LOLA RIDGE

Sun-up. Huebsch.

With determination, Lola Ridge has crystallized her power of Celtic imagination and turned from writing for the popular magazines to poetry. Although she was born in Dublin, Ireland, Miss Ridge has spent most of her life in Australia and New Zealand. It is perhaps the very contrast between her early environment and her New York surround-

ings that has produced a poem so thoroughly of New York as "The Ghetto". She writes of labor and its magnificence, of tragedy, and of strange characters, yet throughout she maintains her curious alertness to the inner mind, her delicate abstraction. She seems to transfer even to the rush and turmoil of crowded streets something of her own undeniable shyness.

"But it has remained for one reared far from our chaotic centers to appraise most poignantly the mingled squalor and beauty of our crowded streets. In 'The Ghetto and Other Poems' ... Lola Ridge brings a fresh background to set off her sensitive evaluations; her early life in Australia has doubtless enabled her to draw the American city with such an unusual sense of perspective. The city dominates her book; but the whole modern industrial world surges beneath it. 'The Song of Iron', with its glorification of Labor, is a veritable pean of triumph. And yet out of these majestic lines, the still small voice of the poet makes itself heard; a strangely attenuated voice with a tense accent; a' fineness that, seeming fragile, is like the delicacy of a thin steel spring. Nowhere does this distinction of utterance maintain itself so strikingly as in the titlepoem."-Louis Untermeyer in "The New Era in American Poetry".

"The series of poems from which the book ['Sun-up'] takes its name are vividly poignant renderings of the child-mind intimate in their apperception and flaring forth in arresting magic and color at times. Her method is free verse, but it is a distinct free verse. It is the sudden throwing of vivid phrases before one that conjure up limitless thoughts."—H. S. Gorman in the New York "Times", January 9, 1921.

References:

The New Era in American Poetry. Louis Untermeyer, Holt.

Literary Abbozzo. Conrad Aiken. DIAL, January 25, 1919.

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