A Shaken Head	477
8. Moaning Wind	478
9. Lost Light	478
10. Crack in the Earth	478
11. Heart like a Stopped Clock	479
12. A Flickering Candle	479
13. Lamb and Rose	479
14. Fire: Sparks	479
15. Frost-Burn	480
16. The Fingers that Plucked the Strings	480
17. Memory, Phone Line	480
18. A Spray of Fern	480
19. A Thread to the Rafters	481
20. Smoke	481
21. Wind-Chaser	481
22. Beethoven	482
23. Sacrificed Life	482
24. Black Bags, White Cards	482
25. Grieving	482
26. Wedding Ring	483
27. Christening Dress	483
28. A Paper Wasps' Nest	483
29. Scattered	483
30. White Blanket	484
31. Photo Album: Question and Answer	484
32. A Thaw	484
33. Love like Frosty Air	485
34. Leaves in the Hair	485
35. Like a Roman Coin	485
36. Violin Soul	485
37. Earth	486
38. Urn like a Nest	486
39. Cinders	486
40. Chinese Table: Rose of Light	487
41. Privacy	487
42. Tortoiseshell Clock	487
43. Violin Sighs	487
44. Invisible Body	488
45. Saint	488
46. No One Has Rung	488
47. Imagining	489
48. Shout	489
49. Lurch	489
50. Toadstools and Puffballs	489

51. Brittle Leaves	490
52. Reduction	490
53. Forget-Me-Nots	490
54. Chrysalis	491
55. Stone	491
56. Toy Soldiers	491
57. Ghosts	491
58. Still Mind	492
59. Ash	492
60. Head-Scarf	492
61. Wind-Dancer	493
62. Call	493
Notes	493

## **22. A Rainbow in the Spray 1981–1985**

Crab-Fishing on a Boundless Deep	494
The Royal Masonic Hospital: The Nut within the Sun	495
Cambridge Ode: Against Materialism (Or: Newton’s Enlightenment)	495
Garden of Organism	498
Night Visions in Charlestown (An Ode)	499
On the Death of Aunt Flo (Sonnets)	501
1. Dead Cheek	501
2. Kestrels	502
3. Evening Star	502
4. Meteorite	502
5. Stream and Sea	502
6. Watching Smoke	503
7. Grain	503
8. Snake Skin	503
A Fountain of Stars: The Universe in Love	503
At Penquite House, Near St. Sampson’s	504
Passion Play	505
Copped Hall	505
The Tide	506
At Hatfield House	507
Fragment: Being Dammed	507
An Infinity of Universes (A Fragment)	507
Multiplicity: A Nightmare (A Fragment)	507
Multiplicity: Through the Mirror	508
Multiplicity: Between Bathroom Mirrors	508
Dialogue between Body and Soul	508
A Woman’s Heart	509
Chariot-Race	509
When I Die	509
Goldfinch	509
Flowers from a Shell	509
At Greenfield Farmhouse	510
Greenfield	511
Glass-Blowing: Flower	511
Lock-Gate at Fort Augustus: Back to our Source	511
The Bagpiper	512

Iona: Silence	512
Staffa: Wind	513
At Findhorn	513
The Massacre at Culloden	514
Letter to Wordsworth	515
Letter to Beatrix Potter	515
Sea Force	516
Sea-Rescues: Death like a Cormorant	516
Dark from Polkerris (A Fragment)	517
At Tintagel: St. Juliot and Merlin	517
Hauling up Nets in Mount's Bay: Divine Plan	518
Mist: Lungs, Waves	519
Clouds Hill	519
Quiet	520
Sportsmen, Mists	520
Insouciance	520
At West Ham: Saved by an Artist	520
Orpheus (A Dramatic Monologue)	522
Bristol Fighter	522
Rainbow Land	523
Man the Polluter	523
After the Storms	523
Dead Voice	524
Thoughtless Boy	524
Athene the Wise	524
Ten Years	524
Wind-Harp and Wind-Veins	524
Sunrise and Clarinet	525
Orpheus to Eurydice (A Soul-and-Body Sequence)	525
Lock-Gate	527
Time Compressed (Or: A Universe like Sparkles from a Wave)	528
Lights like Driving Rain	528
Raindrops like Stars (Or: Warmth on a Dewdrop Earth)	528
Still Clouds and Whirling Stars (Or: A Hole in an Eggshell Universe)	529
Veins	529
Blue Up, Brown Down	529
Crystal: Rainbows	530
Rainbow Vision	530
Worthing	530
Need	530
Star-Gazing	531
Illusion and Reality	531
Bats Flitting	532
A Blind and a Kink	532
As Without So Within	532
The Flight of the Shaman	532
Sunflowers and a Godless Society	533
Tease	533
Sculptor at <i>Château</i> Montfort	533
Channel Crossing	533
The Merry-Go-Round	534

