

NEUE

The
Shape
 of
Things

by
Geoffrey Cook

Translations from
Rainer Maria Rilke's
New Poems 1907 & 1908

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Der Platz	6-7	The Square
Die Kathedrale	8-9	The Cathedral
L'Ange du Méridien	10-11	The Stone Angel
Das Portal I	12-13	The Portal I
Das Portal II	14-15	The Portal II
Das Portal III	16-17	The Portal III
Das Kapital	18-19	The Capital
Gott im Mittelalter	20-21	<i>Deus Ex Machina</i>
Römische Campagna	22-23	<i>Roman Campagna</i>
Die Irren	24-25	The Lunatics
Irre im Garten	26-27	Lunatics in the Garden
Schlaf-Mohn	28-29	Opium Poppy
Die Sonnenuhr	30-31	The Sundial
Dame vor dem Spiegel	32-33	Woman Before a Mirror
Schwarze Katz	34-35	Black Cat
Auswanderer-Schiff	36-37	Migrant Ship
Fremde Familie	38-39	Foreign Family

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

From 1903-1908, as the 19th century turned into the 20th and **Rainer Maria Rilke** into his 30s, the bewilderingly itinerant poet produced *New Poems*, an aesthetic and ethical break-through that climaxes in the *Duino Elegies* (1912-1923).

Turning away from sentimental and subjective impressionism, the *New Poems'* self-conscious articulation of a more objective constructing of art works, was largely due to the influence of two masters of modern art, Rodin and Cezanne.

While Rilke's *Sonnets to Orpheus* and *Duino Elegies* are inimitable masterpieces, the *New Poems* still have much to teach contemporary poets, and it is in this spirit of learning the craft of poem-making that Cook has undertaken these translations.

Geoffrey Cook's translations of Goethe, Heine, Brecht, as well as Rilke have appeared in Canada and Scotland. A collection of Geoff's poems and translations is forthcoming from Signal Editions/Vehicule Press, who published his first book, *Postscript* in 2004. Geoff teaches literature at John Abbott College in Montreal.

The Shape of Things has been released in a 46-page numbered edition of 100 copies.

ISBN 978-1-926948-55-3 CA\$15.00 (INCL. S/H)

www.froghollowpress.com