

Contents

Introduction: The Weight of Words, the Road between Here and There	I
Chronology	19
Part One Three Overviews	
Galway Kinnell	25
CHARLES G. BELL	
The Poetry of Galway Kinnell	29
ANDREW TAYLOR	
The Rank Flavor of Blood: The Poetry of Galway Kinnell	45
CHARLES MOLESWORTH	
Part Two Book Reviews	
From "Five First Books" [<i>What a Kingdom It Was</i>]	65
JAMES DICKEY	
From "Verse" [<i>What a Kingdom It Was</i>]	67
LOUISE BOGAN	
From "Wonders of the Inner Eye" [<i>Flower Herding on Mount Monadnock</i>]	68
DEWITT BELL	
From "Plath, Jarrell, Kinnell, Smith" [<i>Flower Herding on Mount Monadnock</i>]	70
JOHN MALCOLM BRINNIN	
From "The Poet as Novelist" [<i>Black Light</i>]	72
MONA VAN DUYN	
From "Poets and Anthologies" [<i>Body Rags</i>]	74
GERALD BURNS	

From "Making It New" [<i>Body Rags</i>]	75
HAYDEN CARRUTH	
The Bear in the Poet in the Bear [<i>Body Rags</i>]	76
JOHN LOGAN	
From "The Makers and Their Works" [<i>The Book of Nightmares</i>]	82
THOMAS LASK	
Under the Freeway, in the Hotel of Lost Light [<i>The Book of Nightmares</i>]	84
M. L. ROSENTHAL	
On Climbing the Matterhorn: Monadnock [<i>The Book of Nightmares</i>]	88
ROBERT PETERS	
From "In the Direct Line of Whitman, the Indirect Line of Eliot" [<i>The Avenue Bearing the Initial of Christ into the New World</i>]	93
CHRISTOPHER RICKS	
From "Autobiography of the Present" [<i>The Avenue Bearing the Initial of Christ into the New World</i>]	96
JAMES ATLAS	
Galway Kinnell's <i>Walking Down the Stairs</i>	98
SUSAN B. WESTON	
Straight Forth Out of Self [<i>Mortal Acts, Mortal Words</i>]	104
HAROLD BLOOM	
That Backward-Spreading Brightness [<i>Mortal Acts, Mortal Words</i>]	107
HANK LAZER	
A Poet with the Flame of Greatness [<i>Selected Poems</i>]	119
LIZ ROSENBERG	
<i>Selected Poems</i>	122
RICHARD TILLINGHAST	
From "Kumin and Kinnell (and Kilmer)" [<i>Selected Poems</i>]	126
WILLIAM HARMON	
<i>The Past</i>	129
DANIEL L. GUILLORY	
From "Songs of Science" [<i>The Past</i>]	130
PHOEBE PETTINGELL	

Part Three Appraisals—Notes and Essays

- Fragments 135
by various hands
- From “The Dominant Poetic Mode of the Late
Seventies” 138
CHARLES ALTIERI
- From “Galway Kinnell” 140
DAVID YOUNG
- Slogging for the Absolute 143
DONALD DAVIE
- From “Text as Test” 157
DONALD HALL
- From “Language Against Itself: The Middle Generation
of Contemporary Poets” 169
ALAN WILLIAMSON
- Galway Kinnell and the Old Farmer 178
ROBERT BLY

Part Four Focus on Poems

- From “Ecclesiastical Whitman: On ‘The Avenue Bearing
the Initial of Christ into the New World’ ” 187
CARY NELSON
- Kinnell’s Legacy: On “The Avenue Bearing the Initial of
Christ into the New World” 191
PAUL MARIANI
- I Have Come to Myself Empty: Galway Kinnell’s Bear
and Porcupine 203
JOSEPH BRUCHAC
- The Structure of Galway Kinnell’s *The Book of
Nightmares* 210
CONRAD HILBERRY
- Of Father, of Son: On “Fergus Falling,” “After Making
Love We Hear Footsteps,” and “Angling, a Day” 227
JOHN UNTERECKER
- On the Tennis Court at Night 242
WILLIAM MATTHEWS

Trusting the Hours: On "Wait"	251
MARSHA PETERSON WHITE	
From "The Poem as a Reservoir for Grief": On "Goodbye"	256
TESS GALLAGHER	
Knowing and Not Knowing	266
TED SOLOTAROFF	
Part Five A Reminiscence	
Sitting on Top of the Sunlight	275
ANNE WRIGHT	
Bibliography	285