

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-66147-9 - A Poetry Book for Children
A. Watson Bain
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

A POETRY BOOK
FOR CHILDREN

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-66147-9 - A Poetry Book for Children
A. Watson Bain
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-66147-9 - A Poetry Book for Children
A. Watson Bain
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

A POETRY BOOK
FOR CHILDREN

Compiled by
A. WATSON BAIN



CAMBRIDGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS
1927

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-66147-9 - A Poetry Book for Children
A. Watson Bain
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

This book is also issued as Part I of a series of three volumes entitled *A POETRY BOOK FOR BOYS & GIRLS*

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Tokyo, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107661479

© Cambridge University Press 1927

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1927
First paperback edition 2011

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-107-66147-9 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-66147-9 - A Poetry Book for Children
A. Watson Bain
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

To
MARY

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-66147-9 - A Poetry Book for Children
A. Watson Bain
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-66147-9 - A Poetry Book for Children
A. Watson Bain
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

P R E F A C E

THIS little book is intended as an introduction to poetry for children from seven to eleven years of age, who have passed beyond the stage of nursery rhymes and nonsense and playful verses and are ready to enjoy the real thing. Most children, even if they do not grasp its full meaning, appreciate the rhythm and music of verse and respond readily to its emotional appeal. It is when they are young and impressionable that their taste can be most easily formed; and no one who has acquired in early years a love of literature, and especially of poetry, is likely to read ephemeral trash in later life. As Stevenson says:

*Bright is the ring of words
When the right man rings them,
Fair the fall of songs
When the singer sings them;*

and, whether we define poetry, with Coleridge, as “the best words in the best order” or, with Wordsworth, as “the breath and finer spirit of all knowledge,” a real love of it is a priceless possession.

The children of to-day have many advantages over those of a generation or so ago, and perhaps in nothing more than in what is presented to them as poetry. One has only to compare present-day poetry books with those of thirty years ago to recognise the vast difference both in matter and in style—a change due largely, doubtless, to the influence on public taste of such writers as Robert Louis Stevenson, Eugene Field, and Mr Walter de la Mare. It is believed that this book contains nothing that is merely trivial and that has no real claim to be considered poetry.

If any apology be needed for adding to the already

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-66147-9 - A Poetry Book for Children
A. Watson Bain
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

long list of poetry books, it is that we cannot have too much of a good thing. Taste changes, even in poetry, and parents and teachers, as well as children, like a certain amount of variety. Any new book, while including, as it must do, a number of old favourites, has usually some poems that are fresh to many readers. The present book is unusually rich in the work of living writers, who almost without exception have been most kind and generous; and its contents have been drawn, not only from the various home countries, but from the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, to all of which it may have the good fortune eventually to find its way.

Although the poems do not appear in separate sections, much care has been devoted to their arrangement, which is on a plan that will be obvious to any careful reader. It is hoped that those who use the book will derive as much pleasure in doing so as the editor has had in compiling it.

A. W. B.

June 23, 1927

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-66147-9 - A Poetry Book for Children
 A. Watson Bain
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

For permission to include copyright poems, the Editor offers his cordial thanks to the following authors, publishers, and holders of copyright:

Mr H. W. Allingham, for the two poems by William Allingham; Messrs Angus and Robertson, Ltd., Sydney, for the poems by Zora Cross and Victor J. Daley; Mr Hilaire Belloc and Messrs Duckworth, for "The Early Morning" from *Sonnets and Verses*; Mr Basil Blackwell, for poems by Madeleine Nightingale and Edith Sitwell; Dr Robert Bridges and Mr John Murray, for "First Spring Morning"; Messrs Burns, Oates and Washbourne, Ltd., for Francis Thompson's "Little Jesus"; Mr Patrick R. Chalmers and Messrs Methuen and Co., Ltd., for two poems; Messrs Chatto and Windus, for a poem from Robert Louis Stevenson's *Underwoods*; Mr G. K. Chesterton, Messrs J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., and Messrs E. P. Dutton and Co., New York, for "A Christmas Carol"; Mrs G. K. Chesterton, for "How far is it to Bethlehem?"; Mr Padraic Colum, Messrs Maunsel and Roberts, Ltd., Dublin, and The Macmillan Company, New York, for "A Cradle Song"; Mr W. H. Davies and Messrs Jonathan Cape, Ltd., for "Raptures"; Mr Walter de la Mare, for four poems; Messrs J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., for William Canton's "Bethlehem"; Mr John Drinkwater and Messrs Sidgwick and Jackson, Ltd., for two poems from *Collected Poems*; Mr Robin Flower, for "Tir Na N-og"; Mr John Freeman, for "Sleeping Sea"; Miss Rose Fyleman and the Proprietors of *Punch*, for three poems; Miss Eva Gore-Booth and Messrs Longmans, Green and Co., for "The Little Waves of Breffny" from *The One and the Many*; Mr Gerald Gould, for "Wander-Thirst" from *Lyrics* (David Nutt); Mr Robert Graves and the Poetry Bookshop, for "Star Talk"; Mr John Halsham, for "The Great Bear"; Messrs William Heinemann, Ltd., for "A Child's Laughter," by Swinburne; Mr Hamish Hendry, for "The Sick Wind"; Mrs K. Tynan Hinkson, for two poems; Messrs Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, for "The House and the Road," by Josephine P. Peabody; Mr James Joyce and Messrs Jonathan Cape, Ltd., for "Goldenhair" from *Chamber Music*; Mr Coulson Kernahan, for a poem by Philip B. Marston; Miss W. M. Letts and Mr John Murray, for three poems from *Songs of Leinster*; Messrs Longmans, Green and Co., for three poems from R. L. Stevenson's *Child's Garden of Verses*; Dr Greville MacDonald, for two poems by George MacDonald; Messrs Macmillan

