

AVEBURY



ALSO BY RICHARD BERENGARTEN

SELECTED WRITINGS *

- Vol. 1 *For the Living : Selected Longer Poems, 1965–2000*
- Vol. 2 *The Manager*
- Vol. 3 *The Blue Butterfly* (*The Balkan Trilogy, Part 1*)
- Vol. 4 *In a Time of Drought* (*The Balkan Trilogy, Part 2*)
- Vol. 5 *Under Balkan Light* (*The Balkan Trilogy, Part 3*)
- Vol. 6 *Manual, the first hundred*
- Vol. 7 *Notness, metaphysical sonnets*
- Vol. 8 *Changing*
- Vol. 9 *Richard Berengarten: A Portrait in Inter-Views*

OTHER POETRY

Double Flute
Learning to Talk
Half of Nowhere
Against Perfection
Book With No Back Cover

PROSE

Keys to Transformation: Ceri Richards and Dylan Thomas
Imagems 1 *

AS EDITOR

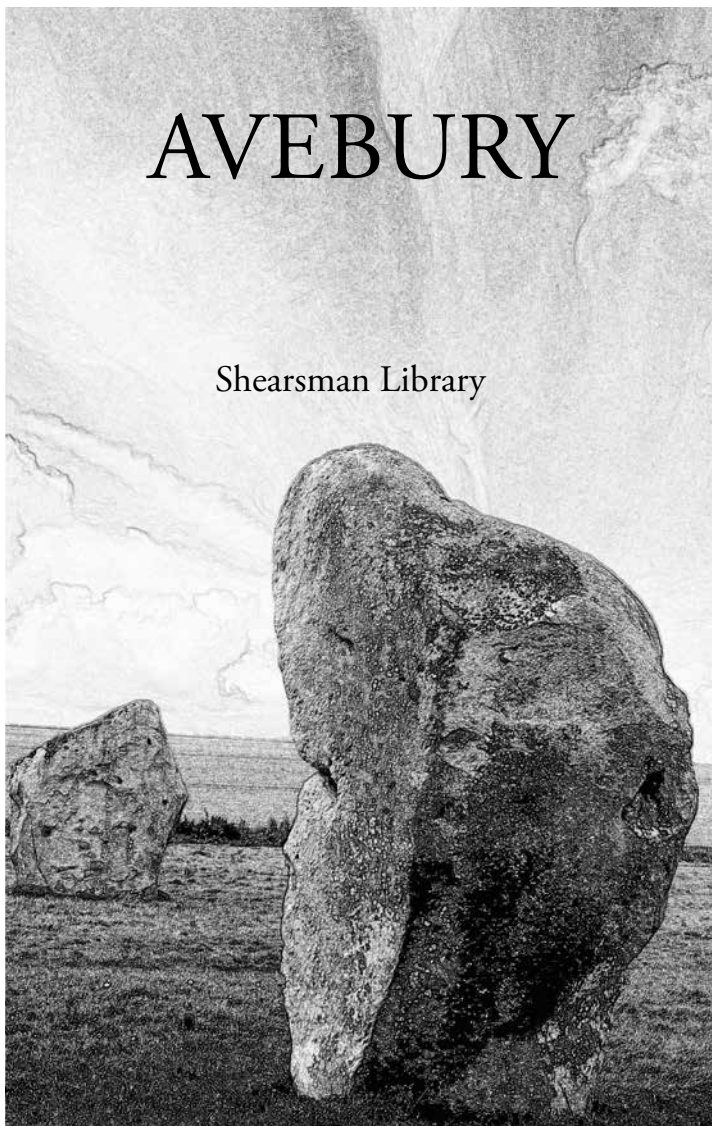
An Octave for Octavio Paz
Ceri Richards : Drawings to Poems by Dylan Thomas
Rivers of Life
In Visible Ink : Selected Poems, Roberto Sanesi 1955-1979
Homage to Mandelstam
Out of Yugoslavia
For Angus
The Perfect Order: Selected Poems, Nasos Vayenas, 1974-2010

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Richard Berengarten

AVEBURY

Shearsman Library



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Cover & title page: 'Avebury Standing Stone'
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Flyleaf: map of Avebury, ca. 1773.

for Octavio Paz

SAMPLER

*To rise up and become wakeful guardians of the living
and of the dead.*

HERAKLEITOS OF EPHEBUS

*And the Lord shall be King over all the earth; in that day
shall the Lord be One and his Name One.*

SABBATH MORNING SERVICE

*For the first time in our history we are contemporaries
of all mankind.*

OCTAVIO PAZ

[1]

huge slabs
wrenched
from under grass, dug
out of hills

time's
teeth

worn

yawning the sky in

porte of light

earthed

conquered

broken
altars

answerless

covered the cave's
cracked jaw

[2]

back and forth
round and round
under the cloudy dome speechless

sniffing among these petrified hopes
these ossified dreams these
dead memorials pacing
back and forth

ancestorless

under the compact slogans of the sky

walking
as dead

cursing
their answers
their meaning

looking for what

the riddle ?
the question ?

[3]

and can the stone know
me I wonder
 does the stone
 wonder

even here among absences
and wreckage

if any place

SAMPLER

[4]

if any place
most of all

here, most
of any

in the dance
in the ring
of stones dancing
metaphor on metaphor
silence
anagrammatized
measured spaced out
in this syntax of land
this plot of time
where the green causeway ends
where the avenue ends
where thought ends

begins
the burial
the dance
of stone
begins

[5]

the sky's throat
says

Ascend Sun

from this syntax of hills
this plot of space

mean

light

ripples
expanding
across the downs
waves returning
from where ? the centre
to where ? circumference

*now any
place is now*

say the stones

I do not tell I say

[6]

little mother
of Willendorf
 'vegetable' Venus
of the hunters
 neckless head
featureless
 under the beehive hair
thin arms asleep on breasts
 like hills belly
enormous the buttocks
steatopygous the whole blind body
 bowed over the womb
as if above
an unseen child

SAMPLER