On the Channel	534
Stars like Bees and Petals	534
A Universe of Glowing Seed	534
In Périgord	535
Reason like a Boat	537
Will like a Kite	537
Tamed Ponies	538
Consciousness	538
Something Discarded in the Sand	538
Rod-Fishing	539
Words Spent like Waves	539
Moments like Waves	539
Cerberus	539
The Regeneration of the Creative West	540
Soon not see the Sun	540
The Wonder of the West: At Goonhilly	541
The Divine	541
At Gunwalloe	541
At Porthleven: All One	542
Wisdom (Fragment)	542
Tin-Mine and Hawk	542
Ilfracombe	542
Rough Stones like Monks	543
Trevarthian Revisited	543
Lettice	543
At Geevor Tin-Mine	544
At Pendeen Lighthouse	544
Fire: Senses	544
Drips of Light	545
Oaklands: Oak Tree	545
With Harold at Waltham	545
Greensted Church: Martyr	546
Hallooing in Fog	547
Pilgrim's Flight	547
White Daisy	548
Astronomy and Order	548
Cathedral of Poetry	549
At Dark Age Jorvik: The Light of Civilisation	549
Everyday Life and Economics: Past Lives	550
Soul like a Magpie	551
Snow, Hair	551
Notes	551

### **23. Question Mark over the West 1986–1988**

Fountain of Ice	560
Oxford Revisited	560
Question Mark over the West	561
Cotswolds: Winter Four-Sidedness	562
Ode: Counter Renaissance	563
At Dove Cottage	565
At Blea Tarn House	566

The Artist	567
Inner Power	567
The Power within the Mind (Or: At Air Force Waterfall)	567
The Guide of Meaning (Or: The Quicksands of Meaninglessness)	568
At Cartmel Priory: Taming the Unicorn	569
The Victim of Terrorism (A Fragment)	570
Morris Dancers	570
In Shakespeare's Stratford: The Nature of Art	570
Castles in the Air	573
Windmill	574
Weeping Willows	574
Shadows	575
Warm Rain	575
Bluebell Wood	575
Ice-Skating	576
Split Pine and Pine-Cones	576
Squirrel on the Lawn	576
A Death in the Boat	576
At Gunwalloe: The <i>Tao</i>	577
The Fishermen: God's Plan	577
Bats	578
Dazzling Glare	578
Cloud of Unknowing	578
In Gough's Cavern, Cheddar	578
Paper like a Tongue	579
By the Chalice Well, Glastonbury (A Contemplation)	579
The Romantic Revolution	582
Gog and Magog	582
Hedgehog in the Wild	583
A Pilgrim in Europe	583
St. Olaf's Church	586
Dried Spring	586
Full Moon on the Pennines	586
Near Barham	587
Visit to a Philosopher (A Fragment)	587
Reality in Legoland	588
The Metaphysical Conductor	588
A Viking Inheritance	589
Long Barrow at Lejre	589
Centre of the Maze	590
At Gilbjerg: Kierkegaard the Romantic	590
At Jelling (A Fragment)	591
Vikings and the Sea	591
At Charlestown	591
Time and Eternity: A Cross of Light	591
Spur Dog and Philosopher	592
Out on the Alone, or, The Mystery of Being	592
Gravity	593
Christmas	593
Christingle	594
A Stroke from the Dark (Or: Mind in a Brain X-Ray)	594

