

William Empson

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William Empson: a most noteworthy poet

There is a calmly elaborate and authoritative interpretation by Veronica Forrest-Thomson in an essay quoted by the assiduous Haffenden but worth reading through in the Yearbook of English Studies for 1974. You need to know what words like 'irrotational' mean.

Missing Dates Poem by William Empson

According to the publisher, Empson 'found himself captivated by the Buddhist sculptures of ancient Japan, and spent the years that followed in search of similar examples all over Korea, China, Cambodia, Burma, India, and Ceylon, as well as in the great museums of the West. He returned to England in the mid-1930s only to depart again after receiving a three-year contract to teach at.

William Empson

When Empson rose slowly from his seat to match the expectations of the tree in Kew he was still, after more than twenty years, thrilled by the prospect of the poem's climax. I was saying to George one evening after dinner what a pleasure it was to cooperate with so enlightened a plan when, to my horror, I saw the familiar look of settled loathing come over his face.

William Empson: a most noteworthy poet

His best-known work is his first, , published in 1930. It is clear at any rate that this grand notion of the inadequacy of life, so various in its means of expression, so reliable a bass note in the arts, needs to be counted as a possible territory of the pastoral. The Face of the Buddha.

Missing Dates Poem by William Empson

If that is the right way to talk about it, the burden on the poet who wants to communicate a full sense of what others just feel in their disordered way and, at a lower level, just put up with, is enormous. There is a quality in the lines, haunting indeed, a pathos not mentioned because it is the whole of the story.

Missing Dates Poem by William Empson

Always the sister doll will cry, Made in these careful ways, Cry on and on, Come back to me, Come back, in a few days.

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