



## Francis Ledwidge

### Selected Poems

*Centenary Edition*

Edited, with an afterword, by Dermot Bolger

Introduction by Seamus Heaney

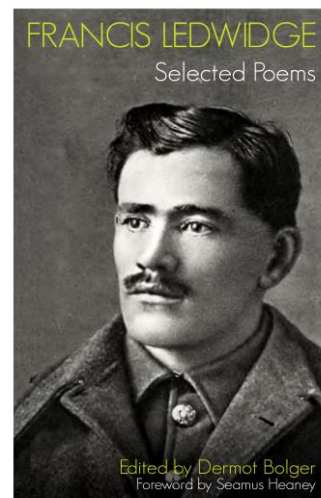
March 2017

978-1-84840-593-6

BIC: DC (Poetry)

€14.95 / £13.99 stg

B-Format HB; 120pp



**Keynote:** A truly collectable selection of the poet's best work, published to commemorate his death in Ypres 100 years ago.

#### Selling points:

- An extensive introduction written by **Seamus Heaney**
- **High production value**, bound edition
- **Includes a poem on Francis Ledwidge by Seamus Heaney**
- Published to coincide with the centenary of Ledwidge's tragic death (17 July 1917)
- Many events planned by **Meath County Council** and the **Ledwidge Society in Slane**, and elsewhere in Ireland

#### About the Book:

*I think of you in your Tommie's uniform  
A haunted Catholic face, pallid and grave,  
Ghosting the trenches like a bloom of hawthorne  
Or silence cored from a Boyne passage grave.'*

From: Seamus Heaney, *In Memoriam Francis Ledwidge*

Dermot Bolger, the book's editor, has grouped the poems according to the volume in which they appeared, rather than by where they were written, giving the reader a more accurate picture of Ledwidge's progress as a poet, from the early nature lyrics to becoming a much more politicised writer after the Easter Rising of 1916.

It is within this context that Heaney writes: *Ledwidge can be counted as a "war poet" in the company of Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon.'*

**About the Author:** Born in Slane, Co. Meath, Ledwidge worked as a farmhand, copper miner and road labourer, but with his fresh and original poetry he became a rising star on the Irish literary scene. He only lived to see one collection in print, receiving his author's copy while on starvation rations in Serbia. He was transferred to the nightmare Third Battle of Ypres, where he was killed just short of his thirtieth birthday.