Acknowledgments	33
Editors' Note	35
Personal Essays on Encountering the Sonnet	
Edward Hirsch MY OWN ACQUAINTANCE	39
Eavan Boland DISCOVERING THE SONNET	43
The Sonnet in Summary	49
The Making of a Sonnet: A Formal Introduction	51
THE SONNET IN THE MIRROR	55
THE SONNET IN THE MIRROR	57
EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY (1892–1950)	
"I will put Chaos into fourteen lines"	60
ROBERT BURNS (1759–1796)	
A Sonnet upon Sonnets	60
SIR PHILIP SIDNEY (1554–1586)	
"My Muse may well grudge at my heav'nly joy"	61
JOHN ADDINGTON SYMONDS (1840–1893)	
from The Sonnet III ("The Sonnet is a world,	
where feelings caught")	61
WILLIAM WORDSWORTH (1770–1850)	
"Scorn not the Sonnet; Critic, you have frowned"	62
"Nuns fret not at their convent's narrow room"	62
JOHN KEATS (1795–1821)	
"If by dull rhymes our English must be chain'd"	63
. ,	

JOHN DOVASTON (1752–1854)	
from Sonnets, XXIX. Concluding Sonnet on the Sonnet	63
DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI (1828–82)	
from The House of Life ("A Sonnet is a	
moment's monument")	64
ANNA SEWARD (1747–1809)	
To Mr. Henry Cary, On the Publication of his Sonnets	64
EBENEZER ELLIOTT (1781–1849)	
Powers of the Sonnet	65
CHRISTINA ROSSETTI (1830–1894)	
"Sonnets are full of love, and this my tome"	65
FREDERICK WILLIAM FABER (1814–1863)	
Sonnet-writing. To F. W. F.	66
THEODORE WATTS-DUNTON (1832–1914)	
The Sonnet's Voice	66
EUGENE LEE-HAMILTON (1845–1907)	
What the Sonnet Is	67
EDGAR ALLAN POE (1809–1849)	
An Enigma	67
ELLA WHEELER WILCOX (1850–1919)	
The Sonnet	68
EDWIN ARLINGTON ROBINSON (1869–1935)	
Sonnet ("The master and slave go hand in hand")	68
LORD ALFRED DOUGLAS (1870–1945)	
Sonnet on the Sonnet	69
SYLVIA TOWNSEND WARNER (1893–1978)	
"Farewell, I thought. How many sonnets have"	69
MERRILL MOORE (1903–1957)	
In Magic Words	70
PETER DICKINSON (1927–)	
"Scorn not the sonnet" (Wordsworth)	70
GEOFF PAGE (1940–)	
The Recipe	71
LOUISE BOGAN (1897–1970)	
Single Sonnet	71
GEORGE STARBUCK (1931–1996)	
Sonnet with a Different Letter at the End of Every Line	72

HAYDEN CARRUTH (1921–)	
Late Sonnet	73
BILLY COLLINS (1941–)	
Sonnet ("All we need is fourteen lines, well,	
thirteen now")	73
THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY	75
THE SONNET IN ITS CENTURY: THE SIXTEENTH	77
SIR THOMAS WYATT (1503–1542)	
"The long love that in my thought doth harbor"	79
"Whoso list to hunt, I know where is an hind"	79
"My galley charged with forgetfulness"	80
HENRY HOWARD, EARL OF SURREY (1517–1547)	
"Love, that doth reign and live within my thought"	80
"Norfolk sprang thee, Lambeth holds thee dead"	81
ANNE LOCKE (1533–1595)	
from A Meditation of a Penitent Sinner, upon the	
51. Psalme., Have mercie upon me (o God) after	
thy great merci	81
GEORGE GASCOIGNE (1525–1577)	
"That self-same tongue which first did thee entreat"	82
GILES FLETCHER, THE ELDER (1549–1611)	
from Licia, Sonnet XXVIII ("In time the strong and	
stately turrets fall.")	82
EDMUND SPENSER (1552–1599)	
from Amoretti, Sonnet 1 ("Happy ye leaves when as	
those lilly hands")	83
from Amoretti, Sonnet 8 ("More then most faire,	
full of the living fire")	83
from Amoretti, Sonnet 30 ("My love is lyke to yse,	0.4
and I to fyre")	84
from Amoretti, Sonnet 75 ("One day I wrote her name upon the strand")	84
from Amoretti, Sonnet 77 ("Was it a dreame, or did	04
I see it playne")	85
FULKE GREVILLE, LORD BROOKE (1554–1628)	03
from Cælica, Sonnet LXXXVI ("The earth with thunder	
torn, with fire blasted")	85

