Australian-born poet Peter Porter moved to England in 1951. He is the author of more than 15 collections of poetry, and the editor and translator of several more, including *Once Bitten, Twice Bitten* (1961), *The Automatic Oracle* (1987), *The Chair of Babel* (1992), *Dragons in Their Pleasant Palaces* (1997), *Both Ends Against the Middle* (1999), *Saving from the Wreck* (2001), and *Better Than God* (2009). Porter’s work displays a deep knowledge of literary and social history yet is attuned to contemporary civilization and current jargon. Alan Brownjohn, reviewing *Better Than God* for the *Times Online*, wrote:

Looking back on my first public expression of interest in Peter Porter and his work – an interview published in *Westerly* in 1982, based on discussions with him in London the previous year – I notice in some of my questions the gestures of a proto-biographer. Yet I had come to Porter entirely through his work – from teaching poems in Alexander Craig’s anthology *12 Poets* and reading in London *The Cost of Seriousness* (1978) and the then newly minted volume *English Subtitles* (1981). It would be another nine years, with visits by me to London and Peter to Perth before *Spirit in Exile: Peter Porter and his Poetry* was published by Oxford University Press in 1991.