A Gardener in Heaven	595
From the Cobb, Lyme Regis, 1988 (Or: 400 Years On)	595
Family Gatherings	595
At Polruan Castle, a 15th Century Blockhouse	596
Moonlight	596
On Eliot's Church	596
The Dead Poet Bids Farewell to his Mourners	596
A Home like a Nest	597
Notes	597

#### **24. A Sneeze in the Universe 1989–1992**

The Artist and Fame	602
Maturing Love and Vision (Or: The 85 Year Old Orpheus to any Woman)	602
Shingle Streaked with Tar	602
A Business Walk by the Sea	603
Chain and Padlock: Time and Forgotten Years	603
Thought between Gorran Pier and Charlestown Sea	603
Images at Twilight: Emperor to Sun-Goddess	604
Prince Toad	604
Pump and Brain Downstairs	605
Easter Sunday	605
Toil	606
Being's Shout	606
Charlestown in Motion	606
A Cold in the Heart	606
A Summer's Day, A Horrible Event	607
Dancing Universe	607
House Martins in the Dock	608
Silence	608
Under the Stars	608
An Evangelist's Instant Salvation	609
Angels and Paradise: Question and Answer	609
Brezhnev to Gorbachev	610
Donkey Derby	610
Parachutist	610
Ben Nevis: Cloud of Unknowing	610
Spring, Brain	611
Charlestown: Moon and Meteorite Trails	612
Up the Tamar	612
Two Swans	612
Universe	613
The Church of Storms	613
At Gunwalloe: Light	613
Light like Fish	613
Run Aground	614
Pale Fire (A Fragment)	614
Pale Fire	614
Coupling: Space	615
Elemental Sea	615
Invisible Foam	615
Stillness and Tides	615

Candleflame Storm	616
A Man of Winds and Tides	616
Being as a Ripple or Two	616
<i>Gnosis</i> : The Nature of the Self (Or: Brain Mind; Heart, Soul; Spark, Spirit)	617
Skylark and Foam	618
Consciousness like a Pond	618
In Budapest Old City	618
Danube: Ball and Chain	618
Willow-Warblers	619
Western Men and Isis	619
A Crystal	619
Metaphysical-Physical (Or: Orpheus-Tammuz, Serene among the Maenads)	620
Wistful Time-Travellers (Second Version)	620
Snow, Peace	621
Ode: Spider's Web: Our Local Universe in an Infinite Whole	621
Tinkling: Being like a Breeze	624
Abbot of the Spring	624
Two Tombs: Life within Death	624
Sparkles in an Infinite Sea	624
Rippling One	625
At Polruan Blockhouse: Soul and Body	625
At Gunwalloe: Calm and Serene	625
At Porthleven	626
Tall-Masted Ships and Woodpeckers	626
Reflection and Reality: Peak Experiences and Tidal Consciousness	626
Spring, Monk	630
A Shooting Star (Or: Universe: Hostile and Friendly)	630
Calvary: A Pure Being goes under the Earth	631
Smeaton's Tower and Western Civilisation	632
Bumble-Bee: Correspondence	633
Polkerris-Kerris	633
Lyonesse: Being like Submerged Land	633
Shadow on the Cliff	634
Night Winds: Dozing	634
Cathedral	634
Gulls: A Cloud of Being	635
Lepers' Abbey	635
The Universe in Motion, and a Still	635
Lightning over the Sea	636
A Gold Being, Glowing	636
At the Ballowall Barrow	636
Dandelion	636
Mermaid of Zennor	637
Ancient Village: Our Skilled Tin-Panning Ancestors	637
A Moon with a Halo	637
Cleansed Senses and a Tinkling, Rustling Green	637
Eternity	638
Mechanised Motion and Nature	638
Fire within the Globe	638
Harvest Moon and a Cheer	638
Image and Reality: Street-Lamp and Sun in Mist	639

