

## CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	v
<i>Introduction</i>	xxxvii
<b>Proem</b>	
FRANCESCO PETRARCA (1304–1374): <i>Canzoniere</i> , 132	lxxvi
GEOFFREY CHAUCER (1343?–1400): FROM <i>Troilus and Criseyde</i> , Canticus Troili	lxxvii
❖ ❖ ❖	
<b>SIR THOMAS WYATT (1503?–1542)</b>	
“The longe love, that in my thought doeth harbar”	3
“Who so list to hounte I know where is an hynde”	3
“Farewell, Love, and all thy lawes for ever”	4
“My galy chargèd with forgetfulnes”	4
“I find no peace, and all my war is done”	5
<b>HENRY HOWARD, EARL OF SURREY (1517?–1547)</b>	
“The soote season, that bud and blome furth bringes”	5
“Alas, so all thinges nowe doe holde their peace”	6
“I never saw you, madam, lay apart”	6
“Love that liveth and reigneth in my thought”	7
<b>ANNE LOCKE (1533?–1595)</b>	
<i>FROM A Meditation of a Penitent Sinner: Written in maner of a Paraphrase upon the 51 Psalme of David</i>	
“Loe prostrate, Lorde, before thy face I lye”	8
“But render me my wonted joyes againe”	8
<b>GEORGE GASCOIGNE (1539–1578)</b>	
“That self-same tongue which first did thee entreat”	9
A Sonet written in prayse of the browne beautie	9

CONTENTS

GILES FLETCHER THE ELDER (1549?–1611)	
FROM <i>Licia or Poems of Love</i>	
20. "First did I fear, when first my love began"	10
EDMUND SPENSER (1552?–1599)	
FROM <i>Amoretti</i>	
1. "Happy ye leaves when as those lilly hands"	10
8. "More then most faire, full of the living fire"	11
18. "The rolling wheele that runneth often round"	11
22. "This holy season fit to fast and pray"	12
23. " <i>Penelope</i> for her <i>Ulisses'</i> sake"	12
30. "My love is lyke to yse, and I to fyre"	13
37. "What guyle is this, that those her golden tresses"	13
45. "Leave, lady, in your glasse of christall clene"	14
67. "Lyke as a huntsman after weary chace"	14
68. "Most glorious Lord of lyfe that on this day"	15
71. "I joy to see how in your drawen work"	15
75. "One day I wrote her name upon the strand"	16
78. "Lackyng my love I go from place to place"	16
79. "Men call you fayre, and you doe credit it"	17
81. "Fayre is my love, when her fayre golden heares"	17
FULKE GREVILLE, LORD BROOKE (1554–1628)	
FROM <i>Cælica</i>	
38. "Cælica, I overnight was finely used"	18
39. "The nurse-life wheat, within his green husk growing"	18
100. "In night when colours all to black are cast"	19
SIR PHILIP SIDNEY (1554–1586)	
FROM <i>The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia</i>	
"My true love hath my hart, and I have his"	19
FROM <i>Astrophel and Stella</i>	
1. "Loving in truth, and faine in verse my love to show"	20
3. "Let daintie wits crie on the Sisters nine"	20
5. "It is most true that eyes are form'd to serve"	21
31. "With how sad steps, O Moone, thou climb'st the skies"	21
37. "My mouth doth water, and my breast doth swell"	22

CONTENTS

39.	"Come sleepe, O sleepe, the certaine knot of peace"	22
41.	"Having this day my horse, my hand, my launce"	23
47.	"What, have I thus betrayed my libertie?"	23
49.	"I on my horse, and <i>Love</i> on me doth trie"	24
54.	"Because I breathe not love to everie one"	24
63.	"O Grammer rules, O now your vertues show"	25
71.	"Who will in fairest booke of Nature know"	25
73.	" <i>Love</i> still a boy, and oft a wanton is"	26
90.	" <i>Stella</i> , thinke not that I by verse seeke fame"	26
FROM <i>Certaine Sonnets</i>		
	"Leave me, O <i>Love</i> , which reachest but to dust"	27
SIR WALTER RALEGH (1554?–1618)		
	A vision upon This Concept of the Faery Queene	27
	"A secret murder hath been done of late"	28
	To His Son	28
THOMAS LODGE (1558–1625)		
FROM <i>Phillis: Honoured with Pastorall Sonnets, Elegies and amorous delights</i>		
35.	"I hope and feare, I pray and hould my peace"	29
GEORGE CHAPMAN (1559?–1634)		
FROM A Coronet for his Mistress Philosophy		
I.	"Muses that sing <i>Love's</i> sensual empery"	29
HENRY CONSTABLE (1562–1613)		
FROM <i>Diana</i>		
	"Needs must I leave, and yet needs must I love"	30
MARK ALEXANDER BOYD (1563–1601)		
	Sonet ("Fra banc to banc, fra wod to wod, I rin")	30
SAMUEL DANIEL (1563–1619)		
FROM <i>To Delia</i>		
34.	"Looke, <i>Delia</i> , how wee steeme the half-blowne Rose"	31
49.	"Care-charmer Sleepe, sonne of the sable Night"	31
50.	"Let others sing of Knights and Palladines"	32

