

Book Reviews

THE PENGUIN BOOK OF FIRST WORLD WAR PROSE Edited by Jon Glover & Jon Silken: Viking Penguin Inc., 1989, 620pp, £18.95, Paperback £9.95.

Henry, writing in 1934, stated in a postscript to his famous essay *Reality in War Literature*, "It is sad to think that in a few years, perhaps, the literature of the war of 1914–1918 will be forgotten, like that of other wars, in a European war arising . . ." Henry was right enough about that European war but as for the future of literature from the First World War here, 53 years later to allay his fears, is a magnificent anthology of some of the finest writings spawned in the aftermath of that cruel and savage conflict now so distant. Messrs Glover and Silken have brought together a splendid assembly of classic extracts, "My subject i War, and the pity of War" (Owen). Henry certainly would have approved. Many of his favourites are here: Henri Barbusse, Georges Duhamel, Charles Sorley, R.H. Mottram, Wilfred Owen, Fredric Manning and H.M. Tomlinson, all part of an illustrious company of great writers. Not all are here, alas; 'Wingless Victor' (V.M. Yeates) is omitted and there is no place for Wilfred Ewart and his *Way of Revelation*. (This comes as no real surprise; on Henry's recommendation I sought the book for years but when at long last I secured a copy, it was sadly a great disappointment!) Henry has a rightful place in this anthology, with extracts from *Patriot's Progress*, but no mention of the five memorable War Novels from *A Chronicle of Ancient Sunlight* or *The Wet Flanders Plain*. (Why cannot editors take the trouble to discover what other books he write? They also quote his birthplace to be Parkstone, Dorset!) Nevertheless, it is an excellent book providing glimpses of rare classics from the War, many of which are long out-of-print. Even when today we once more hover on the brink of further catastrophe too horrible to contemplate, it is right that we should still remember the sacrifice and courage of Ypres and the Somme.

BRIAN FULLAGAR

THE WET FLANDERS PLAIN

Gliddon Books have now brought out a paperback edition of this title, retailing at £5.95 (available fromn Gliddon Books, Skeetshill Farmhouse, Shotesham St Mary, Norwich NR15 1UR).

FUND FOR CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENARY OF HW'S BIRTH IN 1995

A special fund is being set up now to provide some money in order that we can finance projects for this occasion.

To that end a Society RAFFLE will be held shortly.

Donation of prizes is invited – preferably with an HW association but anything suitable appreciated.

Please contact in the first instance our Treasurer, Fred Shepherd, or other officers of the Committee.

Further details will be available in due course.

❁ IDEAS FOR FURTHER FUND RAISING WELCOMED ❁