

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
AMERICAN POETRY SINCE 1945

The extent to which American poetry reinvented itself after World War II is a testament to the changing social, political, and economic landscape of twentieth-century American life. Registering an important shift in the way scholars contextualize modern and contemporary American literature, this *Companion* explores how American poetry has documented and, at times, helped propel the literary and cultural revolutions of the past sixty-five years. Offering authoritative and accessible essays from fourteen distinguished scholars, the *Companion* sheds new light on the Beat, Black Arts, and other movements while examining institutions that govern poetic practice in the United States today. The text also introduces seminal figures like Sylvia Plath, John Ashbery, and Gwendolyn Brooks while situating them alongside phenomena such as the “academic poet” and popular forms such as spoken word and rap, revealing the breadth of their shared history. Students, scholars, and readers will find this *Companion* an indispensable guide to postwar and late-twentieth-century American poetry.

Jennifer Ashton is Associate Professor of English at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she teaches literary theory and the history of poetry. She is author of *From Modernism to Postmodernism: American Poetry and Theory in the Twentieth Century* and has published articles in *Modernism/Modernity*, *Modern Philology*, *American Literary History*, and *Western Humanities Review*.

A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-0-521-14795-8 — The Cambridge Companion to American Poetry since 1945

Edited by Jennifer Ashton

Frontmatter

[More Information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
AMERICAN POETRY
SINCE 1945

THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
AMERICAN POETRY
SINCE 1945

EDITED BY
JENNIFER ASHTON
University of Illinois at Chicago



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-0-521-14795-8 — The Cambridge Companion to American Poetry since 1945

Edited by Jennifer Ashton

Frontmatter

[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521147958

© Cambridge University Press 2013

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2013

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

The Cambridge companion to American poetry since 1945 /

[edited by] Jennifer Ashton.

p. cm. — (Cambridge companions to literature)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-521-76695-1 (hardback) — ISBN 978-0-521-14795-8 (pbk.)

I. American poetry — 20th century — History and criticism.

I. Ashton, Jennifer, 1964—

PS323.5.C27 2012

811'.509—dc23 2012016512

ISBN 978-0-521-76695-1 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-14795-8 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

CONTENTS

<i>Notes on Contributors</i>	page ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xiii
<i>Chronology of Publications and Events</i>	xv
1. Periodizing Poetic Practice since 1945 JENNIFER ASHTON	i
2. From the Late Modernism of the “Objectivists” to the Proto-postmodernism of “Projective Verse” MARK SCROGGINS	16
3. Confessional Poetry DEBORAH NELSON	31
4. Surrealism as a Living Modernism: What the New York Poets Learned from Two Generations of New York Painting CHARLES ALTIERI	47
5. The San Francisco Renaissance MICHAEL DAVIDSON	66
6. Three Generations of Beat Poetics RONNA C. JOHNSON	80
7. The Poetics of Chant and Inner/Outer Space: The Black Arts Movement MARGO NATALIE CRAWFORD	94
8. Feminist Poetries LISA SEWELL	109
	vii

CONTENTS

9. Eco-poetries in America NICK SELBY	127
10. Language Writing STEVE MCCAFFERY	143
11. American Poetry and Its Institutions HANK LAZER	158
12. The Contemporary “Mainstream” Lyric CHRISTINA PUGH	173
13. Poems in and out of School: Allen Grossman and Susan Howe OREN IZENBERG	187
14. Rap, Hip Hop, Spoken Word MICHAEL W. CLUNE	202
15. Poetry of the Twenty-First Century: The First Decade JENNIFER ASHTON	216
<i>Index</i>	231

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

CHARLES ALTIERI teaches in the English Department at UC Berkeley. His most recent books are *The Particulars of Rapture* (Cornell University Press, 2004) and *The Art of Twentieth-Century American Poetry: Modernism and After* (Blackwell, 2009). He has just completed a book manuscript, *Wallace Stevens and the Phenomenology of Value*.

