

31st March, 2021 Wisdom from Different Lands

An evening of Poetry and Philosophy

This was a presentation of poetry and philosophical thoughts, by the Poetry Committee, followed by invitations to the audience to read their chosen poems, and then there was discussion. A booklet of all the readings had been generously compiled and circulated beforehand by Roland Rogers. This booklet, *Wisdom from Different Lands*, can be obtained from him for free at muzikozm@pm.me. Our acting Chairman Ed Nanno nobly steered the meeting and the discussion that followed.

Additional poetry from the membership came from John Jones reading from Geraint Lloyd Owen and TH Parry Williams, some in Welsh and some in his own translation. Mark Leclercq read an uplifting Dylan Thomas poem. In *My Craft or Sullen Art*. Michael Collins read a humorous poem about Warty Beggins. Alan Paul read a wonderful new poem he wrote recently on Merton Abbey and the Wandle river.

We were joined by Amelie, Ewa Cobham's granddaughter who is studying philosophy out of interest. This lowered our average age considerably. We were a select group of about twenty two people and would like to know why more did not attend.

Leslie Dighton talked about the peace process of opposites coming together in Northern Ireland and read from Seamus Heaney's arresting and moving poem *Squarings*. He talked about the ability of poetry to imagine beyond the actual everyday reality and influence ideas in seemingly unresolvable situations. Ann Vaughan-Williams read her poem about prehistoric cave paintings in France, and Elizabeth Bishop the American poet's poem about close encounter with a wise old fish. Then came John Jones' resounding Welsh offering which demonstrated *cynghanedd* in Welsh prosody. This was followed by Ewa Cobham's delightful fable of a conversation with Amelie in which they explore Hope with reference to Greek mythology. Next Roland Rogers incorporated his beguiling poems on *Goose Feathers* and *Numbers* from Trilussa, Italian fabulist and he read his own witty poem *The Firefly*. Finally, Juan Tafur presented some of Jorge Manrique's moving verses on the death of his father, giving us some of the wonderfully musical original in Spanish.

It was a feast of rousing poetry and philosophy from England, Wales, Ireland, America, Italy, Spain, with influences from France and Poland

This was followed by discussion which was wide ranging and not easily accomplished in the technological circumstances of Zooming.

PS Trilussa. *Aesop of Rome-Troubador Book Publishing*, can be ordered from this link from July.

Ann Vaughan-Williams