



The People and the Stones

Heinz Winfried Sabais, Matthew Mead, Ruth Mead



Heinz Winfried Sabais poetry first appeared in English translation by Ruth and Matthew Mead in 1968. Reviewing *Generation* and other poems in *Tribune*, Richard Burns wrote: Whether he is concerned with public statement or private emotion, Sabais reveals himself as a commanding spokesman for individual conscience and personal commitment. *The People and the Stones* includes most of the poems collected in the earlier book, together with two long political poems written in the 1970s - *Agenda* and *Socialist Elegy* - and a selection from the posthumously published *Self or Saxifrage*, a sequence of autobiographical and historical poems written shortly before his death in 1981. Sabais distinctive gift lay in presenting the conflicts of the post-war German experience without self-pity, his style is fully conveyed in these translations by a poet of his own generation who has on occasion been surprised to find myself writing down things which, even allowing for the ventriloquists-dummy aspect of translation, I might have written myself.

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