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Miquel Angel Riera. *Tots els poemes (1957-1981)*. Barcelona. Edicions 62. 1985. 220 pages.

Known primarily as a novelist and businessman, the Majorcan writer Miquel Angel Riera has collected all his previous poetry in *Tots els poemes*, including several interesting occasional pieces and the prologues to his earlier books. In his prologue to this edition, Xavier Bru de Sala explains the evolution of Riera's poetic work and the influence on it of certain Castilian poets. Often addressing himself to Nai, Riera explores himself, especially in the early works, and his relationship to others and the world. Many of the early poems are a search for his poetic voice as well as for his place in the world, and at times his linguistic preoccupations lead to excessive virtuosity.

He is at his best in the later poems, particularly those of his last book, *Llibre de benaventurances* (1980), in which the imagery is straightforward and often striking. His many love poems are tactile and concrete, from "Testim perquè existeixes" (I Love You Because You Exist) to "El poema perfecte es tocar pell humana" (The Perfect Poem Is to Touch Human Skin). Riera is also capable of the playfulness of the paradox: "Honor etern als mentiders! . . . Estimen tant dir ver que, sols, practiquen fer-ho / i en ser davant més gent just per pudor no gosèn" (Eternal honor to liars! . . . They so love to tell the truth that they practice it alone, / and then when they are with others they are so shy they don't dare).

All Riera's books contain either thirteen or twenty-six poems. The occasional ones, published separately, are dedicated to Joan Miró, Pablo Neruda, Rafael Alberti, and Pau (Pablo) Casals (see e.g. *WLT* 54:1, p. 92, and 58:3, p. 403).

K. McNerney