

YORKSHIRE POST

The country's biggest selling regional morning newspaper

TUESDAY MAY 23 1989

Country matters

IN 1980, writer Nancy-Gay Rotstein slipped into China to become one of the first foreigners to set foot there following the cultural revolution.

After six months of trying to gain access, the regime rewarded her efforts with a literary visa, allowing her complete freedom to travel

What she found was a regimented country beginning to march out of step, actively encouraging private enterprise and foreign business, but not matching those steps with movement on political and personal freedoms

She told PEOPLE: "In 1980 they were flirting with consumerism, and I could see it would create internal and international shockwaves."

Hence the title of her volume of poems, *China:*

Shockwaves, and its prophetic introduction, written in 1981, which warned that the climate was capable of generating "grotesque dissatisfactions".

Her poems contain a dense succession of images, feelings, and experiences, wedding richness with economy of expression, and conveying a vitality and immediacy which belies the six years she spent writing them.

Those which deal with children are particularly poignant — the youngsters she described in schools are almost certainly among the student unrest today — and, as she told PEOPLE, the yearning for change was already evident in 1981.

China: Shockwaves is published by Weidenfield and Nicolson, priced £9.95