

A Coventry Immigrant

By Anna Poynter

Leaving your home for the first time
is difficult at any age,
but when you know it will be a lifetime
the heart feels an outrage.

Why, when it is peacetime,
does your country feel like a cage?
For many years after the wartime
a neighbouring country caused that stage.

Whoever can earn strong currency by emigrating
leaves, tries freedom, rarely goes back.
Learns to live the foreigners' life: hard working,
unseen, avoiding flak.

It takes time to adjust to a new way of life;
however empty and lonely, nobody must have a clue.
Family and friends, back home together, want no strife,
especially from you.

You try to keep busy to assuage
the ache in your heart, then you hear a chime
in your mind of the sounds from the teenage
years you had taken for granted until this time.

Eventually you find your place in that foreign land,
learn to live the life of an alien, lose your innocence,
find friends to give you a helping hand;
You develop a new outlook and confidence.

You do what you had never planned;
you drop any grievance and become happy in your new homeland.