A Title and First-Line Index
to Mervyn Peake’s Poems
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AND THEN I HEARD HER SPEAK – idem – Gb p.34. CP p.212.

AN ANGRY CACTUS DOES NO GOOD – idem – BN p.37. CN p.188.

“April gone by; the next faint fable-month” – MAY 1940 – RoB p.3. Reprinted in W&D p.30; PP p.162. CP p.79.

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CALIBAN – “As much himself is he as Caliban” – SP p.35. First pub-ished as POEM in New English Review Magazine, September 1948. Reprinted in Gb p.9, also as POEM. CP p.205.

THE CAMEL – “I saw a camel sit astride” – RwR p.28. CN p.96.


THE COLT – “Arabia is in your eye” – TLS, 1 September 1972, p.1027. Reprinted two months later in BN p.35; W&D p.97; PP p.511. CN p.200–01.

“Come, flick the ulna juggler-wise” – THE OSSEOUS’ ORSE – Recited by Prunesquallor in G p.33. CN p.156.


THE CONSUMPTIVE – Belsen 1945 – “If seeing her an hour before her last” – See Belsen 1945.


THE CONSUMPTIVE – Belsen 1945 – “If seeing her an hour before her last” – See Belsen 1945.

CRISIS – “In crimson tatters this my orphan heart” – CP p.151.


CROWN ME WITH HAIRPINS – idem – BN p.73. CN p.220

CRUMBLIES THE CRESTED SCROLL – idem – CP p.147.


CURL UP IN THE GREAT WINDOW SEAT – idem – CP p.121.


“Dear children, what a day it’s been” – WHAT A DAY IT’S BEEN! – RwR p.22. CN p.90.


DREAMS – idem – 11P. CP p.55


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“Each day their steep, blood-red” – LONDON BUSES – 12P. CP p.104.

EACH DAY WE LIVE IS A GLASS ROOM – idem – Gb p.17. CP p.141.


EPSTEIN’S A D A M – “I have seen this day” – Picture Post, vol.4, no.4, 29 July 1939, p.67. Reprinted in PS, 2:iv (1992), pp.11–12, with notes; what appears to be a draft of this poem is printed in W&D p.23.


“Every gesture every eyelid’s” – idem – CP p.82.

A FAIR AMOUNT OF DOZINESS – idem – CN p.42.


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THE FLIGHT – “While watching the sun sink” – Gb p.38. CP p.213.
FOR ALL YOUR DEADLY IMPLICATIONS – idem – CP p.76.

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“From the sunset I turn away” – SARK; EVENING – CP p.168.

THE GIRAFFE – “You may think that he’s rather slow” – RwR p.16. Reprinted in PP p.113. CN p.84.


GREAT HULK DOWN THE ASTONISHED WATERS DRIFTING – idem – 3 Arts

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GREEN PARK – “What could be greener” – CN p.24


HEAVEN HIRES ME – idem – 10P p.[9] as “Heaven Lures me”. CP p.30

“He moves across the bleak, penumbral shire” – POEM – Poetry


His head and hands were built for sin – idem – Gb p.1. CP p.162.

HOLD FAST – “Hold fast / to the law” (an untitled dirge intoned by the professors in G pp.129–30) – CN pp.120–2.


THE HOURS OF NIGHT ARE DRAWING ON – idem – CN p.198.


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“How good it is to be alone” – untitled – PP p.491. CN p.73 as HOW GOOD IT IS TO BE ALONE (2).

HOW GOOD IT IS TO BE ALONE (1) – idem – CN pp.71–2.

HOW MOURNFUL TO IMAGINE – “Our ears, you know, have Other Uses” – RwR p.24. Reprinted in PP p.115. CN p.92.

HOW SHALL I FIND ME – idem – CP p.167.


“I always cast a Mental Wreath” – THORNTON HEATH – CN p.23.

I AM ALMOST DRUNKEN – idem – CP p.65.

I AM FOR EVER WITH ME – idem – S&S p.11. CP p.96.

I AM THE SLUNG STONE THAT NO TARGET HAS – idem – CP p.95.


“I cannot find it in me to be gay” – idem – CP p.154.


I CANNOT SIMPLY STAND AND WATCH – idem – CN p.58.


**If I would stay what men call sane** – _idem_ – _CP_ p.123.

**If I found myself walking** – _idem_ – _CP_ p.73.


**If the earth were lamplit** – “It is at times of half-light that I find” – _Strand_, vol.112, issue 671, November 1946, p.58. Reprinted with minor changes in punctuation in _Gb_ p.35 as _Poem_; in _SP_ p.42 as _At Times of Half-Light_. _CP_ p.140.