SIR WALTER RALEGH (1554?–1618)	
Sir Walter Ralegh to His Son	86
SIR PHILIP SIDNEY (1554–1586)	
from Astrophil and Stella 1 ("Loving in truth, and fain in verse my love to show")	86
from Astrophil and Stella 31 ("With how sad steps, O Moon, thou climb'st the skies")	87
from Astrophil and Stella 39 ("Come sleep! O sleep, the certain knot of peace")	87
from Astrophil and Stella 54 ("Because I breathe not love to everyone")	88
from Astrophil and Stella 71 ("Who will in fairest book of Nature know")	88
THOMAS LODGE (c. 1558–1625)	
from Phillis, Sonnet XL ("Resembling none, and none so poor as I")	89
GEORGE CHAPMAN (1559–1634)	
A Coronet for his Mistress Philosophy 1 ("Muses that sing love's sensual empery")	89
SAMUEL DANIEL (1562–1619)	
from Delia 49 ("Care-charmer Sleep, son of the sable Night")	90
MICHAEL DRAYTON (1563–1631)	
from Idea 61 ("Since there's no help, come let us kiss and part")	90
HUGH HOLLAND (1569–1635)	
Upon the Lines, and Life, of the famous Scenic Poet, Master William Shakespeare	91
MARK ALEXANDER BOYD (1563–1601)	
Sonet ("Fra banc to banc, Fra wod to wod, I rin")	91
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564–1616)	
from Love's Labour's Lost (act 4, scene 3)	92
from Romeo and Juliet (act 1, scene 5)	92
Sonnet 18 ("Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?")	93
Sonnet 29 ("When, in disgrace with Fortune and men's eyes")	93
Sonnet 94 ("They that have power to hurt and will do none")	94
Sonnet 116 ("Let me not to the marriage of true minds")	94
Sonnet 129 ("Th' expense of spirit in a waste of shame")	95

Sonnet 130 ("My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun")	95
Sonnet 138 ("When my love swears that she is	
made of truth")	96
Sonnet 147 ("My love is as a fever, longing still")	96
JAMES I (1566–1625)	
An Epitaph on Sir Philip Sidney	97
BARNABE BARNES (1569–1609)	
from Parthenophil and Parthenophe, Sonnet XLIIII ("Oh dart and thunder whose fierce violence")	97
SIR JOHN DAVIES (1569–1626)	
"If you would know the love which I you bear"	98
THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY	99
THE SONNET IN ITS CENTURY: THE SEVENTEENTH	101
BEN JONSON (1572–1637)	
A Sonnet to the Noble Lady, the Lady Mary Wroth	103
RICHARD BARNFIELD (1574–1627)	
To his Friend Maister R. L. In Praise of Musique and Poetrie	103
LADY MARY WROTH (1586–1652)	
"When everyone to pleasing pastime hies"	104
JOHN DONNE (1572–1631)	
from Holy Sonnets 1 ("Thou hast made me, and shall Thy work decay?")	104
from Holy Sonnets 5 ("I am a little world made	
cunningly")	105
from Holy Sonnets 7 ("At the round earth's imagined	
corners, blow")	105
from Holy Sonnets 10 ("Death, be not proud,	
though some have callèd thee")	106
from Holy Sonnets 14 ("Batter my heart,	106
three-personed God; for you")	106
from Holy Sonnets 19 ("Oh, to vex me, contraries meet in one")	107
EDWARD, LORD HERBERT OF CHERBURY (1583–1648)	
Epitaph of King James	107
WILLIAM DRUMMOND OF HAWTHORNDEN (1585–1649)	
Sonnet LXXIII ("My lute, be as thou wert when thou	
didst grow")	108

GEORGE HERBERT (1593–1633)	
Prayer (I)	108
"My God, where is that ancient heat towards thee"	109
Redemption	109
"Sure Lord, there is enough in thee to dry"	110
THOMAS CAREW (1595–1640)	
Song: Mediocrity in Love Rejected	110
ROBERT HERRICK (1591–1674)	
The Bad Season Makes the Poet Sad	111
JOHN MILTON (1608–1674)	
"How soon hath Time, the subtle thief of youth"	111
"A book was writ of late called Tetrachordon"	112
To the Lord General Cromwell, May 1652	112
"Methought I saw my late espousèd saint"	113
On the Late Massacre in Piedmont	113
"When I consider how my light is spent"	114
PHILIP AYRES (1638–1712)	
A Sonnet, of Petrarc, Shewing how long he had lov'd	
Madonna Laura	114
APHRA BEHN (1640–1689)	
Epitaph on the Tombstone of a Child, the Last of Seven	
That Died Before	115
THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY	117
THE SONNET IN ITS CENTURY: THE EIGHTEENTH	119
THOMAS EDWARDS (1699–1757)	
On a Family-Picture	121
On the Edition of Mr. Pope's Works with a	
Commentary and Notes	121
THOMAS GRAY (1716–1771)	
On the Death of Mr. Richard West	122
THOMAS WARTON, THE YOUNGER (1728–1790)	
To the River Lodon	122
WILLIAM COWPER (1731–1800)	
Sonnet to William Wilberforce, Esquire	123
To Mrs. Unwin	123
To George Romney, Esa.	124