War and Peace	639
At <i>Kabuki</i> : The Flower of Culture	639
Flower ( <i>Yugen</i> )	639
Children like Fruit	640
Copper Beech: Fountain and Fire	640
The Divine Breath	640
We Two are Clouds	640
Two Clouds	641
Full Moon	641
Orange Tree	641
An Old Cornish Lady Glimpses Reality	642
Rainbow	642
Reflection and Reality	642
Bare Tree	642
Separate Clouds	643
Tube	643
Snowdrop Drooping	643
Sunlight	643
Mystery	644
Fragments about the Universe	644
Stepping-Stones	644
Gig-Racing	644
The One and the Many	645
Moon and Tide	645
Hooded Falcon	645
Still and Moving: Moon and Eyes	646
Wind, Walls	646
Young and Old: Noise and Stealth	646
What if Gravity Snapped?	646
Notes	647

## **25. A Flirtation with the Muse 1992–1993**

Christine Carpenter to the World	652
The Artist, Enclosed	652
Hesitation	652
Anticipation and Regret	653
Quatrefoil: Mirror Images	653
Stepping-Stones	653
Healing Muse: Images	654
A Free Spirit	654
Wind	654
Time and the Timeless	655
Tin-Mine near Land's End	655
Rising Souls	655
Collapse of Progress	655
My Muse	656
Love and Death	656
My Muse, Gone	656
Ruin	657
Storm and Art	657
Yugoslavia	657



Spring Tide and Academic Work	657
Muse's Gift	658
Imagination: Spring and Sea	658
Seismic Inspiration	658
Midnight in Jesus College, Cambridge	658
Forms from Movement Theory	659
A Sunlit Wall	659
Autumn at Flatford Mill	659
Lock-Gates	660
Nature, Walled	660
Five-Per-Cent Rise in Interest Rates	660
Being in Snowdonia	661
Snowdon	661
Lights like Souls	661
Stillness Overlooking Anglesey	661
Plunging, Soaring Mountains (Or: "Cor!")	661
A New Life	662
Transient Existence and Lasting Being (Or: Lasting Things and Transient Things)	662
Rabbit: Self-Preservation	662
Ladybird	662
Love like a Selfless Priest	663
Leaves like Memories	663
Brilliant Sun	663
Split Ash	663
All Souls' Day	664
Flow and Flood	664
Gunwalloe Metaphysical Sonnet: Boiling Foam	664
Elemental	665
Harbour-master	665
Royals	665
The Workings of the Universe	666
The Return of the Muse	666
Lady through the Window	666
Muse Inspiring: Winged Lion	666
Lines: Town and Country	667
Frost	667
Reflections on Time: Past and Present, Horseman and Lion	667
White-Centred Flower	668
After a Death	668
Fog and Frost: The Universe	668
Crematorium	668
Parting the Blind	669
Healing Muse: Knowledge	669
Doubt: The Muse as Will O' The Wisp	669
Muse: Love like Flowers	669
Muse: Questions	670
Muse: Alive	670
Dream of the Muse	670
Arrivederci, Muse	671
Turbulence	671
Drizzle	671

Airwaves	671
Butterfly	672
Tropical Fish	672
Paradiso	672
Not Endurance but Process: The Past Present	673
Rain Globes	673
Illumined Artists as Leaders of their Civilisation	674
Muse Withdrawn	674
February Daffodils	674
Flock	675
At Colinton	675
In Spylaw Street: Love and Pain, Flow and Boulders	675
Outside Heaven	675
Like a Descending Christ	676
Long-Tailed Field Mouse	676
Chaos and Order	676
Fire I Am	676
Car Park: Ascending	677
The Nightingale in the Mind (Or: The Source of Poetic Inspiration)	677
Soul like a Greenfinch	677
Stormy Petrel	677
Sand-Hoppers	678
Notes	678

## 26. Sojourns 1993

Pisa	680
Bells	680
Thunder	680
Paradise, Red Card	680
Rain, Mind	681
Cloistered	681
Peace and a Tear	681
Sun and Shade	681
Muse, Desolate	682
Spiral	682
The Gateway to Paradise	682
Water	682
Fountain Spray	683
Muse: Working in Isolation	683
Italy: Lizard	683
Fire: Source	683
The Laughing Philosopher	683
A Stain of Fire	685
Execution	685
Poet and Snail	685
Sting	686
Oak	686
Epithalamion	686
Peace and War	687
Garden	687
Soul like a Rose	688

