



Edna Longley

Under the Same Moon:

Edward Thomas and the English Lyric

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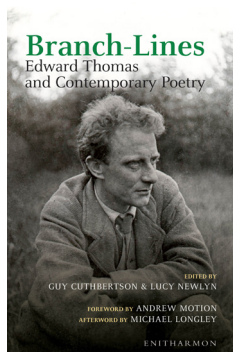
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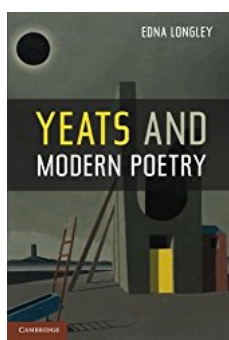
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“a crowning achievement
by Thomas’s best advocate”

– Seamus Heaney

on Longley’s *Edward Thomas: The
Annotated Collected Poems*

KEY SELLING POINTS

- critical study marking centenary of Thomas’s death
- Thomas’s influence on emergent ‘modern poetry’ as critic and lyricist

A hundred years ago Edward Thomas was killed in the Battle of Arras (April 1917). The reputation of his poetry has never been higher. Edna Longley has already edited Thomas’s poems and prose. She now marks his centenary, and adds to the growing field of Thomas studies, with this close reading of his poetry. Longley places the lyric poem at the centre of Thomas’s poetry and of his thinking about poetry. Drawing on Thomas’s own remarkable critical writings, she argues that his importance to emergent ‘modern poetry’ has yet to be fully appreciated. Thomas, as a leading reviewer of poetry in the early 1900s, was deeply engaged with the traditions of poetry in the English language, as well as with contemporary poetry. *UTSM* takes a fresh look at Thomas’s relation to the Romantic poets, to Great War poetry, to Robert Frost, to W.B. Yeats. By making detailed comparisons between their poems, Longley shows how the aesthetics of Thomas and Frost complement one another across the Atlantic. She argues, perhaps controversially, that we should think about Great War poetry from the perspective of Thomas as ‘war poet’ and critic of war poetry. And she suggests that to focus on Thomas is to open up poetic relations in the ‘Anglo-Celtic’ archipelago. *UTSM* is also a study of lyric poetry: its sources, structures and forms; the kinds of meaning it creates. Longley asks what exactly happened when, in December 1914, Thomas morphed from a prose-writer into a poet; and she approaches the lyric from a psychological angle by comparing Thomas with Philip Larkin.

Author info

Edna Longley is a Professor Emerita at Queen’s University Belfast. She has written extensively on modern Irish and British poetry, and has edited *Edward Thomas: The Annotated Collected Poems* (Bloodaxe Books, 2008). Her most recent monograph is *Yeats and Modern Poetry* (Cambridge University Press, 2013). She has co-edited (with Peter Mackay and Fran Brearton) *Modern Irish and Scottish Poetry* (Cambridge University Press, 2011) and (with Fran Brearton) *Incorrigibly Plural: Louis MacNeice and his Legacy* (Carcenet, 2012).

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