

# THE BOOK OF THE FLOATING WORLD

EXPANDED EDITION

JON THOMPSON

The poems in *The Book of the Floating World* are poems of increasing complexity. That is to say, for me, reading the book twice, three times, ten times, has layered its subject(s) further and further behind the sighting of the opaque lens, while simultaneously bringing more layers to the surface.

— Brandon Shamoda Word For/Word: A Journal of New Writing #8

The lyrics in this book reward slow and thoughtful rereadings. The photography and poetry are haunting.

-Marcus Slease, Octopus Magazine #4

In *The Book of the Floating World*, the poet imagines his way into the past, constructing his dead father's experience of occupation Japan, and at the same time reflecting eloquently on the fallibility of such an endeavor. With his only evidence a group of photographs taken by his father, Thompson moves beyond those particular images to summon up vivid fragments of scenes cradled in the narrator's subtle, intelligent consciousness. The poems are elegant, elegiac meditations on the nature of personal history and mortality. In the book as a whole, the continuous and arresting conjunctions of past and present give *The Book of the Floating World* a quality of timelessness.

-Angela Davis-Gardner, author of Felice and Forms of Shelter

Part moral memoir, part imagined life of the father, part imagined history, part solid history, this unusual combination of verbal and visual—of the then seen from the perspective of now—makes a rare and interesting book.

-Betty Adcock, author of The Difficult Wheel and Intervale

# The Book of the Floating World

Also by Jon Thompson

Fiction, Crime and Empire

## The Book of the Floating World

Jon Thompson

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## The photographs in *The Book of the Floating World* were taken by sculptor William J. Thompson.

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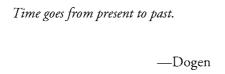
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For my father, William J. Thompson



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