

# Contents

Introduction to the Second Edition xxvii

## **John Ashbery**

- Some Trees 3  
Our Youth 3  
from *Two Sonnets*: Dido 5  
"They Dream Only of America" 5  
Leaving the Atocha Station 6  
Last Month 8  
These Lacustrine Cities 9  
Civilization and Its Discontents 10  
Evening in the Country 11  
The Chateau Hardware 13

## **Imamu Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones)**

- Duncan Spoke of Process 15  
Preface to a Twenty Volume Suicide Note 16  
The Dead Lady Canonized 17  
The Invention of Comics 17  
A Poem for Black Hearts 18  
Poem for Halfwhite College Students 19  
Ka 'Ba 20  
Black People: This Is Our Destiny 21  
Black Art 21  
Plenty 23  
Planetary Exchange 23

## **John Berryman**

### Dream Songs

- 1 'Huffy Henry' 25  
4 'Filling her compact & delicious body' 25  
8 'The weather was fine.' 26  
9 'Deprived of his enemy' 27  
13 'God bless Henry.' 27  
14 'Life, friends, is boring.' 28  
29 'There sat down, once' 28

- 45 'He stared at ruin.' 29  
 46 'I am, outside.' 30  
 55 'Peter's not friendly.' 30  
 170 '—I can't read any more' 31  
 172 'Your face broods from my table' 31  
 230 'There are voices' 32  
 266 'Dinch me, dark God' 33  
 382 'At Henry's bier' 33  
 384 'The marker slants' 34  
 Henry's Understanding 34  
 from *Eleven Addresses to the Lord*  
     1 'Master of beauty' 35  
     6 'Under new management' 36  
    11 'Germanicus leapt upon the wild lion' 37

### **Robert Bly**

- Waking from Sleep 39  
 Surprised by Evening 39  
 Snowfall in the Afternoon 40  
 Poem in Three Parts 40  
 War and Silence 41  
 Asian Peace Offers Rejected without Publication 42  
 Counting Small-Boned Bodies 42  
 When the Dumb Speak 43  
 In a Train 43  
 Shack Poem 44  
 Looking into a Tide Pool 44  
 A Small Bird's Nest Made of White Reed Fiber 45  
 Driving to Town Late to Mail a Letter 45  
 After Long Busyness 45  
 Watering the Horse 45

### **Gwendolyn Brooks**

- from *A Street in Bronzeville*  
     the mother 47  
     the ballad of chocolate Mabbie 48  
     of De Witt Williams on his way to Lincoln Cemetery 49  
 A Catch of Shy Fish 50  
 We Real Cool 53  
 The Lovers of the Poor 53  
 Negro Hero 56

Riot 58

An Aspect of Love, Alive in the Ice and Fire 59

### **Robert Creeley**

I Know a Man 61

A Wicker Basket 61

The Business 62

A Form of Women 63

The Rain 64

On Vacation 65

The Memory 66

The Window 66

The Language 67

Moment 68

The Rescue 68

The Flower 69

### **James Dickey**

In the Mountain Tent 71

Springer Mountain 72

Encounter in the Cage Country 75

The Sheep Child 76

The Heaven of Animals 78

Adultery 79

Slave Quarters 80

The Firebombing 85

The Performance 93

Sled Burial, Dream Ceremony 94

### **Alan Dugan**

Love Song: I and Thou 97

Stutterer 98

Tribute to Kafka for Someone Taken 98

Elegy 99

To a Red-Headed Do-Good Waitress 99

For Masturbation 100

Poem 100

Adultery 101

American Against Solitude 102

Elegy for a Puritan Conscience 102

## **Robert Duncan**

- Poetry, A Natural Thing 105  
The Structure of Rime II 106  
Often I Am Permitted to Return to a Meadow 106  
Ingmar Bergman's *Seventh Seal* 107  
Bending the Bow 109  
The Torso 110  
Such is the Sickness of Many a Good Thing 112  
Tribal Memories 113  
The Structure of Rime XXIII 115