JENNIFER ASHTON teaches in the University of Illinois at Chicago and is one of the founding editors of nonsite.org. She is the author of *From Modernism to Postmodernism: American Poetry and Theory in the Twentieth Century* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) and a contributor to *The Cambridge History of American Women's Writing*, edited by Dale Bauer (Cambridge University Press, 2012). Her scholarly articles have appeared in *ELH*, *Modernism/Modernity*, *Modern Philology*, *ALH*, *Western Humanities Review*, and the international online arts journal, *Interval(le)s*.

MICHAEL W. CLUNE is Assistant Professor of English at Case Western Reserve University. He is the author of *American Literature and the Free Market, 1945–2000* (Cambridge University Press, 2010). Elements of his new book project, *Writing Against Time*, have appeared in *Representations*, *Criticism*, and *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*.

MARGO NATALIE CRAWFORD is the author of *Dilution Anxiety and the Black Phallus* (Ohio State University Press, 2008) and the coeditor, with Lisa Gail Collins and Alondra Nelson, of *New Thoughts on the Black Arts Movement* (Rutgers University Press, 2006). She is associate professor of African American literature and visual culture at Cornell University.

MICHAEL DAVIDSON is Distinguished Professor of Literature at the University of California, San Diego. He is the author of *The San Francisco Renaissance: Poetics and Community at Mid-Century* (Cambridge University Press, 1989), *Ghostlier Demarcations: Modern Poetry and the Material Word* (University of California Press, 1997), *Guys Like Us: Citing Masculinity in Cold War Poetics* (University of

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Chicago, 2003), and *Concerto for the Left Hand: Disability and the Defamiliar Body* (University of Michigan, 2008). His most recent book, *Outskirts of Form: Practicing Cultural Poetics*, was published in 2011 by Wesleyan University Press. He is the editor of *The New Collected Poems of George Oppen* (New Directions, 2002). He is the author of five books of poetry, the most recent of which is *The Arcades* (O Books, 1998). He is the coauthor, with Lyn Hejinian, Barrett Watten, and Ron Silliman, of *Leningrad* (Mercury House Press, 1991). He has written extensively on disability issues, most recently “Hearing Things: The Scandal of Speech in Deaf Performance,” in *Disability Studies: Enabling the Humanities*, ed. Sharon Snyder et al. (Modern Language Association, 2002); “Phantom Limbs: Film Noir and the Disabled Body,” *GLQ* 9:1–2 (2003); *Universal Design: The Work of Disability in an Age of Globalization*, *The Disability Studies Reader*, ed. Lennard Davis (Routledge, 2010); and “Pregnant Men: Modernism, Disability, and Biofuturity in Djuna Barnes,” *Novel* 54.3 (Summer 2010).

OREN IZENBERG is the author of *Being Numerous: Poetry and the Ground of Social Life* (Princeton University Press, 2011). He is Assistant Professor of English at the University of California, Irvine.

RONNA C. JOHNSON is Lecturer in English, Women’s Studies, and American Studies at Tufts University, where she has been Director of Women’s Studies. She studies Jack Kerouac, Joyce Johnson, Lenore Kandel, and Brenda Frazer, as well as other Beat writers, often focusing on gender in Beat movement discourses. She is currently finishing the book *Inventing Jack Kerouac: Reception and Reputation 1957–2007* (Camden House Press). Her essay, “Beat Transnationalism Under Gender: Brenda Frazer’s Troia: Mexican Memoirs,” appears in *The Transnational Beat Generation*, ed. Nancy M. Grace and Jennie Skerl (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012). She has written, with Nancy M. Grace, *Breaking the Rule of Cool: Interviewing and Reading Women Beat Writers* (University Press of Mississippi, 2004), a sequel to their *Girls Who Wore Black: Women Writing the Beat Generation* (Rutgers University Press, 2002). Johnson is a cofounder and Vice President of the Beat Studies Association.

HANK LAZER is the author of sixteen books of poetry, including *Portions* (Lavender Ink, 2009), *The New Spirit* (Singing Horse Press, 2005), *Elegies & Vacations* (Salt Publishing, 2004), and *Days* (INK-A! Press, 2002). *Lyric & Spirit: Selected Essays 1996–2008* was published by Omnidawn in 2008. He coedits the Modern and Contemporary Poetics Series for the University of Alabama Press. Lazer is Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Executive Director of Creative Campus, and Professor of English at the University of Alabama.

