

This unique bilingual anthology of poetry gathers the work of well-known and new contemporary poets from Italy, England, the U.S., New Zealand, the Czech Republic, and elsewhere, all paying tribute to the legacy of Ezra Pound and Olga Rudge. Inspired by a momentous cross-cultural poetry reading by most of these poets on July 2, 2009, at the Sala Capizucchi in the epicenter of Rome—the same theatre where Olga Rudge had performed with the composer George Antheil in February 1927—this collection bears testimony not only to the rich variety of new verse coming from both sides of the Atlantic, but to the wide sweep of Pound’s influence into the twenty-first century.

Collected here are both Italian poems translated into English and English poems translated into Italian, making for a comprehensive, international gathering of poetry available for readers in each language. Among the twenty poets represented are, translated from Italian, Maria Clelia Cardona, Luca Cesari, Pier Paolo Pasolini, Daniele Pieroni, and Edoardo Sanguineti, together with, translated from English, Mary De Rachewiltz, Tony Lopez, Biljana D. Obradović, Stephen Romer, Ron Smith, and C.K. Stead, among others.

Despite their mutual ties to Pound—whether by virtue of his eclectic subject matter as precedent, his sounding call for “words suggestive of music,” or his profound faith in the sheer power of verse to “move ‘em” (even if “a cold thing, like economics,” can’t)—each poet [at the Sala Capizucchi reading] presented works in a style unlike the others’. Here was no “school” of poets; in fact, most of the poets had not met each other before, nor were they unwilling to swerve from ol’ Ez, in poems that, to the contrary, demonstrated their regard for Pound through their expression of their own idiosyncratic voices. As if subscribing to Pound’s definition of “civilization” in ...Guide to Kulchur, the poets of the Sala Capizucchi show that “the interest is in the blend of perception and of association. It is a pastime neither for clods nor for illiterates.”

—From the Introduction, “The Sala Capizucchi Poetry Reading: Words Suggestive of Music”

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# I Poeti della Sala Capizucchi

## The Poets of the Sala Capizucchi

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