## **Lawrence Ferlinghetti**

- 'Constantly risking absurdity' 117  
'The pennycandystore beyond the EI' 118  
'Sometime during eternity' 118  
Starting from San Francisco 120  
I Am Waiting 123  
After the Cries of the Birds 127  
Pound at Spoleto 132

## **Allen Ginsberg**

- Howl 135  
Footnote to Howl 143  
America 144  
Love Poem on Theme by Whitman 146  
Psalm III 147  
Wales Visitation 147  
On Neal's Ashes 150  
Flashback 150

## **David Ignatow**

- Three in Transition 153  
Come! 153  
Communion 154  
Sunday at the State Hospital 155  
My Place 156  
The Song 156  
The Inheritance 157  
Epitaph 157  
The Bagel 158

Rescue the Dead 158  
All Quiet 159  
First Coffin Poem 160  
Waiting Inside 160

### **Galway Kinnell**

First Song 163  
How Many Nights 163  
On Frozen Fields 164  
The Bear 164  
Vapor Trail Reflected in the Frog Pond 168  
Another Night in the Ruins 169  
Under the Maud Moon 171  
The Hen Flower 175  
Last Songs 179

### **Kenneth Koch**

Fresh Air 181  
Variations on a Theme by William Carlos Williams 187  
Permanently 188  
Taking a Walk with You 188  
To You 192  
West Wind 192

### **Denise Levertov**

One A.M. 195  
Pleasures 195  
from *During the Eichmann Trial: The Peachtree* 196  
Hypocrite Women 198  
A Psalm Praising the Hair of Man's Body 199  
The Wings 200  
The Altars in the Street 201  
Intrusion 202  
The Poem Unwritten 203  
Man Alone 203  
from *Entr'acte: 'Let Us Sing Unto the Lord a New Song'* 204

### **John Logan**

Three Moves 207  
Lines to His Son on Reaching Adolescence 208

Lines on His Birthday 209  
Spring of the Thief 210  
Lines for Michael in the Picture 214  
Love Poem 218  
White Pass Ski Patrol 218  
Dawn and a Woman 220  
from *Poem in Progress*: First Reunion in New Orleans: the Fa  
King of Revels 222

### **Robert Lowell**

Colloquy in Black Rock 225  
Christmas Eve Under Hooker's Statue 226  
Mr. Edwards and the Spider 226  
Memories of West Street and Lepke 228  
"To Speak of Woe That Is in Marriage" 229  
Skunk Hour 230  
Eye and Tooth 231  
Fourth of July in Maine 232  
from *Harriet*: 'An unaccustomed ripeness in the wood' 236  
from *Long Summer*: 'Everyone now is crowding everyone' 237  
History 237

### **W. S. Merwin**

The Drunk in the Furnace 239  
Lemuel's Blessing 240  
Air 242  
Dead Hand 242  
I Live Up Here 243  
Some Last Questions 244  
For the Anniversary of My Death 244  
The Asians Dying 245  
We Continue 246  
December Night 246  
The Hands 247  
A Door 248  
Habits 248  
Eyes of Summer 249  
Animula 249  
Do Not Die 249

## **Frank O'Hara**

- Personal Poem 251
- The Day Lady Died 252
- On Rachmaninoff's Birthday 253
- Les Etiquettes Jaunes 253
- Meditations in an Emergency 254
- Steps 255
- To the Film Industry in Crisis 257
- Poem 258

## **Charles Olson**

- Maximus, to Himself 261
- I, Maximus of Gloucester, to You 262
- Maximus, to Gloucester, Letter 19 (A Pastoral Letter) 266
- The Librarian 268
- Maximus to Gloucester, Letter 27 [Withheld] 271
- A Later Note on Letter #15* 272
- Moonset, Gloucester, December 1, 1957, 1:58 AM 273