Contents	1	.1	

ANNA SEWARD (1742–1809)	
To a Friend, Who Thinks Sensibility a Misfortune	124
To the Poppy	125
ANNA MARIA JONES (1748–1829)	
Sonnet to the Moon	125
CHARLOTTE SMITH (1749–1806)	
"The partial Muse has from my earliest hours"	126
To the South Downs	126
To Night	127
To a nightingale	127
DAVID HUMPHREYS (1752–1818)	
Addressed to His Royal Highness, The Prince of Brazil,	
On Taking Leave of the Court of Lisbon, July, 1797	128
JOHN CODRINGTON BAMPFYLDE (1754–1796)	
On a Wet Summer	128
THE NINETEENTH CENTURY	129
THE SONNET IN ITS CENTURY: THE NINETEENTH	131
WILLIAM BLAKE (1757–1827)	
To the Evening Star	134
MARY ROBINSON (1758–1800)	
from Sappho and Phaon, I. Sonnet Introductory	134
JANE WEST (1758–1852)	
Sonnet to May	135
ROBERT BURNS (1759–1796)	
Sonnet ("Sing on, sweet thrush, upon the leafless	
bough")	135
WILLIAM LISLE BOWLES (1762–1850)	
To the River Itchin, Near Winton	136
JOHN QUINCY ADAMS (1767–1848)	
To the Sun-Dial	136
WILLIAM WORDSWORTH (1770–1850)	
Composed Upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802	137
"It is a beauteous evening, calm and free"	137
To Toussaint L'Ouverture	138
London, 1802	138
"The world is too much with us; late and soon"	139

"Surprised by joy—impatient as the wind"	139
Mutability	140
SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE (1772–1834)	
To the River Otter	140
Work Without Hope	141
Pantisocracy	141
MARY TIGHE (1772–1810)	
Sonnet Addressed to My Mother	142
ROBERT SOUTHEY (1774–1843)	
from Poems on the Slave Trade VI ("High in the air	
exposed the slave is hung")	142
WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR (1775–1864)	
To Robert Browning	143
LEIGH HUNT (1784–1859)	
To the Grasshopper and the Cricket	143
GEORGE GORDON, LORD BYRON (1788–1824)	
Sonnet on Chillon	144
"Rousseau—Voltaire—our Gibbon—and de Staël"	144
MARY LOCKE (fl. 1791–1816)	
"I hate the Spring in parti-colored vest"	145
PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY (1792–1822)	
Ozymandias	145
England in 1819	146
Ode to the West Wind	146
JOHN CLARE (1793–1864)	
Schoolboys in Winter	149
To John Clare	149
To Wordsworth	150
Sonnet: "I Am"	150
JOHN KEATS (1795–1821)	
On first looking into Chapman's Homer	151
On seeing the Elgin Marbles	151
"When I have fears that I may cease to be"	152
To Sleep	152
"Bright Star, would I were stedfast as thou art"	153
To Fanny	153

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING (1806–1861)	
from Sonnets from the Portuguese XVIII ("I never gave	
a lock of hair away")	154
from Sonnets from the Portuguese XLIII ("How do I	
love thee? Let me count the ways.")	154
JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER (1807–1892)	
To a Cape Ann Schooner	155
HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW (1807–1882)	
Mezzo Cammin	155
Night	156
The Cross of Snow	156
EDGAR ALLAN POE (1809–1849)	
Sonnet—To Science	157
ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON (1809–1892)	
"How thought you that this thing could captivate?"	157
MARGARET FULLER (1810–1850)	
Flaxman	158
ROBERT BROWNING (1812–1889)	
Why I Am a Liberal	158
EDWARD LEAR (1812–1888)	
Cold Are the Crabs	159
JONES VERY (1813–1880)	
The New Birth	159
The Dead	160
Yourself	160
WALT WHITMAN (1819–1892)	
Patroling Barnegat	161
FREDERICK GODDARD TUCKERMAN (1821–1873)	
from Sonnets, First Series X ("An upper chamber in a	
darkened house")	161
from Sonnets, Second Series VII ("His heart was in his	
garden; but his brain")	162
from Sonnets, Third Series X ("Sometimes I walk where	
the deep water dips")	162
MATTHEW ARNOLD (1822–1888)	
Shakespeare	163

WILLIAM ALLINGHAM (1824–1889)	
In Snow	163
GEORGE MEREDITH (1828–1909)	
Lucifer in Starlight	164
DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI (1828–1882)	
from The House of Life, XVIII. Genius in Beauty	164
from The House of Life, XLVII. Broken Music	165
from The House of Life, LXXXIII. Barren Spring	165
from The House of Life, XCVII. A Superscription	166
CHRISTINA ROSSETTI (1830–1894)	
Remember	167
In an Artist's Studio	167
ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE (1837–1909)	
On the Russian persecution of the Jews	168
WILFRID SCAWEN BLUNT (1840–1922)	
St. Valentine's Day	168
THOMAS HARDY (1840–1928)	
Нар	169
from She, to Him I	169
from She, to Him II	170
The Pity of It	170
GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS (1844–1889)	
God's Grandeur	171
The Windhover	171
"As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame"	172
"Not, I'll not, carrion comfort, Despair, not feast on thee"	173
"I wake and feel the fell of dark, not day."	174
"Thou art indeed just, Lord, if I contend"	174
EMMA LAZARUS (1849–1887)	
The New Colossus	175
Long Island Sound	175
1492	176
ELLA WHEELER WILCOX (1850–1919)	
Friendship After Love	176
LIZETTE WOODWORTH REESE (1856–1935)	
April in Town	177

