

# MARXISM AND POETRY

George Thomson

(The classic monograph on the  
origins of poetry & drama)



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# Marxism and Poetry

by George Thomson

EDWIN MADONNELL

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FOREWORD

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For the advancement of this end it is a highly urgent. What else in the world will do this work but in which each finds in knowledge, with facts in mind, and in earnest an endeavor to expand their spirit. These essays, written by Marxists, are a contribution to the cultivation of confidence among men in their ability to control their own destiny. The writers are fortunate in that they employ a language which has a long and honorable tradition of expressing the most difficult subjects without jargon or pedantry. They have tried to be worthy of this tradition. It is their further good fortune that this language enables them also to communicate directly with their readers in the United States of America.

George Thomson tells us that the poetry he knows best is English, Greek and Irish. His knowledge of the last may come as a surprise to those who know him only as a classical scholar. It should therefore be noted that before he taught Greek through the medium of English at Birmingham he taught it through the medium of Greek in Calcutta. He is also acquainted with the poetry of many other languages ancient and modern, as this essay will in part reveal. It is the author's business to stress this fact as it is of crucial significance for the nature of the essay. Marxism