

Poetry Review summer 2012: 'Mapping the Delta' Edited by George Szirtes



Cover image by Matthew Richardson
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Poetry Review celebrates its summer launch at Southbank Centre's Poetry Parnassus.

The Poetry Society is pleased to launch the summer 2012 issue of *Poetry Review* as part of the Poetry Parnassus festival at Southbank Centre, London, on 30 June.

The summer issue, entitled 'Mapping the Delta', has been guest edited by George Szirtes. He says:

It has been a great pleasure guest editing *Poetry Review*. Being a one-off editor I have taken the opportunity to open a few less frequently opened doors and to invite in new people whose work seemed to me exciting. Poetry is no longer a single mainstream with a few embattled tribes living on either side of it while the greats row up and down in their splendid expensive vessels: it is more a delta, of parallel streams in a common landscape. I have therefore asked poets and critics working in parallel poetic fields to introduce their enthusiasms, and to begin to map that delta for us. Themes began to emerge – animals, language, very early childhood, love, work. I was particularly interested in energy in language and angles of vision.



George Szirtes

Among other delights we have a passage from Owen Sheers's radio play, 'Pink Mist'; A.B. Jackson's 'Of Elephants', moving between sources and languages; Philip Gross's 'Variations On A Theme From The Cornish'; Matthew Sweeney's 'The One-eyed Philosopher of Katmandu'; Carolyn Jess-Cooke's hand-grenade baby, 'Boom!'; Paul Batchelor's 'Pit Ponies' and Shazea Quraishi's 'The Mummy of Hor'.

In the essays section we have Simon Armitage introducing Poetry Parnassus, Carrie Etter on prose poetry, Emily Critchley on Denise Riley and Adam Piette on the revels of Geraldine Monk. Peter Scupham reviews Elizabeth Jennings, Pascale Petit writes on Jane Hirshfield, while Grahame Davies is in the audience for Gwyneth Lewis's stage play, *Clytemnestra*. And there's much more.

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For further information

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The launch event will be introduced by George Szirtes, and feature readings from poets including A.B. Jackson, Lorraine Mariner and Geraldine Monk, plus the winner of *Poetry Review's* Dearmer Prize. Taking place on Saturday 30 June at 2pm, the launch event is at the Clore Ballroom, Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, London SE1 8XX. Admission is free to all.

The *Poetry Review* launch will be followed by the Poetry Society's Annual Lecture, given by Paul Muldoon in the Purcell Room at 4.30pm. For more information see www.southbankcentre.co.uk. The Poetry Society also teams up with Southbank Centre on 7 July (7.30pm) to present a special 75th birthday reading and conversation with Tony Harrison. For more information see the Poetry Society website at www.poetrysociety.org.uk

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Notes to Editors:

- *Poetry Review*, published quarterly by the Poetry Society, is Britain's longest-running poetry magazine. The Poetry Society was founded in 1909 and *Poetry Review* began publication in 1912. A subscription to *Poetry Review* is included in Poetry Society membership, and it can also be bought separately.
- The summer 2012 issue, edited by George Szirtes, is the first of a series of guest edited issues. The next two guest editors have just been announced as Charles Boyle (autumn 2012) and Bernardine Evaristo (winter 2012).
- George Szirtes, the editor of the summer issue, was born in Hungary and emigrated to Britain as a small child. His first collection, *The Slant Door*, was published in 1979 and won the Faber Memorial Prize in 1980. Since then he has written and edited many books, in English and Hungarian; *Reel* (2005) won the T.S. Eliot Prize. He is also a literary translator, and teaches at the University of East Anglia. He is married to the artist Clarissa Upchurch, with whom he ran the Starwheel Press.
- A.B. Jackson is the author of *Fire Stations* (Anvil, 2003, winner of the Forward Prize for Best First Collection) and *Apocrypha* (Donut Press, 2011), and won first prize in the Edwin Morgan Poetry Competition 2010.
- Geraldine Monk was first published in the 1970s, and since then her poetry has appeared extensively in both the UK and the USA. Major collections include *Interregnum* (Creation Books) and *Escafeld Hangings* (West House Books). Her latest collection, *Lobe Scarps & Finials*, was published by Leafe Press in 2011.
- Lorraine Mariner's collection, *Furniture*, was published by Picador in 2009, and was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection and the Seamus Heaney Centre Poetry Prize.
- For more information about Poetry Society events and the summer issue of *Poetry Review*, see the Poetry Society website, www.poetrysociety.org.uk

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