OSCAR WILDE (1856–1900)	
On the Sale by Auction of Keats' Love Letters	177
LOUISE IMOGEN GUINEY (1861–1920)	
The Lights of London	178
GEORGE SANTAYANA (1863–1952)	
On a Piece of Tapestry	178
THE TWENTIETH CENTURY	179
THE SONNET IN ITS CENTURY: THE TWENTIETH	181
W. B. YEATS (1865–1939)	
Leda and the Swan	183
CHARLOTTE MEW (1869–1928)	
Not for that City	183
EDWIN ARLINGTON ROBINSON (1869–1935)	
Reuben Bright	184
George Crabbe	184
How Annandale Went Out	185
The Sheaves	185
Why He Was There	186
JAMES WELDON JOHNSON (1871–1938)	
Mother Night	186
PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR (1872–1906)	
Robert Gould Shaw	187
Douglass	187
TRUMBULL STICKNEY (1874–1904)	
"Live blindly and upon the hour. The Lord"	188
Six O'Clock	188
ROBERT FROST (1874–1963)	
Design	189
The Silken Tent	189
Never Again Would Birds' Song Be the Same	190
RUPERT BROOKE (1875–1915)	
Sonnet Reversed	190
The Soldier	191
EDWARD THOMAS (1878–1917)	
February Afternoon	191

WALLACE STEVENS (1879–1955)	
The Poem That Took the Place of a Mountain	192
WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS (1883–1963)	
Sonnet in Search of an Author	192
ELINOR WYLIE (1885–1928)	
Self-portrait	193
SARA TEASDALE (1884–1933)	
Crowned	193
EZRA POUND (1885–1972)	
A Virginal	194
SIEGFRIED SASSOON (1886–1967)	
Dreamers	194
Trench Duty	195
Banishment	195
ROBINSON JEFFERS (1887–1962)	
Love the Wild Swan	196
MARIANNE MOORE (1887–1972)	
No Swan So Fine	196
EDWIN MUIR (1887–1959)	
Milton	197
JOHN CROWE RANSOM (1888–1974)	
Piazza Piece	197
T. S. ELIOT (1888–1965)	
from The Fire Sermon	198
IVOR GURNEY (1890–1937)	
Strange Hells	198
CLAUDE MCKAY (1890–1948)	
The Lynching	199
If We Must Die	199
America	200
EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY (1892–1950)	
"What lips my lips have kissed, and where,	
and why"	200
WILFRED OWEN (1893–1918)	
Anthem for Doomed Youth	201
Dulce et Decorum Est	201
Futility	202

DOROTHY PARKER (1893–1967)	
I Shall Come Back	203
E. E. CUMMINGS (1894–1962)	
from Two III ("next to of course god america i")	203
from One Times One XIV ("pity this busy	
monster,manunkind")	204
ROBERT GRAVES (1895–1985)	
In Her Praise	205
EDMUND BLUNDEN (1896–1974)	
Vlamertinghe: Passing the Chateau, July 1917	205
HART CRANE (1899–1932)	
To Emily Dickinson	206
ALLEN TATE (1899–1979)	
from Sonnets at Christmas I ("This is the day	
His hour of life draws near")	206
LÉONIE ADAMS (1899–1988)	
A Gull Goes Up	207
JANET LEWIS (1899–1988)	
At Carmel Highlands	207
YVOR WINTERS (1900–1968)	
To Emily Dickinson	208
STERLING BROWN (1901–1989)	
Salutamus	208
ROBERT FRANCIS (1901–1987)	
The Gardener	209
COUNTEE CULLEN (1903–1946)	
Yet Do I Marvel	209
From the Dark Tower	210
LANGSTON HUGHES (1902–1967)	
Christ in Alabama	210
EDWIN DENBY (1903–1983)	
The Subway	211
CECIL DAY-LEWIS (1904–1972)	
from O Dreams, O Destinations 4 ("Our youthtime	
passes down a colonnade")	211
PATRICK KAVANAGH (1904–1967)	
Epic	212

STANLEY KUNITZ (1905–2006)	
So Intricately Is This World Resolved	212
R. A. K. MASON (1905–1971)	
Sonnet of Brotherhood	213
PHYLLIS MCGINLEY (1905–1978)	
View from a Suburban Window	213
ROBERT PENN WARREN (1905–1989)	
Milton: A Sonnet	214
WILLIAM EMPSON (1906–1984)	
The Ants	214
LOUIS MACNEICE (1907–1963)	
Sunday Morning	215
W. H. AUDEN (1907–1973)	
from Sonnets from China XII ("Here war is	
harmless like a monument")	216
HELENE JOHNSON (1907–1995)	
Sonnet to a Negro in Harlem	216
A. D. HOPE (1907–2001)	
Pasiphae	217
THEODORE ROETHKE (1908–1963)	
For an Amorous Lady	217
KATHLEEN RAINE (1908–2003)	
Angelus	218
JAMES AGEE (1909–1955)	
from Sonnets I ("So it begins. Adam is in his earth")	219
STEPHEN SPENDER (1909–1995)	
Daybreak	219
MALCOLM LOWRY (1909–1957)	
Christ Walks in This Infernal District Too	220
DOROTHEA TANNING (1910–)	
Report from the Field	220
ELIZABETH BISHOP (1911–1979)	
The Prodigal	221
J. V. CUNNINGHAM (1911–1985)	
The Aged Lover Discourses in the Flat Style	222
PAUL GOODMAN (1911–1972)	
from Sonnets, 1 3 ("Foster excellence, If I do not")	222

