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| Quasimodo, Salvatore (1901–1968) |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| **Born in 1901, Quasimodo left his native Sicily in 1919. In the volumes of poetry *Acque e terre* (1930), *Oboe sommerso* (1932) and *Erato e Apollion* (1936) he gradually developed a distinctive poetic voice within the Italian *ermetismo* of the thirties. Quasimodo’s poetry of this period combined a pursuit of stylistic purity with strong visionary elements. In the next decade, though remaining faithful to his lofty ideal of poetry, his poetic style underwent striking changes, with a shift from hermetic language to a more epic stance. This shift, already present in the *Nuove poesie* published in 1942, was confirmed and further elaborated in *Giorno dopo giorno* (1947), *La vita non è sogno* (1949), *Il falso e vero verde* (1956), *La terra impareggiabile* (1958) and *Dare e avere* (1966). In 1959 Quasimodo received the Nobel Prize for Literature. Struck by a cerebral hemorrhage in 1968 that lead to his death, the poet was buried in the Cimitero Monumentale of Milan, the city where he had lived since 1934.**  **Quasimodo’s first poems were published during his adolescence, when he studied Geometry at a technical institute in Messina. After leaving Sicily in 1919, he lived in various places in Italy (Rome, Florence, Imperia, Milan), gradually getting acquainted with different literary circles (the reviews *Solaria*, *Circoli*, *Letteratura*).** |
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| Further reading:  (Tedesco)  (Finzi)  (Baroni) |