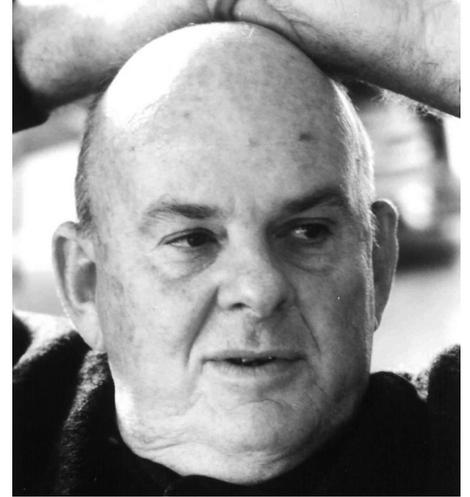


Les Murray, Australian “super-league” poet, delivers the Poetry Society’s annual lecture 2010



***Infinite Anthology: Adventures in Lexiconia* – Les Murray talks about words and the poems they inspire. On Tuesday 11 May 2010, 7pm. Beveridge Hall, University of London Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1.**

In a rare UK appearance, Australian poet Les Murray gives the Poetry Society’s annual lecture, in which he’ll explore his life-long fascination with word-collecting. From the folk words and country speech he heard as a child, to the new coinages he collects for the *Macquarie Dictionary*, Murray explains how he has used poetry as a word-store. From “rangas” and “pobbledonks” to “belly leggings” and “jail tats”, Murray serves up some of the words that have most inspired him, while discussing how he’s chosen to direct each word’s unique potency. He finishes the evening with a poetry reading.

The son of a tenant farmer, Les Murray was born in 1938 on the remote north coast of New South Wales. He still lives nearby at Bunyah. The winner of the Queen’s Gold Medal for Poetry, he has published over 30 volumes of poetry and been translated into ten languages.

His many poetry collections include *Dog Fox Field*, *Translations from the Natural World*, *Subhuman Redneck Poems*, *Conscious and Verbal*, *The Biplane Houses*, *Learning Human*; and the verse novels *The Boys Who Stole The Funeral* and *Fredy Neptune*. All are published by Carcanet. Murray’s forthcoming collection is *Taller When Prone* due to be published in November 2010, again by Carcanet.

“There is no poetry in the English language now so rooted in its sacredness, so broad-leafed in its pleasures, and yet so intimate and so conversational” – **Derek Walcott on Les Murray.**

This event is in association with the Institute of English Studies, University of London.

Tickets: £12 (£8 Poetry Society members and concessions). Tickets can be booked on line at www.poetrysociety.org.uk or telephone 0207 420 9886. All welcome.

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For further information

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To find out more or to arrange an interview with Les Murray please contact Lisa Roberts on 0207 420 9895 or email marketing@poetrysociety.org.uk.

NOTES TO EDITORS

• Les Murray

Leslie Allan Murray was born October 17, 1938, in Bunyah, New South Wales, Australia. He attended the University of Sydney where he studied modern languages, worked as a translator, and served in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve.

His recent collections include *The Biplane Houses* (2007); *Poems the Size of Photographs* (2004); *Learning Human: Selected Poems* (1998), which was shortlisted for the International Griffin Poetry Prize; and *Subhuman Redneck Poems*, winner of the 1996 T. S. Eliot Prize. His many awards include the Queens Gold Medal for Poetry, awarded to him in 1999 on the recommendation of Ted Hughes.

He is also the author of two verse novels: *The Boys Who Stole the Funeral* (1992), and *Fredy Neptune: A Novel in Verse* (1999), which centers around the picaresque life of German-Australian sailor Friedrich Boettcher, a kind of Nordic hero who witnesses and records, in the demotic style, the foibles of his age.

About his work a reviewer for *The Guardian* wrote: "The great bulk of Murray's poetry [is] unlike anything else in the world of modern writing. It is above controversy, about modernism and traditionalism and remains a challenge to whatever is left of contemporary commitment to verse."

Murray has said that he has a "vital interest in giving utterance and form to hitherto unexpressed elements of Australian mind and character" while drawing inspiration from "Australian landscape, folklore, history, war, technology, deserts".

He was formerly the editor of *Poetry Australia* and is currently the editor of *Quadrant* magazine. He has given readings, lectures and talks in Australia, Britain, Europe, and the United States. Murray resides in his native Bunyah.

• The Poetry Society

The Poetry Society was founded in 1909 to promote a "more general recognition and appreciation of poetry". Since then, it has grown into one of Britain's most dynamic arts organisations, representing British poetry both nationally and internationally. Today it has nearly 4,000 members worldwide and publishes the leading poetry magazine, *Poetry Review*. With innovative education and commissioning programmes and a packed calendar of performances, readings and competitions, the Poetry Society champions poetry for all ages.

• The Institute of English Studies

The Institute exists to facilitate advanced study and research in English Studies in the wider academic community, national and international, as well as within the University of London. It promotes these objects by providing for academic discussion and the exchange of knowledge and ideas through its Research Seminar and Conference Programmes, publications and visiting fellowships. Under its Centre for Manuscript and Print Studies, it hosts a portfolio of research programmes, provides programmes of study at postgraduate level in a research environment, and provides and promotes research training through the National Research Training Scheme in English Language, Literature, Palaeography and the History of the Book. The Institute also has close connections with The Bibliographical Society and The Malone Society, hosting their administrative offices.

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