JOSEPHINE MILES (1911–1985)	
Luncheon 2	223
KENNETH PATCHEN (1911–1972)	
Religion Is That I Love You	223
DELMORE SCHWARTZ (1913–1966)	
The Beautiful American Word, Sure	224
MURIEL RUKEYSER (1913–1980)	
from Letter to the Front 7 ("To be a Jew in the	
twentieth century")	224
ROBERT HAYDEN (1913–1983)	
Those Winter Sundays	225
GEORGE BARKER (1913–1991)	
To My Mother	225
KARL SHAPIRO (1913–2000)	
Jew	226
DYLAN THOMAS (1914–1953)	
"When all my five and country senses see"	227
WELDON KEES (1914–1955)	
For My Daughter	227
JOHN BERRYMAN (1914–1972)	
from Sonnets to Chris 117 ("All we were going strong	
last night this time")	228
WILLIAM STAFFORD (1914–1993)	
A Stared Story	228
JUDITH WRIGHT (1915–2000)	
Sonnet ("Now let the draughtsman of my eyes be done")	229
GAVIN EWART (1916–1995)	
Sonnet: Afterwards	229
JAMES MCAULEY (1917–1976)	
Pietà	230
ROBERT LOWELL (1917–1977)	
Words for Hart Crane	231
History	231
GWENDOLYN BROOKS (1917–2000)	
Gay Chaps at the Bar	232
WILLIAM MEREDITH (1919–)	
The Illiterate	232

AMY CLAMPITT (1920–1994)	
The Cormorant in Its Element	233
GWEN HARWOOD (1920–1995)	
In the Park	233
EDWIN MORGAN (1920–)	
The Coin	234
HOWARD NEMEROV (1920–1991)	
A Primer of the Daily Round	234
GEORGE MACKAY BROWN (1921–1996)	
Chapel Between Cornfield and Shore	235
MARIE PONSOT (1921–)	
Out of Eden	235
RICHARD WILBUR (1921–)	
O	236
PHILIP LARKIN (1922–1985)	
Whatever Happened?	236
HOWARD MOSS (1922–1987)	
The Snow Weed	237
DONALD DAVIE (1922–1995)	
Jacob's Ladder	238
CONSTANCE URDANG (1922–1996)	
from To Live with a Landscape 1 ("Take your	
boulevards, your Locust Street")	238
ALAN ANSEN (1922–2006)	
Tennyson	239
ELIZABETH BREWSTER (1922–)	
Death by Drowning	239
ANTHONY HECHT (1923–2004)	
Naming the Animals	240
DANIEL HOFFMAN (1923–)	
Violence	240
EDGAR BOWERS (1924–2000)	
In the Last Circle	241
JANE COOPER (1924–2007)	
from After the Bomb Tests 1 ("The atom bellies	
like a cauliflower")	241

Contents	21
----------	----

DONALD JUSTICE (1925–2004)	
Mrs. Snow	242
The Pupil	242
KENNETH KOCH (1925–2002)	
from Our Hearts 1 ("All hearts should beat when	
Cho Fu's orchestra plays 'Love' ")	243
CAROLYN KIZER (1925–)	
Reunion	244
FRANK O'HARA (1926–1966)	
from A City Winter 1 ("I understand the boredom	
of the clerks")	244
JAMES K. BAXTER (1926–1972)	
from Jerusalem Sonnets 10 ("Dark night—or rather,	
only the stars")	245
JAMES MERRILL (1926–1995)	
Marsyas	245
ALLEN GINSBERG (1926–1997)	
from Two Sonnets I ("I dwelled in Hell on earth	
to write this rhyme")	246
W. D. SNODGRASS (1926–)	
μητις οὐ τις (Not any man No Man)	247
JOHN ASHBERY (1927–)	
Sonnet ("Each servant stamps the reader	
with a look")	247
WILLIS BARNSTONE (1927–)	
The Secret Reader	248
GALWAY KINNELL (1927–)	
Blackberry Eating	248
W. S. MERWIN (1927–)	•
Sonnet ("Where it begins will remain a question")	249
JAMES WRIGHT (1927–1980)	
My Grandmother's Ghost	249
R. F. BRISSENDEN (1928–1991)	
Samuel Johnson Talking	250
THOMAS KINSELLA (1928–)	
Wedding Morning	250

PHILIP LEVINE (1928–)	
Llanto	251
ANNE SEXTON (1928–1974)	
To a Friend Whose Work Has Come to Triumph	251
BURNS SINGER (1928–1964)	
from Sonnets for a Dying Man XLIX ("The life I die moves through the death I live")	252
THOM GUNN (1929–2004)	
High Fidelity	252
JOHN MONTAGUE (1929–)	
from She Writes 1 ("'Dear one, no news from you	
so long.")	253
ADRIENNE RICH (1929–)	
Final Notations	253
DEREK WALCOTT (1930–)	
Homage to Edward Thomas	254
RUTH FAINLIGHT (1931–)	
High Pressure Zone	255
SYLVIA PLATH (1932–1963)	
Conversation Among the Ruins	255
GEOFFREY HILL (1932–)	
Requiem for the Plantagenet Kings	256
C. K. STEAD (1932–)	
from Twenty-two Sonnets 16 ("Xuan Loc fallen, Danang fallen, we wait for the fall of Saigon.")	256
STEPHEN BERG (1934–)	
My Bohemian Life	257
WENDELL BERRY (1934–)	
The Venus of Botticelli	258
MARK STRAND (1934–)	
One Winter Night	258
SANDRA GILBERT (1936–)	
October 29, 1991: 4 рм, outside Saratoga Springs	259
JUNE JORDAN (1936–)	
Sunflower Sonnet Number Two	260
FREDERICK SEIDEL (1936–)	
Robert Kennedv	260

