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**Verses from an Incomer: Poems from Shropshire and Elsewhere**

**Roy Coad**

**Carlisle: Jeremy Mudditt, 2000**

**58pp. (pb)**

**Obtainable from Roy Coad, 11 Hazler Orchard, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 7AL, UK.**

Roy Coad, well known as an historian of the Brethren movement, has produced a collection of poetry on the occasion of his fiftieth wedding anniversary. Unlike many Christian poets, Coad demonstrates a familiarity with and sensitivity to the centuries of poetic convention. In his sense of narrative and historical allusion, coupled with modern forms, there may be parallels to the work of Edwin Muir. Other poems display a more immediate power of acute observation. This is a very valuable collection:

As in those earlier years, in simpler mode,  
we passed the bread and wine from hand to hand  
and knew You present, and were one in You:  
so here in You I grasp eternity,  
taut in the tension of this moment's span.

Crawford Gribben