CONTENTS

MICHAEL DRAYTON (1563-1631)

FROM *Idea in Sixtie Three Sonnets*

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 5. "Nothing but No and I, and I and No"                    | 32 |
| 6. "How many paltry, foolish, painted things"              | 33 |
| 7. "Love, in a Humor, play'd the Prodigall"                | 33 |
| 15. His Remedie for Love                                   | 34 |
| 38. "Sitting alone, Love bids me goe and write"            | 34 |
| 61. "Since ther's no helpe, Come let us kisse and<br>part" | 35 |

JOHN DAVIES OF HEREFORD (1563?-1618)

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| "Some blaze the precious beauties of their loves"   | 35 |
| "Although we do not all the good we love"   | 36 |
| The author loving these homely meats specially, viz.:<br>cream, pancakes, buttered pippin-pies, &c. | 36 |

CHARLES BEST (D. 1602)

- |             |    |
|-------------|----|
| Of the Moon | 37 |
|-------------|----|

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564-1616)

FROM *Love's Labour's Lost*

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| "Did not the heavenly rhetoric of thine eye" | 37 |
|--|----|

FROM *Romeo and Juliet*

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| "If I profane with my unworhiest hand" | 38 |
|--|----|

FROM *Sonnets*

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. "From fairest creatures we desire increase"             | 38 |
| 3. "Look in thy glass, and tell the face thou viewest"     | 39 |
| 13. "O, that you were yourself, but, love, you are"        | 39 |
| 18. "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?"              | 40 |
| 19. "Devouring Time, blunt thou the lion's paws"           | 40 |
| 20. "A woman's face, with Nature's own hand<br>painted"    | 41 |
| 24. "Mine eye hath played the painter and hath<br>stelled" | 41 |
| 27. "Weary with toil, I haste me to my bed"                | 42 |
| 29. "When, in disgrace with Fortune and men's<br>eyes"     | 42 |
| 53. "What is your substance, whereof are you made"         | 43 |
| 55. "Not marble nor the gilded monuments"                  | 43 |
| 57. "Being your slave, what should I do but tend"          | 44 |
| 60. "Like as the waves make towards the pebbled<br>shore"  | 44 |

CONTENTS

65.	“Since brass, nor stone, nor earth, nor boundless sea”	45
71.	“No longer mourn for me when I am dead”	45
73.	“That time of year thou mayst in me behold”	46
94.	“They that have pow’r to hurt and will do none”	46
105.	“Let not my love be called idolatry”	47
106.	“When in the chronicle of wasted time”	47
116.	“Let me not to the marriage of true minds”	48
127.	“In the old age black was not counted fair”	48
128.	“How oft, when thou, my music, music play’st”	49
129.	“Th’ expense of spirit in a waste of shame”	49
130.	“My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun”	50
134.	“So, now I have confessed that he is thine”	50
138.	“When my love swears that she is made of truth”	51
141.	“In faith, I do not love thee with mine eyes”	51
144.	“Two loves I have, of comfort and despair”	52
146.	“Poor soul, the center of my sinful earth”	52
147.	“My love is as a fever, longing still”	53
151.	“Love is too young to know what conscience is”	53
JAMES I (1566–1625)		
	An Epitaph on Sir Philip Sidney	54
SIR JOHN DAVIES (1569–1626)		
	FROM <i>Gullinge Sonnets</i>	
	5. “Mine Eye, myne eare, my will, my witt, my harte”	54
	“If you would know the love which I you bear”	55
JOHN DONNE (1572–1631)		
	La Corona	
	1. “Deign at my hands this crown of prayer and praise”	55
	2. Annunciation	56
	3. Nativity	56
	4. Temple	57
	5. Crucifying	57
	6. Resurrection	58
	7. Ascension	58

CONTENTS

FROM <i>Holy Sonnets</i>	
1. "Thou hast made me, and shall thy work decay"	59
5. "I am a little world made cunningly"	59
6. "This is my play's last scene, here heavens appoint"	60
7. "At the round earth's imagined corners, blow"	60
10. "Death be not proud, though some have callèd thee"	61
13. "What if this present were the world's last night?"	61
14. "Batter my heart, three-personed God; for, you"	62
18. "Show me dear Christ, thy spouse, so bright and clear"	62
19. "Oh, to vex me, contraries meet in one"	63
Sonnet. The Token	63
BEN JONSON (1572?–1637)	
A Sonnet to the Noble Lady, the Lady Mary Wroth	64
LORD HERBERT OF CHERBURY (1583–1648)	
Sonnet to Black It Self	64
WILLIAM DRUMMOND OF HAWTHORNDEN (1585–1649)	
"I know that all beneath the moon decays"	65
"Sleep, Silence' child, sweet father of soft rest"	65
LADY MARY WROTH (1587?–1652?)	
FROM <i>Pamphilia to Amphilanthus</i>	
A crowne of Sonetts dedicated to Love	66
ROBERT HERRICK (1591–1674)	
To his mistress objecting to him neither toying nor talking	73
To his ever-loving God	73
GEORGE HERBERT (1593–1633)	
Two Sonnets Sent to His Mother, New-Year 1609/10	74
Redemption	75
Prayer	75
Love (I)	76
The Sonne	76
The H. Scriptures (I)	77
The H. Scriptures (II)	77