C. K. WILLIAMS (1936–)	
The Doe	261
ALICIA OSTRIKER (1937–)	
Sonnet. To Tell the Truth	261
LES MURRAY (1938–)	
Performance	262
CHARLES SIMIC (1938–)	
History	262
frank bidart (1939–)	
Self-Portrait, 1969	263
KENNETH FIELDS (1939–)	
Poetic	264
SEAMUS HEANEY (1939–)	
Fireside	264
Requiem for the Croppies	265
MICHAEL LONGLEY (1939–)	
Ceasefire	265
BILL KNOTT (1940–)	
Suicidal (or Simply Drunken) Thoughts on Being Refused	
a Guggenheim Grant for the 11th Time	266
ROBERT PINSKY (1940–)	
Sonnet ("Afternoon sun on her back")	267
TOM CLARK (1941–)	
Sonnet ("Five A.M. on East Fourteenth I'm out to eat")	267
DEREK MAHON (1941–)	
Grandfather	268
ELIZABETH SMITHER (1941–)	
Visiting Juliet Street	268
MARILYN HACKER (1942–)	
Fourteen	269
EILÉAN NÍ CHUILLEANÁIN (1942–)	
The Angel in the Stone	269
WILLIAM MATTHEWS (1942–1997)	
Cheap Seats, the Cincinnati Gardens, Professional	
Basketball, 1959	270
DOUGLAS DUNN (1942–)	
Modern Love	270

SUSAN MITCHELL (1942–)	
from From a Book of Prophets, 3. Boca Raton, 1990	271
DAVE SMITH (1942–)	
The Spring Poem	271
LOUISE GLÜCK (1943–)	
Earthly Terror	272
MICHAEL PALMER (1943–)	
Pre-Petrarchan Sonnet	273
ELLEN BRYANT VOIGT (1943–)	
from Kyrie ("Who said the worst was past, who knew")	273
W. S. DI PIERO (1945–)	
Starlings	274
J. D. MCCLATCHY (1945–)	
from Kilim 1 ("The force of habit takes order to its heart")	274
ALICE NOTLEY (1945–)	
Sonnet ("The late Gracie Allen was a very lucid	
comedienne")	275
KAY RYAN (1945–)	
Full Measure	276
MARILYN NELSON (1946–)	
Beauty Shoppe	276
IAN WEDDE (1946–)	
from Earthly: Sonnets for Carlos, 20. a sonnet for Carlos	277
DAVID LEHMAN (1948–)	
Like a Party	277
ALAN GOULD (1949–)	
An Interrogator's Opening Remarks	278
DENIS JOHNSON (1949–)	
Passengers	278
PHILIP NEILSEN (1949–)	
Vermouth	279
SHEROD SANTOS (1949–)	
Ghost Sonnet	279
EDITH SPEERS (1949–)	
from Love Sonnets, Sonnet 9 ("Darling! I have to see you! Can you come?")	280

JULIA ALVAREZ (1950–)	281
from 33 ("Let's make a modern primer for our kids")	201
DANA GIOIA (1950–)	281
Sunday Night in Santa Rosa	201
T. R. HUMMER (1950–)	202
Telepathic Poetics	282
MEDBH MCGUCKIAN (1950–)	202
Shelmalier	282
PAUL MULDOON (1951–)	
from The Old Country I ("Where every town was a	202
tidy town")	283
RITA DOVE (1952–)	202
Sonnet in Primary Colors	283
SUSAN STEWART (1952–)	
from Slaughter 5 ("Now let us go back to the stunning")	284
TOM SLEIGH (1953–)	
from The Work, 1. Today ("Today, this moment,	205
speechlessly in pain")	285
ROSANNA WARREN (1953–)	
Alps	285
DAVID WOJAHN (1953–)	
from Mystery Train, 1. Homage: Light from the Hall	286
DAVID BAKER (1954–)	
from Sonnets from One State West, 1. Inside the Covered	
Bridge Historic Site	286
PHILLIS LEVIN (1954–)	
On the Other Hand	287
MARY JO SALTER (1954–)	
Half a Double Sonnet	288
CAROL ANN DUFFY (1955–)	
Prayer	288
KIMIKO HAHN (1955–)	
from Reckless Sonnets 8 ("My father, as a boy in	
Milwaukee, thought")	289
PAULA MEEHAN (1955–)	
Oueen	289

