

## **Fernando Pessoa.**

### ***No Matter What We Dream: Selected English Poems.***

**ed. Patricio Ferrari and Jerónimo Pizarro**

*No Matter What We Dream* is a surprising little book of Fernando Pessoa's poetry in English precisely because it is not one more book of translations into English. Rather, it is a carefully compiled anthology of poetry written by Pessoa himself. Anyone seriously interested in Pessoa cannot afford to ignore it, for it is the first book to give readers the opportunity to become acquainted with the full range of his poetic practice in English. Until now, the English poems have been largely overlooked. Discounted as second-rate or simply neglected altogether, they have remained in the shadow of his seemingly endless output in Portuguese. The irony is that these poems have waited so long to be discovered, for they offer us an invaluable window from which to glimpse Pessoa at work during his early years of apprenticeship. We see him in these pages experimenting with voices, meters, moods. Particularly in the poems of Alexander Search, we discern a young Pessoa at the frontiers of his mind, on the verge of mapping out the unknown territory that would soon become the heteronyms, particularly the voices of Caeiro and Campos. One cannot put the book down without having gained a keener awareness of the significance and even prophetic value of these early English poems.

Editors Patricio Ferrari and Jerónimo Pizarro form the ideal team to take on the challenges of this book. Renowned within the world of Pessoaan scholarship for their thorough and accomplished work—both holding doctorates in linguistics—they are particularly suited to delve into areas that involve a bilingual interest in Pessoa's poetry. Pizarro and Ferrari (who is currently at work on Pessoa's unpublished English poetry) are the dreamers that matter, for they, along with Antonio Cardiello, engineered the monumental project of digitizing Pessoa's private library, begun in 2008 and completely online since 2010. Subsequently and in connection with that project, the same trio co-authored the voluminous catalog of *Fernando Pessoa's Private Library* (*A Biblioteca particular de Fer-*

nando Pessoa, Lisbon: D. Quixote 2010), which categorizes and at least minimally describes all 1,311 items—more than half of which are in English!—acquired by the poet between 1898 and the year of his death, 1935. In addition to this, Ferrari and Pizarro have also co-edited two other works: *I Am an Anthology: 136 Fictitious Authors* (*Eu sou uma antologia: 136 autores fictícios*, Lisbon: Tinta-da-China, 2013) and a book of Portuguese proverbs that Pessoa compiled, translated, and sent to a publisher in England in 1914, but never saw published due to the outbreak of war in late 1914 (*Provérbios Portugueses: Seleccionados e traduzidos por Pessoa*, Lisbon: Ática, 2010).

All of this should provide more than ample reason to trust that this unique anthology of selections—culled from each of Pessoa's various English-speaking preheteronymic authors (Karl P. Effield, Charles Robert Anon, Alexander Search, and Frederick Wyatt) as well as from his English poems written under his own name (the astonishing Shakespearean sonnet series; the other-worldly collection of poems titled *The Mad Fiddler*; the long "cathartic" poems, *Antinous* and *Epithalamium*, that Pessoa reputedly wrote to relieve himself of certain sexual tendencies; plus eight English poems published for the first time)—will be another dream come true that matters.