## **Sylvia Plath**

- The Colossus 275
- The Stones 276
- Mary's Song 277
- Nick and the Candlestick 278
- Medusa 279
- Cut 281
- Lady Lazarus 282
- Daddy 285
- Winter Trees 287
- Brasilia 288

## **Adrienne Rich**

- The Roofwalker 291
- Peeling Onions 292
- The Knot 293
- November 1968 293
- Planetarium 294
- Incipience 296
- From a Survivor 297
- August 298

- Diving into the Wreck 299  
Reforming the Crystal 301

### **Theodore Roethke**

- The Premonition 305  
Cuttings 305  
Forcing House 306  
My Papa's Waltz 306  
The Lost Son 307  
Elegy for Jane 312  
The Waking 313  
Meditation at Oyster River 314  
In a Dark Time 316  
In Evening Air 317

### **Anne Sexton**

- Ringing the Bells 319  
With Mercy for the Greedy 320  
For God While Sleeping 321  
The Abortion 321  
In Celebration of My Uterus 322  
Man and Wife 324  
Us 325  
from *Eighteen Days without You: December 18th* 326  
The Fury of Cocks 327  
Gods 328  
The Room of My Life 329  
Welcome Morning 330  
Rowing 331

### **Louis Simpson**

- Walt Whitman at Bear Mountain 335  
To the Western World 336  
The Silent Generation 337  
After Midnight 337  
Luminous Night 338  
In the Suburbs 338  
American Dreams 339  
Love, My Machine 339  
The Silent Piano 340  
Sacred Objects 341  
The Subway Grating Fisher 343



## **W. D. Snodgrass**

- Heart's Needle 345  
April Inventory 358  
The Examination 359  
A Flat One 361  
"After Experience Taught Me . . ." 364  
Old Apple Trees 366

## **Gary Snyder**

- Piute Creek 369  
Milton by Firelight 370  
Things to Do Around a Lookout 371  
Things to Do Around a Ship at Sea 372  
Burning the Small Dead 372  
from *Myths & Texts*  
    Logging 5 373  
    Hunting 8 374  
    Hunting 16 376  
Vapor Trails 376  
Song of the Taste 377  
The Bath 378  
As for Poets 380

## **William Stafford**

- An Introduction to Some Poems 383  
Vocation 384  
Across Kansas 384  
My Father: October 1942 385  
A Family Turn 385  
Traveling through the Dark 386  
At the Bomb Testing Site 386  
Touches 387  
For a Child Gone to Live in a Commune 388  
The Stick in the Forest 389  
Report from a Far Place 389

## **Richard Wilbur**

- Praise in Summer 391  
Love Calls Us to the Things of This World 391  
Potato 392  
A Baroque Wall Fountain in the Villa Sciarra 393

- Year's End 395  
A Dubious Night 396  
Advice to a Prophet 397  
The Undead 398  
A Miltonic Sonnet for Mr. Johnson on His Refusal of Peter Hurd's  
Official Portrait 400  
On the Marginal Way 400  
Cottage Street, 1953 402  
The Writer 403

### **James Wright**

- In Shame and Humiliation 407  
As I Step Over a Puddle at the End of Winter, I Think of an Ancient  
Chinese Governor 409  
Autumn Begins in Martins Ferry, Ohio 409  
Lying in a Hammock at William Duffy's Farm in Pine Island, Minne-  
sota 410  
The Jewel 410  
Eisenhower's Visit to Franco, 1959 411  
Late November in a Field 412  
The Lights in the Hallway 412  
In Response to a Rumor that the Oldest Whorehouse in Wheeling, West  
Virginia, Has Been Condemned 413  
Confession to J. Edgar Hoover 414  
A Moral Poem Freely Accepted from Sappho 414  
Goodbye to the Poetry of Calcium 415  
A Poem of Towers 416  
Northern Pike 417  
  
Notes on the Poets 418  
  
Contemporary American Poetry: the Radical Tradition 459  
  
Criticism: a Selected Bibliography 474