**If trees gushed blood** – _idem_ – _SP_ p.43. _CP_ p.144.

“If when I married you I was in love” – _Maevе_ – _CP_ p.117.


“I had thought it rocklike” – _Love, I had Thought it Rocklike_ – _Gb_ p.6.

“I have become less clay than hazel-rod” – _idem_ – _Gb_ p.32. _CP_ p.163.

“I have my price” – untitled – “a sort of song” that Muzzlehatch roars to Juno in _TA_ p.65. Another version, of which the first 12 lines are almost identical to this, was printed in _TLS_, 1 September 1972, p.1027, and two months later in _BN_ p.48. _CN_ p.204.

“I have seen this day” – _Epstein’s Adam_ – _Picture Post_, vol.4, no.4, 29 July 1939, p.67. Reprinted in _PS_, 2:iv (1992), pp.11–12, with notes; what appears to be a draft of this poem is printed in _W&D_ p.23.


“I, like an insect on the stained glass” – _idem_ – _CP_ p.57

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1. **I Married Her in Green** – _idem_ – _CN_ p.50.
2. **I Must Begin to Comprehend** – _idem_ – _CN_ p.122.
5. **In crimson tatters this my orphan heart** – _Crisis_ – _CP_ p.151.
7. **Interminable, the Avenue Raspail** – _Mané Katz_ – _CP_ p.34.
9. **In the lion’s yellow eyes** – untitled – _Smith_ p.78. _CP_ p.81.
10. **In this, the vast absorption, burns the angel** – _The Modelles_ – _SP_ p.37. _CP_ p.73.
11. **Into the Dusky Well** – _idem_ – _CP_ p.158.
12. **Into the sky all men must turn their eyes** – _idem_ – _CP_ p.157.
16. **The island has become waist-deep in snow** – _Snow in Sark_ – _W&D_ p.86. _CP_ p.205.


It is most best – idem – BN p.31. CN p.198.

It is the malady – idem – CP p.152.


It worries me to know – idem – BN p.23. CN pp.161–5


I, while the gods laugh, the world’s vortex am – idem – New English Weekly, 20 April 1939, p.8. Reprinted in S&S p.9. CP p.44.

I wish I could remember – “Along my weary whiskers” – RwR p.30. CN p.98.

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Jehovah, Jehovah – idem – CN p.204.


A languorous life – idem – RwR p.36. CN p.102.

Lean sideways on the wind – idem – BN p.49. CN p.186.


Leave train – “To your loveliness I travel” – CP p.82.


Let the result be what it may – idem – CP p.167.

Lies! Lies! It is all lies and nothing else – idem – CP p.229.

Life beat another rhythm – idem – CP p.70.


Lit, every stage – idem – CP p.68.


love is an angry weather – idem – CP p.229.


LOVE SO IMPERILLED IS – idem – CP p.171.

LUG OUT YOUR SPIRIT FROM ITS CAGE OF CLAY – idem – CP p.156.

MAEVE – “If when I married you I was in love” – CP p.117.

MANÉ KATZ – “Interminable, the Avenue Raspail” – CP p.34.


MAY 1940 – “April gone by, the next faint fable-month” – RoB p.3. Reprinted in W&D p.30; PP p.162. CP p.79.

MAY 1942 – “Now is the month of maying” – CP p.119.


THE MODELLES – “In this, the vast absorption, burns the angel” – SP p.37.

CP p.73.

MINE WAS THE ONE – idem – CN p.65


THE MODELLES – “In this, the vast absorption, burns the angel” – SP p.37. CP p.73.


MY UNCLE PAUL OF PIMLICO – idem – RW p.18. CN p.86.

NANNIE SLAGG’S LULLABY – “Pretty heart be quiet, then” – CN p.184.


NEITHER TO CAPTAIN – idem – 12P. CP p.146.
“Never look eager, friends” – UNDERTAKERS’ SONG (2) – from The Wit
to Woo. CN p.182.


NO CREED SHALL BIND ME – idem – 10P p.[13]. CP p.61.

NO DIFFERENCE – “There is no difference between night and day” – 
SP p.44. Titled THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NIGHT AND DAY in 
CP p.155.


NOW ARE GATHERING IN THE SKIES – idem – CP p.50.

“Now is the month of maying” – MAY 1942 – CP p.119.