CONTENTS

JOHN MILTON (1608–1674)	
O Nightingale!	78
How Soon Hath Time	78
To Mr. H. Lawes, On His Airs	79
On the Detraction Which Followed Upon My Writing Certain Treatises	79
On the New Forcers of Conscience Under the Long Parliament	80
To the Lord General Cromwell	80
On the Late Massacre in Piedmont	81
“When I consider how my light is spent”	81
“Methought I saw my late espousèd Saint”	82
 CHARLES COTTON (1630–1687)	
Resolution in Four Sonnets, of a Poetical Question Put to Me by a Friend, Concerning Four Rural Sisters	82
 THOMAS GRAY (1716–1771)	
On the Death of Mr. Richard West	84
 THOMAS WARTON, THE YOUNGER (1728–1790)	
To the River Lodon	85
 ANNA SEWARD (1747–1809)	
To Mr. Henry Cary, on the Publication of His Sonnets	85
 CHARLOTTE SMITH (1749–1806)	
To the Moon	86
To Sleep	86
Written Near a Port on a Dark Evening	87
 WILLIAM BLAKE (1757–1827)	
To the Evening Star	87
 ROBERT BURNS (1759–1796)	
A Sonnet upon Sonnets	88
 THOMAS RUSSELL (1762–1788)	
To the Spider	88
 ELIZABETH COBBOLD (1767–1824)	
FROM Sonnets of Laura	
I. Reproach	89

CONTENTS

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH (1770–1850)	
“Nuns fret not at their convent’s narrow room”	89
Composed upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802	90
“The world is too much with us; late and soon”	90
“It is a beauteous evening, calm and free”	91
FROM <i>Sonnets Dedicated to Liberty</i>	
To Toussaint L’Ouverture	91
London, 1802	92
“It is no Spirit who from heaven hath flown”	92
“Surprised by joy—impatient as the wind”	93
FROM <i>The River Duddon, A Series of Sonnets</i>	
III. “How shall I paint thee?—Be this naked stone”	93
FROM <i>Ecclesiastical Sonnets in Series</i>	
47. “Why sleeps the future, as a snake enrolled”	94
“Scorn not the Sonnet; critic, you have frowned”	94
SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE (1772–1834)	
To the River Otter	95
To Nature	95
To a Friend, Who Asked How I Felt, When the Nurse First Presented My Infant to Me	96
Work Without Hope	96
ROBERT SOUTHEY (1774–1843)	
FROM <i>Poems on the Slave Trade</i>	
VI. “High in the air exposed the slave is hung”	97
To a Goose	97
CHARLES LAMB (1775–1834)	
The Family Name	98
JOSEPH BLANCO WHITE (1775–1841)	
To Night	98
HORACE SMITH (1779–1849)	
Ozymandias	99
EBENEZER ELLIOTT (1781–1849)	
“In these days, every mother’s son or daughter”	99
MARTHA HANSON (FL. 1809)	
“How proudly Man usurps the power to reign”	100



CONTENTS

MARY F. JOHNSON (FL. 1810, D. 1863)	
The Idiot Girl	100
LEIGH HUNT (1784—1859)	
To the Grasshopper and the Cricket	101
GEORGE GORDON, LORD BYRON (1788—1824)	
On Chillon	101
“Rousseau—Voltaire—our Gibbon—and de Staël”	102
PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY (1792—1822)	
To Wordsworth	102
Feelings of a Republican on the Fall of Bonaparte	103
Ozymandias	103
England in 1819	104
Ode to the West Wind	104
JOHN CLARE (1793—1864)	
To Wordsworth	107
Hen’s Nest	107
To John Clare	108
The Happy Bird	108
The Thrush’s Nest	109
JOHN KEATS (1795—1821)	
On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer	109
To My Brothers	110
“Great spirits now on earth are sojourning”	110
On the Grasshopper and Cricket	111
“When I have fears that I may cease to be”	111
To Homer	112
“Bright star, would I were stedfast as thou art”	112
Sonnet to Sleep	113
“If by dull rhymes our English must be chain’d”	113
“I cry your mercy—pity—love!—aye, love”	114
HARTLEY COLERIDGE (1796—1849)	
To a Friend	114
“Let me not deem that I was made in vain”	115
“Think upon Death, ’tis good to think of Death”	115

