Ciaran Carson

COLLECTED POEMS

Gallery Books
Contents

from The New Estate and Other Poems
The Insular Celts page 21
St Ciaran’s Island 23
O’Carolan’s Complaint 25
Casting the Bell 26
Interior with Weaver 27
Linen 28
An Early Bed 29
Twine 31
The Incredible Shrinking Man 32
Rubbish 34
Engraving from a Child’s Encyclopaedia 35
King’s Lynn 36
The Half-Moon Lake 37
The Excursion 38
The Holiday 39
The Bomb Disposal 40
Dunne 41
Fishes in a Chinese Restaurant 43
At the Windy Gap, 1910 44
Excerpts from a Tourist Handbook 45
East of Cairo 46
The Rosary Rally 47
The Alhambra 48
To Margaret 49
Visiting the Dead 50
Eaves 51
Moving In 52
Our Country Cousins 53
Céilí 54
Blues 55
Great-Grandmother 56
Grandfather 57
Stitch 58
Post 60
To a Married Sister 62
The Moon Parlour 63
Tuaim Inbir 64
Belleek 65
House Painting 66
Smithfield 67
Soot 68
Epitaph 69
The Lost Girl 70
The New Estate 71
The Patchwork Quilt 72

The Irish for No

PART ONE
Dresden 77
Judgement 82
Calvin Klein’s Obsession 85
Whatever Sleep It Is 89

PART TWO
Belfast Confetti 93
Clearance 94
Linear B 95
Night Patrol 96
August 1969 97
Campaign 98
Smithfield Market 99
Army 100
33333 101
Two Winos 102
Cocktails 103
Travellers 104
Box 105
Snowball 106
The Exiles’ Club 107
Slate Street School 108

PART THREE
The Irish for No 110
Serial 112
Asylum 114
Patchwork 119
Belfast Confetti

PART ONE

Loaf 127
'Plains and mountains, skies . . .' 130
Snow 131
'As a scarecrow blows . . .' 133
All the Better to See You With 134
'I know the wild geese . . .' 137
Ambition 138
'To Lord Toba's hall . . .' 143
Queen's Gambit 144
'These are wild slow days . . .' 151

PART TWO

Gate 153
Last Orders 154
Farset 155
Hairline Crack 158
Bloody Hand 159
Schoolboys and Idlers of Pompeii 160
Barfly 163
Jump Leads 164
Question Time 165
Punctuation 171
Yes 172
Revised Version 173
The Mouth 177
The Knee 178
Brick 179
Apparition 182
Night Out 183
Intelligence 184

PART THREE

'I've just put on this . . .' 189
Bed-time Story 190
'In Kyoto, still . . .' 192
Jawbox 193
'Darkness never flows . . .' 198
John Ruskin in Belfast 199
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>'Eleven horsemen . . .'</th>
<th>202</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Narrative in Black and White</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Wild rough seas tonight . . .'</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamlet</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**First Language**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>La Je-Ne-Sais-Quoi</th>
<th>213</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second Language</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Date Called <em>Eat Me</em></td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two to Tango</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ovid: <em>Metamorphoses</em>, V, 529-550</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Sonnets</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Not Remembering Some Lines of a Song</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Apparat</em></td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Brain of Edward Carson</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Opus 14</em></td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drunk Boat</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Nature</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Correspondances</em></td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Souls</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From the Welsh</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonnet</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ovid: <em>Metamorphoses</em>, XIII, 439-575</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagpipe Music</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ark of the Covenant</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ovid: <em>Metamorphoses</em>, XIII, 576-619</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Opus Operandi</em></td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Tak, Tak</em></td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latitude 38° S</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Albatross</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ballad of HMS <em>Belfast</em></td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**from Opera Et Cetera**

| Eesti | 281 |

**LETTERS FROM THE ALPHABET** | 284 |
ET CETERA

Auditque Vocatus Apollo 311
Solvitur Ambulando 312
Vox et Praeterea Nihil 313
Graecum Est: Non Legitur 314
Par Nobile Fratrum 315
Jacta Est Alea 316
Aquila Non Capit Muscas 317
Cave Quid Dicis, Quando, et Cui 318
Labuntur et Imputantur 319
Quod Erat Demonstrandum 320
Omne Vivum ex Ovo 321