Niagara Falls: Beauty and Transience	688
Floral Clock: Beauty's Chimes	688
At Lake Ontario	688
In Boston	688
Rainbow in Mist	689
Susquehanna	689
On Catching a Glimpse of the U.N. Security Council Chamber	689
Amish Farms, Pennsylvania	690
Everglades Swamp, Florida	690
Buried Treasure	690
In St. Augustine	690
Crossing Howard Franklin Bridge, St. Petersburg, USA	691
At Spaceport, USA	691
Daytona, USA	691
George Washington and a Lizard	692
American Liberty Quintet	692
The Hills of Fife: Doves and Wedding	707
Tobogganing Down the Sky	707
Rubble	708
Arrival of the Muse	708
Mask	708
Together	708
Aura	709
Beauty: Pumping, Deflating	709
Gong	709
Snake-Charmer	709
Waters	709
Muse, Coaxing	710
Buried Together	710
Images	710
Tram	710
Possessed	710
Vines and Roses	711
Rain	711
Execution	711
Goodbye	711
Painted Face: Coin	712
Dog Days: Shooting Stars	712
Emptiness	712
Trawling	712
Stealth	712
Sea-Shanty	713
Tall Ship	713
Brig	713
Philoctetes: Wound and Bow	713
Midnight Sky: Hawthorn and Almond	713
Dancing	714
Correspondence	714
Springs of Art	714
Milky Way: Lobster and Sauce	714
Headband	714

A Boy, 22, Dead	715
Mist: Bat and Walls	715
Snail Shell	715
Stillness	715
Storm, Destroying	716
Guests	716
Truth	716
Night Sky: Quatrains	716
1.    Fountain of Stars	716
2.    Tent	716
3.    Tree	716
4.    Peacock	716
5.    Sparks	716
6.    Raindrops	716
Downpour of Light	717
Light like Mackerel	717
Greenfinch with Worm	717
Trodden Daisies	717
Youth	717
Tram: Orange and White	717
Flat	718
Pale	718
Dishes	718
Well	718
Reputation: Self-Stripping	719
Rich	719
Heartache	719
Secret of the Muse	719
Notes	720

## **27. Angel of Vertical Vision 1993**

High Angel	723
As If	723
Elegance like Paradise	723
Smirk	723
Glow	724
Bees	724
Golden Mean	724
Levels	724
Juice	725
Dark Angel	725
Typist	725
Genius	725
Energy	725
Kneading	726
Height	726
Earth Goddess	726
Fertility	726
Dream	726
Thoughts	727
Full	727

Attention	727
Bruised	727
Shrapnel, Grappling Iron	727
Ashes	728
Cord	728
Beautiful Soul	728
Pruning	728
If You Wonder: Answer	728
Poems like Canvases	729
Earth and Light (Or: Pythoness)	729
Busybody Sun	729
After the Fracture: Growth	729
Man (Or: God the Artist)	730
Communists like Wasps	730
The Shingle of the Stars	730
Invisible Tree	731
Moist	731
Peering Face	731
Fire: Logs	731
Fountaining Leaves	731
Books, Lives	732
Red Sun	732
The Way We See	732
Standards	732
The Philosopher's Stone: Soul and Golden Flower	733
The Philosopher's Stone: World and Mankind	733
Notes	734

## 28. A Dandelion Clock 1994–2004

Charlestown	736
Scale	736
Snow-White	736
Tiny Flies	736
Snowdon, Snow	737
Togetherness	737
Great Events, Small Things	737
Puffin Island	737
Calm Sea, Devouring Dark	738
A Modern Pilgrimage	738
A Grand Tour of Central Europe	742
1. Brussels: Quadriga	742
2. Hannover: <i>Rathaus</i>	743
3. Berlin: Vibrant East	743
4. Berlin: German Reunification	743
5. Berlin: Von Stauffenberg	743
6. Potsdam: Spokes of Light	744
7. Potsdam: Frederick's Summer Palace	744
8. Warsaw: Razed, Rebuilt	744
9. Warsaw: Unknown Soldier	745
10. Jasna Gora: Black Madonna	745
11. Cracow: Bodily Assumption	745