CONTENTS

THOMAS LOVELL BEDDOES (1803-1849)	
To Night	116
A Crocodile	116
ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING (1806-1861)	
Finite and Infinite	117
FROM <i>Sonnets from the Portuguese</i>	
I. "I thought once how Theocritus had sung"	117
VII. "The face of all the world is changed, I think"	118
XIII. "And wilt thou have me fashion into speech"	118
XVIII. "I never gave a lock of hair away"	119
XLII. "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways"	119
HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW (1807-1882)	
Chaucer	120
The Cross of Snow	120
CHARLES TENNYSON TURNER (1808-1879)	
Letty's Globe	121
On the Eclipse of the Moon of October 1865	121
EDGAR ALLAN POE (1809-1849)	
To Science	122
ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON (1809-1892)	
"If I were loved, as I desire to be"	122
"Mine be the strength of spirit fierce and free"	123
ROBERT BROWNING (1812-1889)	
Why I Am a Liberal	123
JONES VERY (1813-1880)	
Yourself	124
AUBREY THOMAS DE VERE (1814-1902)	
The Sun God	124
GEORGE ELIOT (1819-1880)	
FROM <i>Brother and Sister</i>	
I. "I cannot choose but think upon the time"	125
XI. "School parted us; we never found again"	125

CONTENTS

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL (1819—1891)	
The Street	126
FREDERICK GODDARD TUCKERMAN (1821—1873)	
FROM Sonnets, First Series	
10. "An upper chamber in a darkened house"	126
28. "Not the round natural world, not the deep mind"	127
FROM Sonnets, Second Series	
7. "His heart was in his garden; but his brain"	127
29. "How oft in schoolboy-days, from the school's sway"	128
MATTHEW ARNOLD (1822—1888)	
Shakespeare	128
West London	129
SYDNEY DOBELL (1824—1874)	
The Army Surgeon	129
GEORGE MEREDITH (1828—1909)	
FROM <i>Modern Love</i>	
1. "By this he knew she wept with waking eyes"	130
XVII. "At dinner, she is hostess, I am host"	130
XXX. "What are we first? First, animals; and next"	131
XXXIV. "Madam would speak with me. So, now it comes"	131
XLVII. "We saw the swallows gathering in the sky"	132
XLIX. "He found her by the ocean's moaning verge"	132
L. "Thus piteously Love closed what he begat"	133
Lucifer in Starlight	133
DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI (1828—1882)	
FROM <i>The House of Life</i>	
Introductory Sonnet	134
xv. The Birth-Bond	134
xix. Silent Noon	135
LIII. Without Her	135
LXXXIII. Barren Spring	136
XCVII. A Superscription	136

CONTENTS

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI (1830–1894)	
Rest	137
In an Artist's Studio	137
FROM The Thread of Life	
"Thus am I mine own prison. Everything"	138
ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE (1837–1909)	
Cor Cordium	138
On the Russian Persecution of the Jews	139
THOMAS HARDY (1840–1928)	
Hap	139
She, to Him (i)	140
She, to Him (ii)	140
In the Old Theatre, Fiesole (April 1887)	141
At a Lunar Eclipse	141
A Church Romance	142
Over the Coffin	142
We Are Getting to the End	143
ROBERT BRIDGES (1844–1930)	
"While yet we wait for spring, and from the dry"	143
GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS (1844–1889)	
God's Grandeur	144
"As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame"	144
Spring	145
The Windhover	145
Pied Beauty	146
The Caged Skylark	146
Peace	147
Felix Randal	147
"I wake and feel the fell of dark, not day"	148
"No worst, there is none. Pitched past pitch of grief"	148
"Not, I'll not, carrion comfort, Despair, not feast on thee"	149
That Nature Is a Heraclitean Fire and of the Comfort of the Resurrection	150
"Thou art indeed just, Lord, if I contend"	151
To R. B.	151

CONTENTS

EUGENE LEE-HAMILTON (1845-1907)	
FROM <i>Imaginary Sonnets</i>	
Luther to a Bluebottle Fly (1540)	152
ALICE CHRISTINA MEYNELL (1847-1922)	
To a Daisy	152
EMMA LAZARUS (1849-1887)	
The New Colossus	153
OSCAR WILDE (1856-1900)	
On the sale by auction of Keats' love letters	153
Hélas	154
FRANCIS THOMPSON (1859-1907)	
All's Vast	154
W. B. YEATS (1865-1939)	
The Folly of Being Comforted	155
The Fascination of What's Difficult	155
At the Abbey Theatre	156
"While I, from that reed-throated whisperer"	156
Leda and the Swan	157
Meru	157
A Crazy Girl	158
High Talk	158
ERNEST DOWSON (1867-1900)	
A Last Word	159
EDWARD ARLINGTON ROBINSON (1869-1935)	
Firelight	159
Calvary	160
Cliff Klingenhagen	160
Reuben Bright	161
Credo	161
Sonnet ("The master and the slave go hand in hand")	162
The Sheaves	162
JAMES WELDON JOHNSON (1871-1938)	
Mother Night	163

