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FROM THE

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ISSUE

David Tipton, ed. *Peru: The New Poetry*. New York. Red Dust. 1977. 173 pages. \$10.95.

David Tipton and Red Dust have performed a service in updating, redressing and making more widely available the 1970 London Magazine edition of this book, which provides a representative sampling of Peruvian poetry between 1959 and 1971. Three additional poets have been added (Cecilia Bustamante, Javier Sologuren and Sanchez-León), and forty-three additional poems. While the translations—mostly by Tipton himself, others by his late wife Ena Hollis and Maureen Ahern—are consistently readable, they are impossible to evaluate in the absence of the original text. (With the predictable social protest poems, this is hardly a problem; with the *puristas*, however, nearly everything is lost in translation.) Perhaps more useful than Tipton's brief introduction are various statements made about their situation by the poets themselves.

Judging from this anthology, Peruvian poetry still appears to be largely derivative of European models, or of Vallejo, a condition enforced by institutional hostility which has driven so many of Peru's poets into exile or timidity.

R. Holkeboer

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TIPTON, David, ed. *Peru: the new poetry*. Red Dust, 1977. 173p 74-10452. 10.95 ISBN 0-87376-024-7

This extended anthology (a shorter English edition was originally published in 1970) is a valuable collection of the new Peruvian poets belonging to the generation after Vallejo and Eguren. Many of the poets, such as Sologuren, Delgado, Cisneros, use the Peruvian ambient, ancient and modern, as their themes to give to their poems a personal, uncomplicated tone removed from the surrealism of the 1930s and 1940s. But beyond the intimate note the young Peruvian is much preoccupied with the prevailing social injustice and the complex economic problems of his country. However, the general mood is not one of belligerence but rather one of sadness. Most of the translations are done by David Tipton and are the work of an expert and a poet. Equally good are the few translations of Maureen Ahern and Ena Hollis. Statements and comment by Antonio Cisneros, Washington Delgado, and Salazar Bondy give pertinent information on the poets themselves and the artist's position in Peru. Also brief, helpful biographical notes.

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