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-66147-9 - A Poetry Book for Children
A. Watson Bain
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

and Co., Ltd., for Tennyson's "Minnie and Winnie," two poems by Christina Rossetti, and poems by Wilfrid Gibson, Ralph Hodgson, and James Stephens; Sir Andrew Macphail and Mr John Lane, for a poem from Marjorie Pickthall's *Drift of Pinions*; Mr John Masfield, for "The West Wind" from his *Collected Poems* (Heinemann); Mr T. Sturge Moore and The Richards Press, Ltd., for "Wind's Work" from *The Little School*; The Musson Book Co., Ltd., Toronto, for two poems from Pauline Johnson's *Flint and Feather*; Sir Henry Newbolt, for "Rilloby-Rill" from *Poems New and Old* (John Murray); Mr Alfred Noyes, for "Sherwood" from his *Collected Poems* (Blackwood); Mr Philip Nutt, for "A Child's Hymn," by M. Betham-Edwards; Miss Moira O'Neill, for "The Fairy Lough" from *Songs of the Glens of Antrim* (Blackwood); Mr W. Graham Robertson, for two poems; Messrs Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, for four poems by Eugene Field; Mr Gabriel Setoun, for "Romance" from *The Child World* (John Lane); Messrs Small, Maynard and Co., Boston, and Messrs McClelland and Stewart, Ltd., Toronto, for Bliss Carman's "Ships of Yule"; Mr T. T. Tucker, for two poems by Edith Nesbit; Messrs T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd., for poems by Richard Middleton and Cullen Gouldsbury; Messrs Whitcombe and Tombs, Ltd., Christchurch, N.Z., for a poem by Mary Colborne-Veel; Mr Charles Williams and the Oxford University Press, for a poem from *Windows of Night*; Mr W. B. Yeats and Messrs T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd., for "A Faery Song." For "The Fairy Ring" he is indebted to the kindness of Mr J. C. Smith, H.M.I.S.

CONTENTS

ALLINGHAM, WILLIAM	
<i>Robin Redbreast</i>	Page 60
<i>The Fairies</i>	22
ANON.	
<i>A Child's Prayer</i>	37
<i>Oxfordshire Children's May Song</i>	54
<i>The Fairy Ring</i>	20
BELLOC, HILAIRE	
<i>The Early Morning</i>	50
BETHAM-EDWARDS, MATILDA	
<i>A Child's Hymn</i>	38
BLAKE, WILLIAM	
<i>Nurse's Song</i>	13
<i>The Lamb</i>	13
<i>The Poet and the Child</i>	12
<i>The Tiger</i>	88
BRIDGES, ROBERT	
<i>First Spring Morning</i>	52
BROWNING, ELIZABETH BARRETT	
<i>A Child's Thought of God</i>	37
BROWNING, ROBERT	
<i>Pippa's Song</i>	51
BURNS, ROBERT	
<i>My Heart's in the Highlands</i>	70
CANTON, WILLIAM	
<i>Bethlehem</i>	95
CARMAN, BLISS	
<i>The Ships of Yule</i>	44
CHALMERS, PATRICK R.	
<i>The Puk-Wudjies</i>	26
<i>When Mary goes walking</i>	42
CHESTERTON, FRANCES	
<i>How far is it to Bethlehem?</i>	96
CHESTERTON, GILBERT K.	
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	97
COLBORNE-VEEL, MARY	
<i>The Hills</i>	36
COLERIDGE, SAMUEL TAYLOR	
<i>What the birds say</i>	39

COLUM, PADRAIC	
<i>A Cradle Song</i>	Page 8
CROSS, ZORA	
<i>When I was Six</i>	28
DALEY, VICTOR J.	
<i>The Voice of Spring</i>	55
DAVIES, WILLIAM H.	
<i>Raptures</i>	89
DE LA MARE, WALTER	
<i>Suppose</i>	46
<i>The Little Green Orchard</i>	62
<i>The Ship of Rio</i>	92
<i>Will Ever?</i>	71
DRINKWATER, JOHN	
<i>The Crowning of Dreaming John</i>	75
<i>The Miracle</i>	52
EVANS, SEBASTIAN	
<i>The Seven Fiddlers</i>	74
FIELD, EUGENE	
<i>Dutch Lullaby</i>	5
<i>Japanese Lullaby</i>	5
<i>The Princess Ming</i>	48
<i>Wynken, Blynken, and Nod</i>	8
FLOWER, ROBIN	
<i>Tir Na N-og</i>	79
FREEMAN, JOHN	
<i>Sleeping Sea</i>	67
FYLEMAN, ROSE	
<i>Alms in Autumn</i>	61
<i>Fairy Music</i>	20
<i>Invitation</i>	19
GIBSON, WILFRID	
<i>Michael's Song</i>	42
GORE-BOOTH, EVA	
<i>The Little Waves of Breffny</i>	67
GOULD, GERALD	
<i>Wander-Thirst</i>	69
GOULDSBURY CULLEN	
<i>South African Lullaby</i>	3
GRAVES, ROBERT	
<i>Star Talk</i>	31