CONTENTS

PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR (1872-1906)	
Robert Gould Shaw	163
Douglass	164
AMY LOWELL (1874-1925)	
To John Keats	164
TRUMBULL STICKNEY (1874-1904)	
"Be still. The Hanging Gardens were a dream"	165
Six O'Clock	165
RUPERT BROOKE (1875-1915)	
The Hill	166
Clouds	166
A Memory	167
FROM 1914	
The Soldier	167
ALICE DUNBAR-NELSON (1875-1935)	
Sonnet ("I had no thought of violets of late")	168
ROBERT FROST (1875-1963)	
A Dream Pang	168
Mowing	169
Meeting and Passing	169
Hyla Brook	170
The Oven Bird	170
Range-Finding	171
Acquainted with the Night	171
Design	172
The Silken Tent	172
Never Again Would Birds' Song Be the Same	173
EDWARD THOMAS (1878-1917)	
Some Eyes Condemn	173
February Afternoon	174
EZRA POUND (1885-1972)	
A Virginal	174

CONTENTS

ELINOR WYLIE (1885—1928)	
FROM Wild Peaches	
1. "When the world turns completely upside down"	175
2. "The autumn frosts will lie upon the grass"	175
Sonnet ("When, in the dear beginning of the fever")	176
A Lodging for the Night	176
SIEGFRIED SASSOON (1886—1967)	
Dreamers	177
Glory of Women	177
On Passing the New Menin Gate	178
ROBINSON JEFFERS (1887—1962)	
Love the Wild Swan	178
MARIANNE MOORE (1887—1972)	
No Swan So Fine	179
EDWIN MUIR (1887—1959)	
Milton	179
T. S. ELIOT (1888—1965)	
FROM The Dry Salvages	180
JOHN CROWE RANSOM (1888—1974)	
Piazza Piece	180
CLAUDE MCKAY (1890—1948)	
If We Must Die	181
The Harlem Dancer	181
America	182
ARCHIBALD MACLEISH (1892—1983)	
The End of the World	182
Aeterna Poetae Memoria	183
EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY (1892—1950)	
"Thou art not lovelier than lilacs,—no"	183
"Time does not bring relief; you all have lied"	184
"If I should learn, in some quite casual way"	184
"Oh, think not I am faithful to a vow!"	185
"Pity me not because the light of day"	185

CONTENTS

"I shall go back again to the bleak shore"	186
"I, being born a woman and distressed"	186
"What lips my lips have kissed, and where, and why"	187
"Still will I harvest beauty where it grows"	187
FROM <i>Fatal Interview</i>	
II. "This beast that rends me in the sight of all"	188
VII. "Night is my sister, and how deep in love"	188
XX. "Think not, nor for a moment let your mind"	189
XXX. "Love is not all: it is not meat nor drink"	189
"I will put Chaos into fourteen lines"	190
"Read history: so learn your place in Time"	190
FROM <i>Epitaph for the Race of Man</i>	
v. "When Man is gone and only gods remain"	191
WILFRED OWEN (1893-1918)	
Anthem for Doomed Youth	191
Dulce et Decorum Est	192
Futility	193
DOROTHY PARKER (1893-1967)	
"I Shall Come Back"	193
E. E. CUMMINGS (1894-1962)	
"when thou hast taken thy last applause, and when"	194
"my girl's tall with hard long eyes"	194
"it is at moments after i have dreamed"	195
"it may not always be so; and i say"	195
FROM <i>Sonnets—Actualities</i>	
I. "when my love comes to see me it's"	196
II. "it is funny, you will be dead some day"	196
VII. "yours is the music for no instrument"	197
X. "a thing most new complete fragile intense"	197
XII. "my love is building a building"	198
"i like my body when it is with your"	198
" 'next to of course god america i"	199
"if i have made, my lady, intricate"	199
"i carry your heart with me (i carry it in"	200
JEAN TOOMER (1894-1967)	
November Cotton Flower	200



CONTENTS

ROBERT GRAVES (1895–1985)	
History of the Word	201
EDMUND BLUNDEN (1896–1974)	
Vlamertinghe: Passing the Chateau, July 1917	201
LOUISE BOGAN (1897–1970)	
Fifteenth Farewell	202
Simple Autumnal	203
Sonnet (“Dark, underground, is furnished with the bone”)	203
Single Sonnet	204
Musician	204
HART CRANE (1899–1932)	
To Emily Dickinson	205
ALLEN TATE (1899–1979)	
FROM Sonnets at Christmas	
2. “Ah, Christ, I love you rings to the wild sky”	205
YVOR WINTERS (1900–1968)	
To Emily Dickinson	206
ROY CAMPBELL (1902–1957)	
Luis de Camões	206
COUNTEE CULLEN (1903–1946)	
Yet Do I Marvel	207
At the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem	207
EDWIN DENBY (1903–1983)	
Air	208
MERRILL MOORE (1903–1957)	
They Also Stand . . .	208
PATRICK KAVANAGH (1904–1967)	
Canal Bank Walk	209
PHYLLIS MCGINLEY (1905–1978)	
Evening Musicale	209