“Now, with the rain about her” – FOR MAEVE – 12P. CP p.224. 
Reprinted in Watney p.213.

O DARLING WHEN A STORY’S DONE – idem – from The Wit to Woo. CN 
p.179.

ODE TO A BOWLER – “Oh, Hat that cows the spirit!” – Satire, 

O’ER SEAS THAT HAVE NO BEACHES – idem – Attributed to Mr Pye in Mr 
Pye p.251. Another version (with different lines 5 & 6 and variant 
punctuation) is printed in BN p.33.

OF PYGMIES, PALMS AND PIRATES – idem – Observer Magazine, 12 
November 1972, p.41. Reprinted 11 days later in BN p.29. CN 
p.186.

OFTEN, IN THE EVENINGS – idem – 10P p.[16]. CP p.64.

O HEART-BEATS – idem – 10P p.[14]. CP p.52

O HERE IT IS! AND THERE IT IS! – idem – Observer Magazine, 12 
CN p.158.

“Oh, Hat that cows the spirit!” – ODE TO A BOWLER – Satire, 

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NOW ARE GATHERING IN THE SKIES – idem – CP p.50.

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CN p.158.

“Oh, Hat that cows the spirit!” – ODE TO A BOWLER – Satire, 


“The paper is breathless/under the hand” – POEM – Gb p.18; also in Drawings 1949, which was prepared but not published before Gb. Reprinted in P&D as the Foreword; W&D p.80; and PP p.252. CP p.206.


POEM – “As though it were not his” – 12P. CP p.220.


POEM – “It is at times of half-light” – First published in Strand, November 1946, as IF THE EARTH WERE LAMPLIT. Called POEM in Gb p.35; reprinted in SP p.42 as AT TIMES OF HALF-LIGHT. CP p.140.

POEM – “I watched where the tall trees shook” – Spectator, vol.180, 21 May 1948, p.613. The last 10 lines were reprinted in RoB p.32 and SP p.26 as AND I THOUGHT YOU BESIDE ME


POEM – “The paper is breathless/under the hand” – Gb p.18; also in Drawings 1949, which was prepared but not published before Gb. Reprinted in P&D as the Foreword; W&D p.80; and PP p.252. CP p.206.

POEM – “Taller than life; deployed along the shadows” – 12P. CP p.124.


POEM – “Thunder the Christ of it” – RoB p.1. Reprinted in SP p.38; PP p.574. First published in The Yorkshire Post (as THUNDER THE CHRIST OF IT) according to the first edition of PP, but it is not listed in the archives of that paper. CP p.222.


POEM – “With power supernal dowered” – Gb p.33. CP p.211.


“Pretty heart be quiet, then” – NANNIE SLAGG’S LULLABY – CN p.184.


POEM – “Taller than life; deployed along the shadows” – 12P. CP p.124.


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POEM – “With power supernal dowered” – Gb p.33. CP p.211.


“Pretty heart be quiet, then” – NANNIE SLAGG’S LULLABY – CN p.184.


ROLL THEM DOWN – idem – CN p.108.


THE SAP OF SORROW MOUNTS THIS ROOTLESS TREE – idem – 11P. CP p.60.

SARK; EVENING – “From the sunset I turn away” – CP p.168.


SENSITIVE HEAD – idem – CP p.53.

SENSITIVE, SELDOM AND SAD – idem – RwR p.38. CN p.106. (Not the same as TG pp.149–50.)
SEPTEMBER 1939 – "This is the year of Our Lord" – CP p.47.


SHE DOES NOT KNOW – idem – CP p.69.


SHE WHOSE BODY WAS IN PAIN – idem – RoB p.10. CP p.49.


“Sickened by virtue he rebelled and cried” – SATAN – SP p.7. CP p.159.

“Simple, seldom and sad” – untitled – TG p.149–50. Similar to, but not the same as SENSITIVE, SELDOM AND SAD. CN p.47.


“Snobbery S’Norbury” – NORBURY – CN p.23.

SNOW IN SARK – “The island has become waist-deep in snow” – W& D p.86. CP p.205.

“So is it always when the hairfaced hedgerow – THE SONG OF THE CASTLE POET – from Gormenghast. CN p.156.

THE SULLEN ACCENTS TOLD OF DOOM – idem – CP p.89.


THAN PAPER AND A PEN – idem – CP p.231.

THANK GOD FOR A TADPOLE – idem – CN p.42.


THERE IS AN ARISTOCRACY OF LOVE – idem – CP p.156.

“There is a surge of stillness bred” – AUTUMN – RoB p.29. CP p.58.