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-66147-9 - A Poetry Book for Children
 A. Watson Bain
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

HALSHAM, JOHN	
<i>The Great Bear</i>	Page 31
HENDRY, HAMISH	
<i>The Sick Wind</i>	34
HINKSON, KATHARINE TYNAN	
<i>Golden Weed</i>	57
<i>The Little Red Lark</i>	39
HODGSON, RALPH	
<i>Time, you old Gipsy Man</i>	72
HOGG, JAMES	
<i>A Boy's Song</i>	42
HOOD, THOMAS	
<i>Queen Mab</i>	25
HOUGHTON, LORD	
<i>The Moon</i>	30
INGELOW, JEAN	
<i>Seven times One</i>	29
JOHNSON, E. PAULINE	
<i>Indian Lullaby</i>	4
<i>The Birds' Lullaby</i>	6
JOYCE, JAMES	
<i>Goldenhair</i>	90
KEATS, JOHN	
<i>Meg Merrilies</i>	91
LETTIS, WINIFRED M.	
<i>The Kerry Cow</i>	93
<i>The Winds at Bethlehem</i>	98
<i>Tim, an Irish Terrier</i>	93
LONGFELLOW, HENRY WADSWORTH	
<i>Daybreak</i>	51
<i>Hiawatha's Childhood</i>	15
<i>Home is best</i>	68
LOWELL, JAMES RUSSELL	
<i>The Fountain</i>	85
MACDONALD, GEORGE	
<i>Baby</i>	10
<i>Little White Lily</i>	11
MARSTON, PHILIP BOURKE	
<i>Summer Changes</i>	59
MASEFIELD, JOHN	
<i>The West Wind</i>	80

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-66147-9 - A Poetry Book for Children
 A. Watson Bain
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

MIDDLETON, RICHARD	
<i>The Carol of the Poor Children</i>	Page 99
MOORE, THOMAS	
<i>Child's Song</i>	81
MOORE, T. STURGE	
<i>Wind's Work</i>	35
NASHE, THOMAS	
<i>Spring</i>	53
NESBIT, EDITH	
<i>Baby Seed Song</i>	7
<i>Child's Song in Spring</i>	54
NEWBOLT, SIR HENRY	
<i>Rilloby-Rill</i>	73
NIGHTINGALE, MADELEINE	
<i>The Caravan</i>	43
NOYES, ALFRED	
<i>Sherwood</i>	58
O'NEILL, MOIRA	
<i>The Fairy Lough</i>	21
PEABODY, JOSEPHINE PRESTON	
<i>The House and the Road</i>	68
PICKTHALL, MARJORIE L. C.	
<i>A Child's Song of Christmas</i>	97
POE, EDGAR ALLAN	
<i>Eldorado</i>	70
ROBERTSON, W. GRAHAM	
<i>Bluebell Song</i>	56
<i>Ring o' Roses</i>	2
ROSSETTI, CHRISTINA	
<i>The Sound of the Wind</i>	33
<i>The Wind</i>	33
SCOTT, SIR WALTER	
<i>Highland Lullaby</i>	3
SETOUN, GABRIEL	
<i>Romance</i>	18
SHAKESPEARE, WILLIAM	
<i>A Fairy Lullaby</i>	24
<i>Ariel's Songs</i>	63
<i>The Fairy Life</i>	23
<i>Winter</i>	64

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-66147-9 - A Poetry Book for Children
 A. Watson Bain
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

SITWELL, EDITH	
<i>The King of China's Daughter</i>	Page 47
STEPHENS, JAMES	
<i>The Fifteen Acres</i>	40
STEVENSON, ROBERT LOUIS	
<i>My Shadow</i>	14
<i>Romance</i>	78
<i>The Land of Story-Books</i>	15
<i>Windy Nights</i>	34
SWINBURNE, ALGERNON CHARLES	
<i>A Child's Laughter</i>	84
TENNYSON, ALFRED, LORD	
<i>Cradle Song</i>	1
<i>English Lullaby</i>	2
<i>Minnie and Winnie</i>	1
<i>The Beggar Maid</i>	90
<i>The Brook</i>	86
<i>The Merman</i>	65
<i>The Owl</i>	65
THOMPSON, FRANCIS	
<i>Little Jesus</i>	100
WILLIAMS, CHARLES	
<i>A Child's Walking Song</i>	81
YEATS, WILLIAM BUTLER	
<i>A Faery Song</i>	25