CONTENTS

ELLIOTT COLEMAN (1906–1980)	
FROM <i>Oedipus Sonnets</i>	
3. “In a May evening, commuter, king”	210
W. H. AUDEN (1907–1973)	
Who’s Who	210
Our Bias	211
Montaigne	211
Rimbaud	212
Brussels in Winter	212
FROM <i>The Quest: A Sonnet Sequence</i>	
The Door	213
FROM <i>In Time of War</i>	
XII. “And the age ended, and the last deliverer died”	213
XXVII. “Wandering lost upon the mountains of our choice”	214
LOUIS MACNEICE (1907–1963)	
Sunday Morning	214
MALCOLM LOWRY (1909–1957)	
Delirium in Vera Cruz	215
JAMES REEVES (1909–1978)	
Leaving Town	215
STEPHEN SPENDER (1909–1995)	
“Without that once clear aim, the path of flight”	216
ELIZABETH BISHOP (1911–1979)	
The Prodigal	217
Sonnet (“Caught—the bubble”)	218
GEORGE BARKER (1913–1991)	
To My Mother	218
ROBERT HAYDEN (1913–1980)	
Those Winter Sundays	219
Frederick Douglass	219

CONTENTS

MURIEL RUKEYSER (1913–1980)	
On the Death of Her Mother	220
DELMORE SCHWARTZ (1913–1966)	
The Beautiful American Word, Sure	220
JOHN BERRYMAN (1914–1972)	
FROM <i>Berryman's Sonnets</i>	
7. "I've found out why, that day, that suicide"	221
15. "What was Ashore, then? . . . Cargoes with Forget"	221
36. "Keep your eyes open when you kiss: do: when"	222
107. "Darling I wait O in my upstairs box"	222
115. "All we were going strong last night this time"	223
WELDON KEES (1914–1955)	
For My Daughter	223
WILLIAM STAFFORD (1914–1993)	
Time	224
DYLAN THOMAS (1914–1953)	
Among Those Killed in the Dawn Raid Was a Man Aged a Hundred	224
MARGARET WALKER (1915–1998)	
Childhood	225
For Malcolm X	225
GWENDOLYN BROOKS (1917–2000)	
FROM <i>The Children of the Poor</i>	
1. "People who have no children can be hard"	226
4. "First fight. Then fiddle. Ply the slipping string"	226
FROM <i>Gay Chaps at the Bar</i>	
gay chaps at the bar	227
still do I keep my look, my identity . . .	227
my dreams, my works, must wait till after hell	228
piano after war	228
the progress	229
CHARLES CAUSLEY (B. 1917)	
Autobiography	229

CONTENTS

ROBERT LOWELL (1917–1977)	
History	230
Words for Hart Crane	230
Ezra Pound	231
Robert Frost	231
Fishnet	232
Dolphin	232
WILLIAM MEREDITH (B. 1919)	
The Illiterate	233
AMY CLAMPITT (1920–1994)	
The Cormorant in Its Element	233
HOWARD NEMEROV (1920–1991)	
A Primer of the Daily Round	234
HAYDEN CARRUTH (B. 1921)	
FROM <i>Sonnets</i>	
2. “How is it, tell me, that this new self can be”	234
3. “Last night, I don’t know if from habit or intent”	235
4. “While you stood talking at the counter, cutting”	235
5. “From our very high window at the Sheraton”	236
Sonnet (“Well, she told me I had an aura. ‘What?’ I said”)	236
Late Sonnet	237
MARIE PONSOT (B. 1921)	
Out of Eden	237
Call	238
RICHARD WILBUR (B. 1921)	
Praise in Summer	238
PHILIP LARKIN (1922–1985)	
“Love, we must part now: do not let it be”	239
ANTHONY HECHT (B. 1923)	
Double Sonnet	240
The Feast of Stephen	241

CONTENTS

JANE COOPER (B. 1924)	
Praise	243
DONALD JUSTICE (B. 1925)	
The Wall	244
Mrs. Snow	244
Henry James by the Pacific	245
JAMES K. BAXTER (1926–1972)	
FROM Jerusalem Sonnets	
I. “The small gray cloudy louse that nests in my beard”	245
JAMES MERRILL (1926–1995)	
Marsyas	246
Last Words	246
W. D. SNODGRASS (B. 1926)	
Μή τις . . . Οὐ τις	247
JOHN ASHBERRY (B. 1927)	
Rain Moving In	248
W. S. MERWIN (B. 1927)	
Epitaph on Certain Schismatics	248
Substance	249
JAMES WRIGHT (1927–1980)	
Saint Judas	249
My Grandmother’s Ghost	250
DONALD HALL (B. 1928)	
President and Poet	250
PHILIP LEVINE (B. 1928)	
Llanto	251
THOM GUNN (B. 1929)	
First Meeting with a Possible Mother-in-Law	252
Keats at Highgate	252

