Contents

1	The Background of Symbolism: From Romanticism to Art for Art's Sake	1
2	Gérard de Nerval: The Disinherited	15
3	Charles Baudelaire: Time and the City	27
4	Stéphane Mallarmé: The Poet and the Clown	51
5	Arthur Rimbaud: Mémoire	69
6	Jules Laforgue: Pierrot and Hamlet	85
7	Tristan Corbière: Resurrected Tristan	93
8	Paul Verlaine: Symbolism and Decadence	101
9	The Legacy of Symbolism Paul Valéry: The Dream of Narcissus Paul Claudel: The Spiritual Quest Saint-John Perse: The Poet's Sense of History René Char: The Poet's Vocation	109 120 134 139 145
Appendixes I. Letter of Allen Tate Concerning Hart Crane and the French Poets II. Letter of René Char on the Meaning of Various Words in His Poems		153 155
Selected Bibliography		159
Index		161