ROBIN ROBERTSON (1955–)	
Swimming in the Woods	290
HENRI COLE (1956–)	
Black Camellia	290
THE SONNET GOES TO DIFFERENT LENGTHS	293
THE SONNET GOES TO DIFFERENT LENGTHS	295
DANTE ALIGHIERI (1265–1321)	
from La Vita Nuova (The New Life), ("Death, alway cruel,	
Pity's foe in chief") (trans. Dante Gabriel Rossetti)	298
from La Vita Nuova (The New Life), ("All ye that pass along	
Love's trodden way")(trans. Dante Gabriel Rossetti)	298
GEOFFREY CHAUCER (1342–1400)	
from Troilus and Criseyde, Canticus Troili	299
MICHELANGELO BUONARROTI (1475–1564)	
from Sonnets, V. To Giovanni da Pistoia When the	
Author was Painting the Vault of the Sistine Chapel,	
(trans. Gail Mazur)	300
GEORGE PEELE (1556–1596)	
from Polyhymnia, Farewell to Arms	301
THOMAS WATSON (c. 1557–1592)	
from Hekatompathia, A Passionate Century of Love XIX	
("If Cupid were a child, as poets feign")	301
THOMAS LODGE (c. 1557–1625)	
from Rosalynde, Montanus's Sonnet	302
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564–1616)	
Sonnet 126 ("O thou, my lovely boy, who in thy power")	303
BARNABE BARNES (c. 1569–1609)	
from Parthenophil and Parthenophe. Sonnettes,	
Madrigals, Elegies and Odes 36 ("And thus	
continuing with outrageous fier")	304
JOHN DONNE (1572–1631)	
Sonnet. The Token	304
GEORGE HERBERT (1593–1633)	
A Wreath	305
JOHN MILTON (1608–1674)	
On the New Forcers of Conscience under the Long Parliament	305

SIR JOHN SUCKLING (1609–1641)	
from Sonnets I ("Dost see how unregarded now")	306
RICHARD LOVELACE (1618–1657)	
Sonnet ("When I by thy faire shape did sweare")	307
ANN RADCLIFFE (1764–1823)	
Storied Sonnet	307
WILLIAM WORDSWORTH (1770–1850)	
"It is no Spirit who from Heaven hath flown"	308
JOHN KEATS (1795–1821)	
"Nature withheld Cassandra in the skies"	308
RALPH WALDO EMERSON (1803–1882)	
Woods: A Prose Sonnet	309
EDGAR ALLAN POE (1809–1849)	
Sonnet—Silence	309
alfred, lord tennyson (1809–1892)	
The Kraken	310
MARY BRYAN (fl. 1815)	
The Maniac (2)	311
GEORGE MEREDITH (1828–1909)	
from Modern Love I ("By this he knew she wept with waking eyes")	311
from Modern Love XXV ("You like not that French novel? Tell me why.")	312
from Modern Love XXX ("What are we first? First,	
animals; and next")	313
from Modern Love L ("Thus piteously Love closed what	
he begat")	313
GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS (1844–1889)	
Pied Beauty	314
Peace	314
Felix Randal	315
Spelt from Sibyl's Leaves	316
That Nature Is a Heraclitean Fire and of the Comfort of	
the Resurrection	316
ARTHUR RIMBAUD (1854–1891)	
from Nonsense, Part 2, I. Drunk Driver	
(trans. Wyatt Mason)	318

ROBERT FROST (1875–1963)	
Hyla Brook	318
BLAISE CENDRARS (1887–1961)	
from Unnatural Sonnets, OpOetic (trans. Ron Padgett)	319
from Unnatural Sonnets, Académie Médrano	
(trans. Ron Padgett)	320
EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY (1892–1950)	
Rendezvous	320
E. E. CUMMINGS (1894–1962)	
from Sonnets—Actualities XVI ("i have found what you are like")	321
JOHN BROOKS WHEELWRIGHT (1897–1940)	
Father	322
W. H. AUDEN (1907–1973)	
from The Quest III ("Two friends who met here and	
embraced are gone")	323
ELIZABETH BISHOP (1911–1979)	
Sonnet ("Caught—the bubble")	323
ROY FULLER (1912–1991)	
from Meredithian Sonnets I ("To suffer, yes, but suffer and not create")	324
ROBERT DUNCAN (1919–1988)	
Sonnet 4	324
5th Sonnet	325
MONA VAN DUYN (1921–2004)	
Double Sonnet for Minimalists	326
GERALD STERN (1923–)	
American Heaven	327
JOHN HOLLANDER (1929–)	
from Powers of Thirteen ("That other time of day when the chiming of Thirteen")	328
JOHN UPDIKE (1932–)	
Love Sonnet	328
JEAN VALENTINE (1934–)	
X	329
TED BERRIGAN (1934–1983)	
from The Sonnets L ("I like to beat people up")	329
from The Sonnets, LXXII. A Sonnet for Dick Gallup	330