CONTENTS

JOHN HOLLANDER (B. 1929)	
FROM <i>Powers of Thirteen</i>	
"Just the right number of letters—half the alphabet"	253
"That other time of day when the chiming of Thirteen"	253
FROM <i>The Mad Potter</i>	
"Clay to clay: Soon I shall indeed become"	254
ADRIENNE RICH (B. 1929)	
FROM <i>Contradictions: Tracking Poems</i>	
I. "Look: this is January the worst onslaught"	254
14. "Lately in my dreams I hear long sentences"	255
18. "The problem, unstated till now, is how"	255
Final Notations	256
DEREK WALCOTT (B. 1930)	
Homage to Edward Thomas	256
GEOFFREY HILL (B. 1932)	
September Song	257
Funeral Music	258
SYLVIA PLATH (1932–1963)	
Mayflower	262
JOHN UPDIKE (B. 1932)	
Island Cities	262
TED BERRIGAN (1934–1983)	
FROM <i>The Sonnets</i>	
III. "Stronger than alcohol, more great than song"	263
JEAN VALENTINE (B. 1934)	
Rain	263
ROBERT MEZEY (B. 1935)	
Hardy	264
GRACE SCHULMAN (B. 1935)	
The Abbess of Whitby	264

CONTENTS

CHARLES WRIGHT (B. 1935)	
Composition in Grey and Pink	265
JUNE JORDAN (B. 1936)	
Sunflower Sonnet Number Two	266
JUDITH RODRIGUEZ (B. 1936)	
In-flight Note	266
FREDERICK SEIDEL (B. 1936)	
Elms	267
JOHN FULLER (B. 1937)	
FROM Lily and Violin	
6. "Afterwards we may not speak: piled chords"	267
TONY HARRISON (B. 1937)	
FROM <i>from The School of Eloquence</i>	
On Not Being Milton	268
LES MURRAY (B. 1938)	
Comete	269
CHARLES SIMIC (B. 1938)	
History	269
DICK ALLEN (B. 1939)	
Lost Love	270
FRANK BIDART (B. 1939)	
Self-Portrait, 1969	270
SEAMUS HEANEY (B. 1939)	
The Forge	271
Act of Union	272
The Seed Cutters	273
A Dream of Jealousy	273
FROM Clearances	
II. "Polished linoleum shone there. Brass taps shone"	274
III. "When all the others were away at Mass"	274

CONTENTS

STANLEY PLUMLY (B. 1939)	
FROM <i>Boy on the Step</i>	
1. "He's out of breath only halfway up the hill"	275
5. "None of us dies entirely—some of us, all"	275
BILLY COLLINS (B. 1941)	
American Sonnet	276
Duck / Rabbit	277
Sonnet ("All we need is fourteen lines, well, thirteen now")	277
DOUGLAS DUNN (B. 1942)	
France	278
MARILYN HACKER (B. 1942)	
Sonnet ("Love drives its rickety blue caravan")	278
FROM <i>Love, Death, and the Changing of the Seasons</i>	
"Did you love well what very soon you left"	279
FROM <i>Cancer Winter</i>	
"Syllables shaped around the darkening day's"	279
"I woke up, and the surgeon said, 'You're cured' "	280
"The odd and even numbers of the street"	280
"At noon, an orderly wheeled me upstairs"	281
DAVID HUDDLE (B. 1942)	
FROM <i>Tour of Duty</i>	
Words	281
FROM <i>Album</i>	
Coda	282
ANN LAUTERBACH (B. 1942)	
Aperture	283
CHARLES MARTIN (B. 1942)	
Easter Sunday, 1985	284
FROM <i>Making Faces</i>	
II. The End of the World	285
The Philosopher's Balloon	286
WILLIAM MATTHEWS (1942–1997)	
Vermin	286



CONTENTS

HENRY TAYLOR (B. 1942)	
Green Springs the Tree	287
LOUISE GLÜCK (B. 1943)	
Snowdrops	287
ELLEN BRYANT VOIGT (B. 1943)	
FROM <i>Kyrie</i>	
“Dear Mattie, You’re sweet to write me every day”	288
“When does a childhood end? Mothers”	288
“This is the double bed where she’d been born”	289
“Once the world had had its fill of war”	289
EAVAN BOLAND (B. 1944)	
Yeats in Civil War	290
The Singers	291
Heroic	291
J. D. MCCLATCHY (B. 1945)	
My Mammogram	292
LEON STOKESBURY (B. 1945)	
To His Book	294
STAR BLACK (B. 1946)	
Rilke’s Letter from Rome	295
Personals	295
MARILYN NELSON (B. 1946)	
Balance	296
Chosen	296
Chopin	297
BRUCE SMITH (B. 1946)	
FROM In My Father’s House	
O My Invisible Estate	297
MOLLY PEACOCK (B. 1947)	
The Lull	298
Desire	298
Instead of Her Own	299
The Purr	299
The Hunt	300

