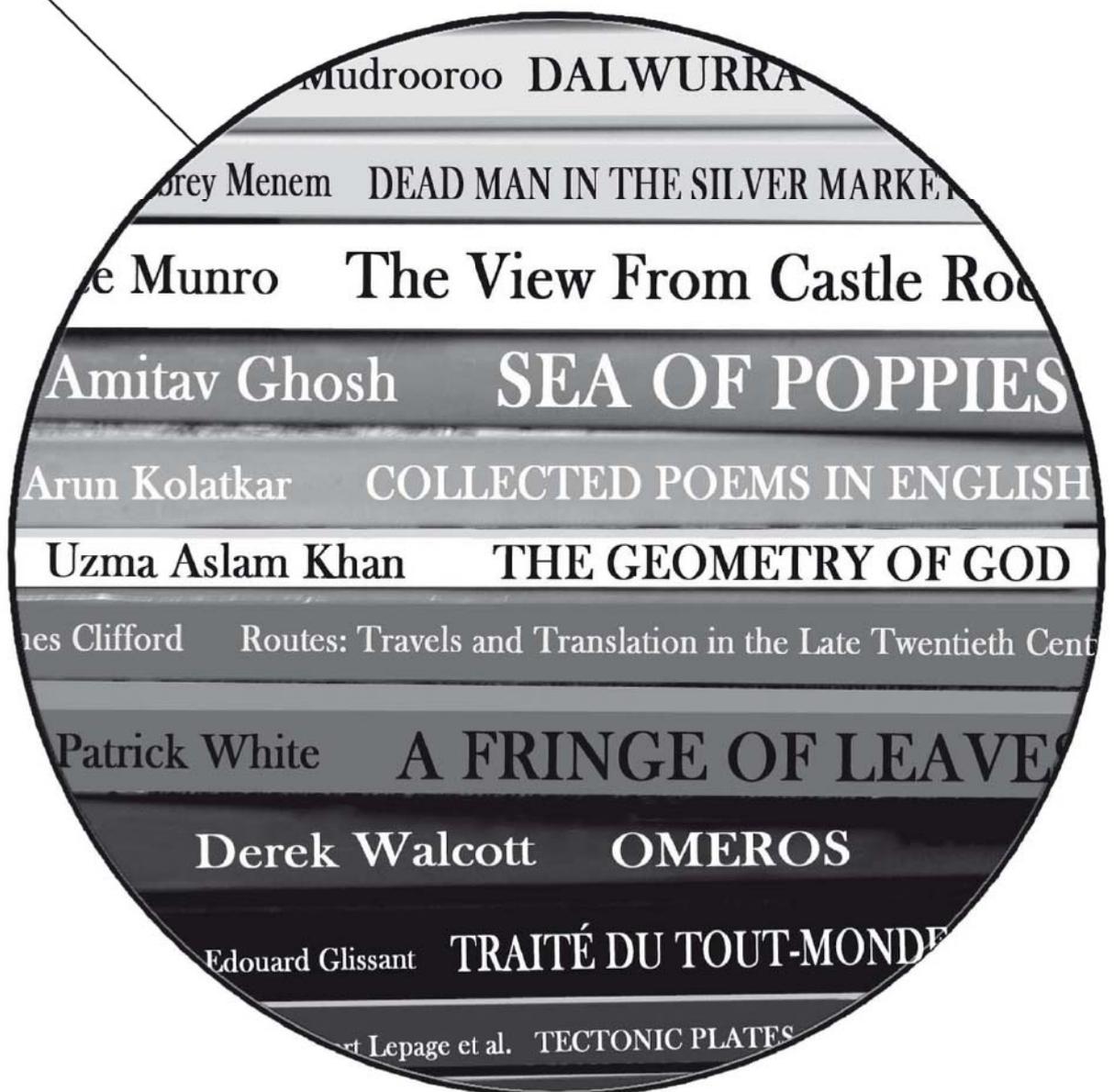


Tectonic Shifts

The Global and the Local



COMMONWEALTH ESSAYS AND STUDIES



COMMONWEALTH ESSAYS AND STUDIES

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Tectonic Shifts: The Global and the Local

The analogy of tectonic shifts used in this issue of *Commonwealth Essays and Studies* evokes the cultural and literary upheavals that characterise globalisation. The metamorphic transformations caused by historical events of far-reaching consequences have made world-wide interrelationships easier and more abundant. The eight essays here show that the “global” is overwhelmingly synonymous with new local configurations, not uniformisation or binary confrontation. They also reveal that literary works, by blurring boundaries and loosening tight definitions, lead to a decentering of the European perspective – and any other form of monolithic perspective on history, language and culture.

Christine Lorre, guest editor

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