

CHARLES T. BRUCE

## DEEP IN THE DUSK

Charles Tory Bruce (1906-1971) was born in Port Shoreham, Nova Scotia, and attended Mount Allison University. After graduating in 1927 he joined the staff of *The Chronicle Herald*, transferring soon after to the Canadian Press news bureau, where he worked for the rest of his career. His poetry was largely forgotten after his death, but in the autumn 1979 issue Richard C. Davis argued that “his verse warrants a reconsideration” and that “once we see the quality of his work, we can only wish that he had written more.” Davis also described how Bruce’s poems “provide a specific concrete image that embodies time, either freezing its fluidity into an exact moment, or seeing it as a continuous image that merges past, present, and future.” This merging of time is particularly evident in the following poem, which was published in the July 1925 issue and included in the collection *Wild Apples* (1927).

Deep in the dusk that dims the mystic years  
The wistful shadows of old dream-days pass;  
Their pensive eyes alight, yet dark with tears,  
Like silver gleams of glory in the grass.  
Old melodies grow still in broken bars;  
Grey shadows linger by forgotten streams;  
They stretch veiled hands, and fade beyond the stars—  
To leave me nothing but the drift of dreams.

These are the threads of mystery in my heart  
That bind me to the dusk of yesterday.  
This breathless hour a moment lives apart,  
And then is cast upon the common clay.  
I cannot tell what truth the old days knew;  
I only know the dream is always true.