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“There is no difference between night . . .” – NO DIFFERENCE – SP p.44. Titled THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NIGHT AND DAY in CP p.155.


“There is no way into the silver cloud” – THE WINGS – CP p.169.


THESE EYES HAVE NOOSED A HUNDRED HILLS – idem – CP p.33.


THEY LOOM ENORMOUS – idem – CP p.117.


THIS FIELD IS DIM WITH SHEAVES – idem – CP p.149.

THIS GERMAN PINewood – idem – CP p.135.

“This is a tale a bo’sun told to me” – THE TOUCH O’ THE ASH – PP pp.47–61. MP’s first long narrative poem, written 1929.
“This is my world!” — WRITTEN ABOUT A PIECE OF PAPER WHEN ABOUT TO DRAW – CP p.169.


“This is the year of Our Lord” — SEPTEMBER 1939 – CP p.47.

THORNTON HEATH — “I always cast a Mental Wreath” — CN p.23.

THE THREADS OF THOUGHT ARE NOT FOR ME — idem – CN p.68.

THE THREADS REMAIN – idem – BN p.78. CN p.123.


“Thunder the Christ of it” — POEM – RoB p.1. Reprinted in SP p.38; PP p.574. First published in The Yorkshire Post (as THUNDER THE CHRIST OF IT) according to the first edition of PP, but it is not listed in the archives of that paper. CP p.222.

TIDES — “Always you are remote and islanded” — RoB p.31. Reprinted in PP p.566. CP p.129.


TO ALL THINGS SOLID AS TO ALL THINGS FLAT – idem – CP p.75.

TO A SCARECROW GUNNER — “The fates have willed it that you’re living now” — CP p.85.


“To our primordial calling” — UNDERTAKERS’ SONG (1) — from The Wit to Woo. CP p.181.


THE TORCH — “Over me the midnight elm” — CP p.66.

THE TOUCH O’ THE ASH — “This is a tale a’bo’sun told to me” — PP pp.47–61. MP’s first long narrative poem, written 1929.


“TO YOUR LOVELINESS I TRAVEL” — LEAVE TRAIN — CP p.82.


THE TORCH — “Over me the midnight elm” — CP p.66.


“TO YOUR LOVELINESS I TRAVEL” — LEAVE TRAIN — CP p.82.

THE THREADS REMAIN — idem — BN p.78. CN p.123.


“Thunder the Christ of it” — POEM — RoB p.1. Reprinted in SP p.38; PP p.574. First published in The Yorkshire Post (as THUNDER THE CHRIST OF IT) according to the first edition of PP, but it is not listed in the archives of that paper. CP p.222.

TIDES — “Always you are remote and islanded” — RoB p.31. Reprinted in PP p.566. CP p.129.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR MORE THAN SMALL DECISIONS — idem — RoB p.4. Reprinted in SP p.30. Printed in CP p.90 as BEFORE MAN’S BRAVERY I BOW MY HEAD.


TO ALL THINGS SOLID AS TO ALL THINGS FLAT — idem — CP p.75.

TO A SCARECROW GUNNER — “The fates have willed it that you’re living now” — CP p.85.
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“What were I a farmer I would call you vermin” – DEAD RAT – RoB p.25. Reprinted in PP p.167. CP p.128.

“What’dn earth would I do if I lived in Waddon?” – WADDON – CN p.23.

WHAT A DAY IT’S BEEN! – “Dear children, what a day it’s been” – RwR p.22. CN p.90.


WHAT CAN I EVER OFFER YOU – idem – CP p.118.


“What if the stones” – LOVE’S HOUSE – CP p.172.


“What is it then that has so swathed your face” – ON FISHING UP A MARBLE HEAD – 3 Arts Quarterly, no.2, summer 1960, p.6. Reprinted in P&D. CP p.217.


WHAT IS THAT NOISE IN THE SHAKING TREES – idem – CP p.145.


WHAT THOUGH MY JAW – “What though my jaw be long and blue” – CN p.201

“The wheels turn over” – TROOP TRAIN – CP p.80.


WHEN GOD HAD PARED HIS FINGERNAILS – idem – RoB p.20 (with the title misprinted: “has” for “had”). Reprinted SP p.24 (where the auxiliary is omitted from the title). CP p.75.


WHEN THE HEART CRIES IN LOVE – idem – CP p.144.


“You may think that he’s rather slow” – THE GIRAFFE – RWR p.16.
YOU BEFORE ME – idem – CN p.26
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