Twentieth-Century Italian Poetry
A Critical Anthology
(I900 to the Neo-Avantgarde)

Éanna Ó Ceallacháin

This anthology makes available a broad selection of modern Italian poems (in the original language), with detailed interpretative notes and commentary in English on all texts, and informative critical essays on individual authors and wider trends.

The volume covers the period from the early years of the twentieth century up to the 1970s, and focuses primarily on the work of a limited number of major poets, including Ungaretti, Montale, Saba, Sereni, Sanguineti, Zanzotto and Rosselli. It also includes several chapters giving representative texts from a wider range of authors, from Futurists and Hermetics, to the Neo-Avantgarde.

A key aim of the book is not merely to present the texts, but to provide tools for the reader to access them, whether through the elucidation of individual words and phrases or in terms of contextual information, conceptual maps and interpretative keys (notes are supplemented by extensive suggestions for further reading). Thus the anthology seeks not only to open up these poems for the reader on a level of literal meaning, but also to invite, or indeed demand, a critical reading of the poems themselves, taking full account of the specific linguistic and formal richness of the texts in their original language.

The book is aimed at readers with a good working knowledge of contemporary Italian.

About the author: Éanna Ó Ceallacháin is Senior Lecturer and Head of Italian at the University of Glasgow. He has written extensively on the poetry of Eugenio Montale, and has also published articles on other aspects of modern Italian poetry, including the work of Sanguineti.

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