12. Cracow: Ghetto	745
13. Budapest: Phoenix	746
14. Budapest: Gabriel	746
15. Budapest: Light, Horror	746
16. On the Danube Frontier	746
17. Vienna: Wheel of Fortune	747
18. Vienna: History Clock	747
19. Salzburg: Mozart	747
20. Munich: Hitler	747
21. Rothenburg: Blood	748
22. Lorelei: Siren	748
23. Cologne: Marionette	748
Death Like a Crow	748
Being	749
In Ithaca; Treasure	749
Odysseus Near Amalfi	749
Fragments of Unused Drafts for <i>Overlord</i>	750
Fragments of Unused Drafts for <i>Overlord: The Universe</i>	752
Undated Unused Fragments for <i>Overlord</i>	753
Undated Fragments on Europe	755
Undated Fragments on the Universe	755
Mount Brocken: Form	756
Wrinkled Sea	756
Birds Singing	756
The Steed of State	757
Time: The Earth's Axle Turning	757
Goblet of Light	757
Rush	758
Tilty	758
Sonnet to Cerberus: on the War in Yugoslavia	758
In an English Garden, True to Nature	758
Wasp	759
Flint	759
Ferreted Rabbit	759
Lock-Up	760
On the Author-Owner of St Osyth's Priory	760
Bird Soaring	761
A Rose	761
Sea-Gale and the One	762
Cormorant Fishing	762
At the Riverside Mill, Bovey Tracey: The Joy of Existence	762
Light-Shower at Sea	763
At Gweek	763
The Message of the Ruins	763
Fragment Unused in Zeus's Ass	763
Together, Wet-Dry	764
Foaming, Dipping, Bobbing	764
Under Pompey's Theatre	764
Sweet Chestnut, Acorn	765
Love	765
Snow and Silence	765

Soil	765
Sisyphus	765
Crucifixion	766
Poems like Coins and Stamps	766
Illusions in a Plane	767
America Lost	767
Spirals	767
Corpulent Souls	768
At Passirac	768
Dialogue between Soul and Egocentric Body	768
Cormorant	768
Snails, Hiding	769
The Harbour	769
Garden: Reflections at Great Easton	770
Greeting	770
Winning	770
Burrs	771
Sea Energy	771
Attached-Unattached	771
Squirrel	771
The Sea's Disturbed	772
Sunlight Splashing	772
Stance	772
A Dandelion Clock	773
Terns	773
Petals Like Snow	773
Snails	774
Small Tortoiseshell	774
Sunray	774
Rare	774
Smoke, Ink	775
Diamonds	775
Pearl	775
Shooting Star	775
Storm	776
1. The Dancer	776
2. Assault	776
3. Power	776
Quicksand	777
Sun	777
Fossil	777
Sprinklings	777
Aargh!	778
Flowers	778
Dreadful Event	778
Herbs	778
A Silent Woman's Best	779
Summer	779
Lady-Smock Time	779
Swifts	780
Ladybird Crawling	780

Snail	780
Souls Like Fish	780
Little Person	781
Diamond	781
Acorns	781
Breathless Calm	781
Snail Sliding	782
Nectar	782
Intelligence	783
Dark	783
Still	783
Paradise	783
Gnats, Snails	784
Each Leaf Unique	784
Notes	784

### **29. Summoned by Truth 2000–2005**

Preface on Truth	788
Zeus's Ass	790
Attack on America	810
Shock and Awe	818
Notes	833

### **30. Sighs of the Muses 2005**

Groans of the Muses	840
Return to Oxford	845
Hustings: Raw	847
Authorship Question in a Dumbed-Down Time	847
Epitaphs	849
Notes	849
Appendix: Vision and Technique in the Collected Poems	853
1. The Experience of Illumination	853
2. The Method and Form of 'The Silence'	859
3. The Genesis and Shaping of the New Baroque Vision	965
4. Extracts from 'Revolution in Thought and Culture'	874
5. The Approach of the Later Poems	882