CONTENTS

HUGH SEIDMAN (B. 1947)	
14 First Sentences	300
FLOYD SKLOOT (B. 1947)	
My Daughter Considers Her Body	301
RACHEL HADAS (B. 1948)	
Moments of Summer	301
DAVID LEHMAN (B. 1948)	
Sonnet ("No roof so poor it does not shelter")	303
TIMOTHY STEELE (B. 1948)	
Summer	303
AGHA SHAHID ALI (B. 1949)	
FROM I Dream I Am the Only Passenger on Flight 423 to Srinagar,	
"and when we—as if from ashes—ascend"	304
"Attar—of jasmine? What was it she wore"	304
DENIS JOHNSON (B. 1949)	
Sway	305
Passengers	305
SHEROD SANTOS (B. 1949)	
Married Love	306
JULIA ALVAREZ (B. 1950)	
FROM 33	
"Where are the girls who were so beautiful?"	306
"Let's make a modern primer for our kids"	307
"Ever have an older lover say: God"	307
"Secretly I am building in the heart"	308
DANA GIOIA (B. 1950)	
Sunday Night in Santa Rosa	308
T. R. HUMMER (B. 1950)	
The Rural Carrier Stops to Kill a Nine-Foot Cottonmouth	309
MEDBH MCGUCKIAN (B. 1950)	
Still Life of Eggs	309

CONTENTS

PAUL MULDOON (B. 1951)	
Why Brownlee Left	310
Holy Thursday	310
October 1950	311
RITA DOVE (B. 1952)	
Hades' Pitch	311
Sonnet in Primary Colors	312
MARK JARMAN (B. 1952)	
FROM <i>Unholy Sonnets</i>	
2. "Which is the one, which of the imps inside"	312
9. "Someone is always praying as the plane"	313
14. " <i>In via est cisterna</i> "	313
ELIZABETH MACKLIN (B. 1952)	
I Fail to Speak to My Earth, My Desire	314
Foolishly Halved, I See You	314
TOM SLEIGH (B. 1953)	
The Very End	315
Eclipse	315
FROM <i>The Work</i>	
4. The God	316
ROSANNA WARREN (B. 1953)	
Necrophiliac	316
DAVID WOJAHN (B. 1953)	
FROM <i>Mystery Train: A Sequence</i>	
1. Homage: Light from the Hall	317
2. Buddy Holly Watching <i>Rebel Without a Cause</i> , Lubbock, Texas, 1956	318
DAVID BAKER (B. 1954)	
Top of the Stove	319
BRUCE BOND (B. 1954)	
Isaac	319
PHILLIS LEVIN (B. 1954)	
Final Request	320

CONTENTS

JAMES MCCORKLE (B. 1954)	
Deer at the Corner of the House	320
JOHN BURNSIDE (B. 1955)	
The Myth of the Twin	321
CAROL ANN DUFFY (B. 1955)	
Prayer	322
ROBIN ROBERTSON (B. 1955)	
Wedding the Locksmith's Daughter	323
APRIL BERNARD (B. 1956)	
Sonnet in E	323
HENRI COLE (B. 1956)	
Chiffon Morning	324
ANNIE FINCH (B. 1956)	
My Raptor	327
KARL KIRCHWEY (B. 1956)	
Zoo Story	327
In Transit	328
DEBORAH LASER (B. 1956)	
FROM Between Two Gardens	
"Night shares this day with me, is the ruffled"	328
JACQUELINE OSHEROW (B. 1956)	
Sonnet for a Single Day in Autumn	329
Yom Kippur Sonnet, with a Line from Lamentations	329
JAMES LASDUN (B. 1958)	
Powder Compact	330
Plague Years	330
KATE LIGHT (B. 1960)	
Reading Someone Else's Love Poems	331
Your Unconscious Speaks to My Unconscious	331
And Then There Is That Incredible Moment,	332

CONTENTS

JOE BOLTON (1961–1990)	
FROM Style	
II. “I was surprised to find how light I felt”	332
SASCHA FEINSTEIN (B. 1963)	
FROM Sonnets for Stan Gage (1945–1992)	
“Floodlight shadow. Your shoes are stroking”	333
“ <i>With young people the heart keeps beating even</i> ”	333
RAFAEL CAMPO (B. 1964)	
The Mental Status Exam	334
MIKE NELSON (B. 1967)	
Light Sonnet for the Lover of a Dark	334
DANIEL GUTSTEIN (B. 1968)	
What Can Disappear	335
BETH ANN FENNELLY (B. 1971)	
Poem Not to Be Read at Your Wedding	335
JASON SCHNEIDERMAN (B. 1976)	
The Disease Collector	336
	❖ ❖ ❖
Appendix: <i>The Architecture of a Sonnet</i>	337
Explanatory Notes	347
Suggestions for Further Reading	365
Biographical Notes	373
Index of Poets	425
Index of Titles and First Lines	428
Credits	440