

IAN JACKSON

## SEA ECHOES FOR VOICE AND PIANO

The cover is printed on ingres paper the colour green of grey moss. It is clean and open like a modernist facade. The composer set alone, centred and central. Above and to the left is a rectangle, containing the title, of apple green waves, framed by a border of 'Werkestatte' shells and seaweed. Curiously the capital H in *Echoes* is drawn with its ascenders leaning towards a distant vanishing point.

The music was composed by Montague F Phillips, with the words written by Nancie B Marsland.

We find pages three to six are missing. Not aggressively torn, as for example in an angry response to a domestic dispute, but precisely separated, following with care the crease in the valley of the fold.

The absent sheets comprise the totality of the first song, *Nightfall at Sea* and the lyrics to the second *If I Sail Away*. We are left with the music to the second song and the third and final song *Waves*, in which the poet moves from irrepressible high spirits, through an ever frantic almost desperate dance, to a final murmuring troubled sleep. The composer took a contrary position.

Halliwell Hobbes appeared on the Broadway stage with his wife Marsland and later played in the film 'The Invisible Man's Revenge'. Ironically, it is Marsland for whom a photographic likeness has not been traced. Clara Butterworth was a celebrated singer, and performed her husband's *Sea Echoes* at the Queens Hall, London, in the early autumn of 1915. The work heard by the audience just prior to this was Bach's cantata 'Also hat Gott die Welt geliebt'.

## MAP OF TAZA DISTRICT, MOROCCO

Dated '*Rabat octobre 1921*', it is a printed surface dense with a frenzied activity of line and word that represents a seemingly empty mountainous desert, cultivated only with a speckle of exposed fortified settlements.

The black shallow arcs of names and icons float like clouds above the system of blue arterial waters that appear to hover, like the passing shadows of fish skeletons, above the ochre contoured surface.

These forms of folding high ranges, are shaped on the paper by concentric curves into an army of linked alien organisms, occasionally sprouting petri-dish specimens, blinking, spiky, and cellular.

The title is engraved with ruled lines from east to west, each letter decorated with the small scalloped edgings of teardrops.