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José Agustín Goytisolo, ed. & tr. *Poetas catalanes contemporáneos*. Barcelona. Seix Barral. 1968. 371 pages.

Twentieth-century Catalan poetry deserves to

be better known. It has both depth and subtlety, as this anthology makes clear. The compiler, who is a distinguished poet (his brother Juan Goytisolo is also well known to Spanish readers), has translated into Spanish selected poems from ten of the best contemporary Catalan poets. The translations are accurate and face the Catalan texts. A general introduction and critical-biographical notes on each one of the poets included are helpful to place the texts in perspective. The book is divided into two main sections which correspond to two generations: the generation of "the elders," with Josep Carner, Carles Riba, J. V. Foix, Joan Salvat Papasseit, Marià Manent; the young generation, with Pere Quart, Rosselló-Pòrcel, Espriu, Vinyoli, and Gabriel Ferrater.

There can be no doubt that Josep Carner and Carles Riba are great poets. Inspired by symbolism and the Greek classics, they can be subtle—or their poems can soar, at will. J. V. Foix's surrealism offers mystery and anguish. Among the younger poets, the best are perhaps Pere Quart—his irony is biting—and Salvador Espriu, both ironic and tragic. Each poet is represented by a substantial number of poems. This anthology is above all a wonderful "appetizer" and calls attention to the greatness of today's Catalan letters. It does not pretend to be complete. (I would have added Guerau de Liost to the first group, Agustí Bartra to the second.) Such as it is, it allows us to make contact with a powerful lyrical movement.

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