OPERA 323

The Twelfth of Never
Tib's Eve 351
The Poppy Battle 352
The Tobacco and Salt Museum 353
Adelaide Halt 354
Salt of the Earth 355
Nine Hostages 356
The Rising of the Moon 357
The Rising Sun 358
Fairground Music 359
Green Tea 360
Sod of Death 361
Lir 362
Wolf Hill 363
Belladonna 364
Wallop the Spot 365
The Lily Rally 366
The Irish Exile Michael Hinds 367
Wrap the Green Flag Round Me 368
Dark Rosaleen 369
The Wind that Shakes the Barley 370
The Tailor's Twist 371
Catmint Tea 372
Spot the Wallop 373
Let Erin Remember 374
Planxty Miss Dickinson 375
The White Devil 376
1798 377
1998 378
Drops of Brandy 379
Mountain Dew 380
Saké 381
Who Ploughed the Lowlands Low 382
The Hag with the Money 383
Digitalis 384
Lord Gregory 385
The Blue Shamrock 386
Sayers, or, Both Saw Wonders 387
Dancers 388
Clonmel Jail 389
Milk of Paradise 390
Planxty Patrick Connors 391
Crack 392
Jarrow 393
Yellow 394
Twelfth Day 395
The Ay O'Haitch 396
Centaur 397
The Londonderry Air 398
No Tengo Mas Que Dar Te 399
Found 400
Manifest 401
The Horse's Mouth 402
Fear 403
Fuji Film 404
Con Script 405
Picador 406
Mustard 407
Banana Tree 408
1795 409
Spenser's Ireland 410
Sunderland and Spencer 411
The Display Case 412
February Fourteen 413
Hippocrene 414
The Arterial Route 415
The Groves of Blarney 416
Finding the Ox 417
Eau de Nil 418
Trooping the Colours 419
The Year of the French 420
Legions of the Dead 421
Banners 422
Spraying the Potatoes 423
Paddy's Knapsack 424
The Ambassadors 425
Heart of Oak 426
Envoy 427

Breaking News
Belfast 431
Home 432
The Gladstone Bar circa 1954 433
Trap 434
Breaking 435
News 436
Horse at Balaklava, 1854 437
Russia 438
Shop Fronts 439
Wire 440
Breath 441
Blink 442
War 444
The Indian Mutiny 445
Some Uses of a Dead Horse 449
Detail 450
Waste Not 451
In St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin 452
Skip 453
Fragment 454
Campaign 455
Spin Cycle 456
Spin Cycle 2 457
Harvest 458
Théodore Géricault: *Farrier's Signboard*, 1814 459
The Forgotten City 461
Minus 462
Francisco Goya: *The Third of May 1808*, 1814 463
Last Effect 464
Siege 465
Exile 466
Wake 467
Edward Hopper: *Early Sunday Morning*, 1930 468

The War Correspondent
1 Gallipoli 470
2 Varna 472
3 Dvno 474
4 Balaklava 476
5 Kertch 478
6 Tchernaya 481
7 Sedan 483

*For All We Know*

**PART ONE**
Second Time Round 493
Hotel del Mar 495
On the Contrary 496
Treaty 497
Redoubt 498
The Assignation 500
Revolution 501
Through 502
Pas de Deux 503
Second Hand 505
Le Mot Juste 506
Proposal 507
The Shadow 508
The Fetch 510
Second Take 511
Corrigendum 512
Fall 513
L'Air du Temps 514
From Your Notebook 568
Prelude and Fugue 569
The Story of the Chevalier 570
To 571
Rue Daguerre 573
The Story of Madame Chevalier 574
Before 575
The Present 577
The Anniversary 579
Filling the Blank 580
Peace 581
In the Dark 583
Je Reviens 585
Zugzwang 587

Notes and Acknowledgements 589