

THE REMEMBERED DEAD

The Remembered Dead explores the ways poets of the First World War – and later poets writing in the memory of that war – address the difficult question of how to remember, and commemorate, those killed in conflict. It looks closely at the way poets struggled to meaningfully represent dying, death and the trauma of witness, while responding to the pressing need for commemoration. The authors pay close attention to specific poems while maintaining a strong awareness of literary and philosophical contexts. The poems are discussed in relation to modernism and myth, other forms of commemoration (photographs, memorials), and theories of cultural memory. There is fresh analysis of canonical poets which, at the same time, challenges the confines of the canon by integrating discussion of lesser-known figures, including non-combatants and poets of later decades. The final chapter reaches beyond the war's centenary in a discussion of one remarkable commemoration of Wilfred Owen.

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Sally Minogue , Andrew Palmer
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Poetry, Memory and the First World War

SALLY MINOGUE

ANDREW PALMER

Canterbury Christ Church University



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To the poets

that man's face will be / a mass of matter, horrid
slime – and little brittle bits –

Mary Borden

In that rich earth a richer dust concealed

Rupert Brooke

Carnage incomparable, and human squander

Wilfred Owen

There is a grave whose earth must hold too long,
too deep a stain

Charlotte Mew

Somewhere they must have gone

Isaac Rosenberg

What use / To have your body lying here?

Margaret Postgate Cole

these dead, who soon will have their dead
for burial clods heaped over

David Jones

We turned and crawled past the remembered dead

Arthur Graeme West

* * *

The songs I had are withered / Or vanished clean,
Yet there are bright tracks / Where I have been

Ivor Gurney

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Acknowledgements

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