Contents	2	(7
----------	---	---	---

TONY HARRISON (1937–)	
On Not Being Milton	330
PAUL MARIANI (1940–)	
Hopkins in Ireland	331
BILLY COLLINS (1941–)	
American Sonnet	332
BERNADETTE MAYER (1945–)	
Sonnet ("You jerk you didn't call me up")	333
RONALD WALLACE (1945–)	
Broken Sonnet	333
SANDRA MCPHERSON (1943–)	
Sonnet for Joe	334
BRAD LEITHAUSER (1953–)	
Post-Coitum Tristesse: A Sonnet	335
KARL KIRCHWEY (1956–)	
from Two Tidal Sonnets, 1. Ludovisi Throne	335
THE SONNET AROUND THE WORLD	337
THE SONNET AROUND THE WORLD	339
GUIDO CAVALCANTI (c. 1255–1300)	
Sonnet IX ("I am reduced at last to self compassion")	
(adapted by Ezra Pound)	343
DANTE ALIGHIERI (1265–1321)	
from La Vita Nuova (The New Life) ("The thoughts	
are broken in my memory") (trans. Dante	2.42
Gabriel Rossetti)	343
FRANCESCO PETRARCH (1304–1374)	
"I find no peace, and all my war is done" (adapted by Sir Thomas Wyatt)	344
MICHELANGELO BUONARROTI (1475–1564)	344
"My lady, these eyes see vividly—far, near"	
(trans. John Frederick Nims)	344
VITTORIA COLONNA (1492–1547)	011
from Sonnets for Michelangelo 1 ("Since my chaste love	
for many years") (trans. Abigail Brundin)	345
JOACHIM DU BELLAY (1522–1560)	
"Heureux qui, comme Ulysse, a fait un Beau Voyage"	
(adapted by Anthony Hecht)	345

LUIS DE CAMOES (1524–1580)	
Reader (trans. William Baer)	346
LUIS DE GÓNGORA (1561–1627)	
Sonnet LXXXII (Amorous) (trans. Edith Grossman)	346
LOPE DE VEGA (1562–1635)	
Instant Sonnet (trans. Edith Grossman)	347
SOR JUANA INÉS DE LA CRUZ (1648–1695)	
Sonnet 145 ("This thing you see, a bright-colored deceit")	
(trans. Edith Grossman)	347
JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE (1749–1832)	
Nature and Art (trans. David Luke)	348
GIUSEPPE BELLI (1791–1863)	
Night of Terror (trans. Miller Williams)	348
ALEKSANDR PUSHKIN (1799–1837)	
from Eugene Onegin VII ("The art of verse, that	
lofty pleasure") (trans. Babette Deutsch)	349
GÉRARD DE NERVAL (1808–1855)	
The Disinherited (trans. Daniel Hoffman)	349
CHARLES BAUDELAIRE (1821–1867)	
Correspondences (trans. Richard Howard)	350
STÉPHANE MALLARMÉ (1842–1898)	
The Tomb of Poe (trans. Louis Simpson)	351
PAUL VERLAINE (1844–1896)	
Night Scene (trans. Norman R. Shapiro)	351
ARTHUR RIMBAUD (1854–1891)	
Voyelles (trans. F. Scott Fitzgerald)	352
RUBÉN DARÍO (1867–1916)	
"I pursue a form that my style does not find"	
(trans. Will Derusha and Alberto Acereda)	352
PAUL VALÉRY (1871–1945)	
Helen (trans. Richard Wilbur)	353
RAINER MARIA RILKE (1875–1926)	
An Archaic Torso of Apollo (trans. W. D. Snodgrass)	353
ALFONSINA STORNI (1892–1938)	
To My Lady of Poetry (trans. Kay Short)	354

CÉSAR VALLEJO (1892–1938)	
Black Stone Lying on a White Stone	
(trans. Robert Bly and John Knoepfle)	354
ILYAS FARHAT (1893–1980)	
My Burned Suit (trans. Salma Khadra Jayyusi	
and John Heath-Stubbs)	355
JORGE GUILLÉN (1893–1984)	
The Horses (trans. Richard Wilbur)	355
EUGENIO MONTALE (1896–1981)	
"The bangs that hide your childlike forehead" (trans. Jonathan Galassi)	356
FEDERICO GARCÍA LORCA (1898–1936)	
"O secret voice of dark love!" (trans. John K. Walsh and	256
Francisco Aragon)	356
JORGE LUIS BORGES (1899–1986)	
A Poet of the Thirteenth Century (trans. Alan S. Trueblood)	357
RAYMOND QUENEAU (1903–1976)	
from 100,000,000,000,000 Poems ("At five precisely out	
went La Marquise") (trans. Stanley Chapman)	357
PABLO NERUDA (1904–1973)	
from Cien sonetos de amor LXXXIX ("When I die, I want	
your hands on my eyes") (trans. Stephen Tapscott)	358
MIGUEL HERNÁNDEZ (1910–1942)	
"You threw me a lemon, oh it was sour" (trans. Robert Bly)	359
ANA ENRIQUETA TERÁN (1918–)	
"Subtle in your fourteen lines surge" (trans. Marcel Smith)	359
YEHUDA AMICHAI (1924–2000)	
A Pity. We Were Such a Good Invention	
(trans. Assia Gutmann)	360
PHILIPPE JACCOTTET (1925–)	
Sonnet ("Don't worry, it will come! You're drawing near")	
(trans. Donald Justice)	360
DAHLIA RAVIKOVITCH (1936–2005)	
Clockwork Doll (trans. Chana Bloch and Ariel Bloch)	361
LAM THI MY DA (1949–)	
Night Harvest (trans. Martha Collins and Thuy Dinh)	361

Ten Questions for a Sonnet Workshop	363
THE SONNET UNDER THE LAMP: A HISTORY OF COMMENTS ON A FORM	381
Appendices	
1. Suggestions for Further Reading	395
2. Biographies	398
Permissions Acknowledgments	477
Index	493