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The Dark Horse was founded in 1995 by the Scottish poet Gerry Cambridge. It is an international literary magazine committed to British, Irish and American poetry, and is published in Scotland.

We like to think that the journal is characterised by a clear-sighted scepticism and an eye for the genuine. We believe that hype, in its presumption of consensus, is demeaning to readers of any individuality. Not that we equate poetry with solemnity. We are, by turns, or sometimes simultaneously, serious, wry, humorous, iconoclastic.

While we are glad to print poetry in metre and rhyme, we remember Randall Jarrell's "Where poems have hearts, a metronome is beating here." We believe that we can recognise poems of sound heart. Not being evangelical or overly partisan, we also print compelling free verse.

We publish, too, a mix of stylish and engaged essays, reviews, interviews, polemics and appreciations. At times these are groundbreaking: when the late Philip Hobsbaum died in 2005, the main available source of recent information on him, quoted extensively without acknowledgement by broadsheet obituaries, was his interview with *The Dark Horse* in 2002. Similarly, our interview with the poet-scientist G. F. Dutton is the most extensive of its kind available.

We have printed work by many established poets, but are possibly prouder of our discoveries, whether of individual poems or of poets previously unknown to us, and we love to highlight excellent yet neglected or overlooked figures. The contemporary poetry scene has a short memory which has less to do with quality than with fashion. We try to honour literary quality over literary fashion.

The Dark Horse is in the tradition of the finest 'little' magazines: engaged, at times contrarian, and with a commitment to excellence as we perceive it.