STEVE MCCAFFERY is author of more than thirty-five volumes of poetry and four critical books. A fifth, *The Darkness of the Present: Poetics, Anachronism and the Anomaly*, will appear through the University of Alabama Press in late 2012. He is

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

David Gray Professor of Poetry and Letters at SUNY Buffalo and Director of the Poetics Program.

DEBORAH NELSON is the author of *Pursuing Privacy in Cold War America* (Columbia University Press, 2002) and the forthcoming *Tough Broads: Suffering in Style*. She received her PhD from the City University of New York and teaches at the University of Chicago, where she is the Deputy Provost for Graduate Education.

CHRISTINA PUGH is an Associate Professor in the Program for Writers at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has published two books of poetry: *Restoration* (Northwestern University Press, 2008) and *Rotary* (Word Press, 2004, winner of the Word Press First Book Prize). Her awards have included the Lucille Medwick Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America and a fellowship in poetry from the Illinois Arts Council.

MARK SCROGGINS is Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the English department at Florida Atlantic University. He is the author of *Louis Zukofsky and the Poetry of Knowledge* (University of Alabama Press, 1998) and *The Poem of a Life: A Biography of Louis Zukofsky* (Counterpoint, 2007). His most recent collections of poetry are *Torture Garden: Naked City Pastorelles* (Cultural Society, 2011) and *Red Arcadia* (Shearsman, 2012).

NICK SELBY is Professor of American Literature and Head of the School of American Studies at the University of East Anglia. His book *Poetics of Loss in The Cantos of Ezra Pound* was published in 2005 by Edwin Mellen Press, and he has published three other books, on Herman Melville, T. S. Eliot, and Walt Whitman, as well as numerous essays on topics concerned with American poetry, poetics, and culture. A new book, *Dazzling Geographies: American Poetics in Ezra Pound, Gary Snyder and Jorie Graham*, which examines the relationship between American poetics and ideas of the land, is forthcoming. He is the editor of *Comparative American Studies*.

LISA SEWELL is the author of *The Way Out* (Alice James, 2002), *Name Withheld* (Four Way Books, 2006), and *Long Corridor* (Seven Kitchens Press, 2009). With Claudia Rankine, she has edited two collections of essays on contemporary poetry and poetics: *American Poets in the 21st Century: The New Poetics* (Wesleyan University Press, 2002) and *Eleven More American Women Poets in the 21st Century: Poetics Across North American* (Wesleyan University Press, 2012). She teaches in the English Department at Villanova University.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This volume's strength rests entirely on the shoulders of its thirteen distinguished contributors, whose work will speak eloquently for itself. They have succeeded together in producing a far more nuanced, surprising, and useful vision of American poetry since 1945 than I could have imagined even in my wildest fantasies. It's a tremendous privilege to find my own work in the same pages as theirs. I would like to thank Matthew Brown, Matthew Corey, Chad Heltzel, and Jennifer Moore, who made indelible contributions to this *Companion* with their superb editorial and research assistance. Their work on this volume was partially funded with the financial support of the UIC English Department, authorized by my department head, Mark Canuel, whose moral support and encouragement have been important to me throughout the preparation of this volume, and of the Cambridge University Press offices of my editor Ray Ryan, who have demonstrated saintly levels of patience and generosity. As ever, I owe my deepest thanks for the development of my ideas to Ruth Leys and Michael Fried, Oren Izenberg and Sonya Rasminsky, Edward and Katherine Ashton, and to my husband, Walter Benn Michaels.

CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

- 1945 Pulitzer Prize: Karl Shapiro, *V-Letter and Other Poems*
Gwendolyn Brooks, *A Street in Bronzeville*
- 1946 Elizabeth Bishop, *North & South*
William Carlos Williams, *Paterson*, Book I
Lorine Niedecker, *New Goose*
- 1947 Pulitzer Prize: Robert Lowell, *Lord Weary's Castle*
Robert Duncan, *Heavenly City, Earthly City*
Wallace Stevens, *Transport to Summer*
- 1948 Pulitzer Prize: W. H. Auden, *The Age of Anxiety*
Ezra Pound, *The Pisan Cantos* and *The Cantos of Ezra Pound*
Theodore Roethke, *The Lost Son and Other Poems*
- 1949 Pulitzer Prize: Peter Viereck, *Terror and Decorum*
Charles Olson, "The Kingfishers"
Kenneth Patchen, *Red Wine & Yellow Hair* and *To Say If You
Love Someone*
Kenneth Rexroth, *The Signature of All Things* and *The Art of
Worldly Wisdom*
- 1950 Pulitzer Prize: Gwendolyn Brooks, *Annie Allen*
National Book Award: William Carlos Williams, *Paterson:
Book III and Selected Poems*
Charles Olson, "Projective Verse" appears in *Poetry New York*
(no. 3)
E. E. Cummings, *XAIPE: 71 Poems*
- 1951 (May) In New York City, Leo Castelli curates the 9th Street
Art Exhibition, exhibiting paintings by Willem de Kooning,
Jackson Pollock, Barnett Newman, and Mark Rothko

CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

- (Summer) Charles Olson named as rector of Black Mountain College
 Pulitzer Prize: Carl Sandberg, *Complete Poems*
 National Book Award: Wallace Stevens, *The Auroras of Autumn*
 Cid Corman, ed. *Origin* magazine
 Langston Hughes, *Montage of a Dream Deferred*
- 1952 (August) John Cage premieres 4'33"
 Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award: Marianne Moore, *Collected Poems*
 Robert Creeley, *Le Fou*
 Archibald MacLeish, *Collected Poems, 1917–1952*
 W. S. Merwin, *A Mask for Janus*
- 1953 Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award: Archibald MacLeish, *Collected Poems, 1917–1952*
 John Ashbery, *Turandot and Other Poems*
 Larry Eigner, *From the Sustaining Air*
 Kenneth Koch, *Poems*
 Charles Olson, *In Cold Hell, In Thicket*
 Theodore Roethke, *The Waking*
- 1954 Pulitzer Prize: Theodore Roethke, *The Waking*
 National Book Award: Conrad Aiken, *Collected Poems*
 Robert Creeley, ed. *Black Mountain Review*
 Anthony Hecht, *A Summoning of Stones*
- 1955 (October) The Six Gallery reading showcases the poetry of Allen Ginsberg, Phillip Lamantia, Michael McClure, Gary Snyder, and Philip Whalen
 Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award: Wallace Stevens, *Collected Poems*
 Lawrence Ferlinghetti, *Pictures of the Gone World*
 Adrienne Rich, *The Diamond Cutters*
- 1956 (Autumn) Black Mountain College closes
 Pulitzer Prize: Elizabeth Bishop, *Poems: North & South/A Cold Spring*
 National Book Award: W. H. Auden, *The Shield of Achilles*
 John Ashbery, *Some Trees*
 John Berryman, *Homage to Mistress Bradstreet*
 Allen Ginsberg, *Howl and Other Poems*
 Denise Levertov, *Here and Now*

CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

- 1957 (October) Judge Clayton W. Horn rules that Lawrence Ferlinghetti is not guilty of obscenity for publishing *Howl and Other Poems* by Allen Ginsberg
Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award: Richard Wilbur, *Things of This World*
Donald Hall, Robert Pack, and Louis Simpson, eds., *New Poets of England and America*
Frank O'Hara, *Meditations in an Emergency*
Wallace Stevens, *Opus Posthumous*
- 1958 Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award: Robert Penn Warren, *Promises: Poems 1954–1956*
Gregory Corso, *Bomb and Gasoline*
Lawrence Ferlinghetti, *A Coney Island of the Mind*
Bob Kaufman, *Abomunist Manifesto*
- 1959 Pulitzer Prize: Stanley Kunitz, *Selected Poems 1928–1958*
National Book Award: Theodore Roethke, *Words for the Wind*
Ted Joans, *Funky Jazz Poems*
Robert Lowell, *Life Studies*
Gary Snyder, *Riprap and Cold Mountain Poems*
Louis Zukofsky, 'A,' 1–12
- 1960 Pulitzer Prize: W. D. Snodgrass, *Heart's Needle*
National Book Award: Robert Lowell, *Life Studies*
Donald Allen, ed., *The New American Poetry 1945–1960*
Robert Duncan, *The Opening of the Field*
Charles Olson, *The Maximus Poems*
Anne Sexton, *To Bedlam and Part Way Back*
Gwendolyn Brooks, *The Bean Eaters*
- 1961 Pulitzer Prize: Phyllis McGinley, *Times Three: Selected Verse from Three Decades*
National Book Award: Randall Jarrell, *The Woman at the Washington Zoo*
LeRoi Jones, *Preface to a Twenty Volume Suicide Note*
- 1962 Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award: Alan Dugan, *Poems*
John Ashbery, *The Tennis Court Oath*
Cid Corman, *Sun Rock Man*
Robert Creeley, *For Love: Poems 1950–1960*
Denise Levertov, *The Jacob's Ladder*
William Carlos Williams, *Pictures from Brueghel and Other Poems*

CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

- Barbara Guest, *Poems: The Location of Things, Archaics, The Open Skies*
- 1963 Pulitzer Prize: William Carlos Williams, *Pictures from Breughel*
National Book Award: William Stafford, *Traveling Through the Dark*
James Wright, *The Branch Will Not Break*
- 1964 Pulitzer Prize: Louis Simpson, *At the End of the Open Road*
National Book Award: John Crowe Ransom, *Selected Poems*
Ted Berrigan, *The Sonnets*
Robert Lowell, *For the Union Dead*
Frank O'Hara, *Lunch Poems*
A. B. Spellman, *The Beautiful Days*
Jack Spicer, *Language*
- 1965 Pulitzer Prize: John Berryman, *77 Dream Songs*
National Book Award: Theodore Roethke, *The Far Field*
Charles Olson, *Proprioception*
Sylvia Plath, *Ariel*
Charles Reznikoff, *Testimony: The United States (1885–1890): Recitative*
A. R. Ammons, *Corson's Inlet and Tape for the Turn of the New Year*
- 1966 Pulitzer Prize: Richard Eberhart, *Selected Poems*
National Book Award: James Dickey, *Buckdancer's Choice: Poems*
Amiri Baraka, *Black Art*
Diane di Prima, *Poems for Freddie*
James Merrill, *Nights and Days*
- 1967 Pulitzer Prize: Anne Sexton, *Live or Die*
National Book Award: James Merrill, *Nights and Days*
Ted Berrigan, *Many Happy Returns*
Robert Creeley, *Words*
Nikki Giovanni, *Black Feeling, Black Talk*
Lenore Kandel, *Word Alchemy*
W. S. Merwin, *The Lice*
James Wright, *Shall We Gather at the River*
- 1968 Pulitzer Prize: Anthony Hecht, *The Hard Hours*
National Book Award: Robert Bly, *The Light Around the Body*
Amiri Baraka and Larry Neal, eds., *Black Fire*
Gwendolyn Brooks, *In the Mecca*

CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

- Ed Dorn, *Gunslinger*
 Robert Duncan, *Bending the Bow*
 Audre Lorde, *The First Cities*
 Lorine Niedecker, *North Central*
 George Oppen, *Of Being Numerous*
 Charles Reznikoff, *Testimony: The United States (1891–1900):
 Recitative*
 Mark Strand, *Reasons for Moving*
- 1969 Pulitzer Prize: George Oppen, *Of Being Numerous*
 National Book Award: John Berryman, *His Toy, His Dream,
 His Rest*
 John Berryman, *The Dream Songs*
 Robert Creeley, *Pieces*
 James Schuyler, *Freely Espousing*
- 1970 Steve McCaffery, bpNichol, Rafael Barreto-Rivera, and Paul
 Dutton form the sound-poetry group, *The Four Horsemen*
 Pulitzer Prize: Richard Howard, *Untitled Subjects*
 National Book Award: Elizabeth Bishop, *The Complete Poems*
 Amiri Baraka, *It's Nation Time*
 Clark Coolidge, *Space*
 Michael S. Harper, *Dear John, Dear Coltrane*
 Audre Lorde, *Cables to Rage*
 Haki Madhubuti, *Don't Cry, Scream*
 Sonia Sanchez, *We a Baddddd People*
- 1971 Pulitzer Prize: William S. Merwin, *The Carrier of Ladders*
 National Book Award: Mona Van Duyn, *To See, To Take*
 (Winter) Robert Grenier and Barrett Watten publish the first
 volume of *This*
 June Jordan, *Some Changes*
 Galway Kinnell, *The Book of Nightmares*
 Stanley Kunitz, *The Testing Tree*
 Charles Simic, *Dismantling the Distance*
- 1972 Pulitzer Prize: James Wright, *Collected Poems*
 National Book Award: Frank O'Hara, *The Collected Works
 of Frank O'Hara* and Howard Moss, *Selected Poems*
 H. D. (Hilda Doolittle), *Hermetic Definition*
 Allen Ginsberg, *The Fall of America: Poems of these States,
 1965–1971*
 George Oppen, *Collected Poems*

CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

- 1973 Pulitzer Prize: Maxine Kumin, *Up Country*
 National Book Award: A. R. Ammons, *Collected Poems, 1951–1971*
 Frank Bidart, *Golden State*
 Muriel Rukeyser, *Breaking Open*
- 1974 Pulitzer Prize: Robert Lowell, *The Dolphin*
 National Book Award: Allen Ginsberg, *The Fall of America: Poems of these States, 1965–1971* and Adrienne Rich, *Diving into the Wreck: Poems 1971–1972*
 A. R. Ammons, *Sphere: The Form of a Motion*
 Leslie Marmon Silko, *Laguna Woman*
 Gary Snyder, *Turtle Island*
- 1975 Pulitzer Prize: Gary Snyder, *Turtle Island*
 National Book Award: Marilyn Hacker, *Presentation Piece*
 Charles Reznikoff, *Holocaust*
 Denise Levertov, *Freeing the Dust*
 Kenneth Koch, *The Art of Love*
 Anne Waldman, *Fast Speaking Woman*
- 1976 Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award: John Ashbery, *Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror*
 Lorine Niedecker, *Blue Chicory*
- 1977 (Summer) Steve McCaffery edits *The Politics of the Referent*, a special issue of *Open Letter*
 Pulitzer Prize: James Merrill, *Divine Comedies*
 National Book Award: Richard Eberhart, *Collected Poems, 1930–1976*
 John Ashbery, *Houseboat Days*
 Jayne Cortez, *Mouth on Paper*
 Ronald Johnson, *radi os I-IV*
- 1978 Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award: Howard Nemerov, *Collected Poems*
 Rae Armantrout, *Extremities*
 Robert Grenier, *Sentences*
 Lyn Hejinian, *Writing Is an Aid to Memory*
 Audre Lorde, *The Black Unicorn*
 Adrienne Rich, *The Dream of a Common Language*
- 1979 Pulitzer Prize: Robert Penn Warren, *Now and Then*
 National Book Award: James Merrill, *Mirabell: Book of Numbers*

CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

- National Poetry Series: Sterling Allen Brown, *The Collected Poems of Sterling A Brown*; Joseph Langland *Anybody's Song*; Roberta Spear, *Silks*
 Mei-Mei Bersenbrugge, *Random Possession*
 Robert Hass, *Praise*
 Denise Levertov, *Collected Earlier Poems*
 Steve McCaffery and bpNichol, *Sound Poetry: A Catalogue*
 Charles Reznikoff, *Testimony: The United States (1885–1915): Recitative*
- 1980 Audre Lorde, Barbara Smith, and Cherríe Moraga found Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press
 Pulitzer Prize: Donald Justice, *Selected Poems*
 National Book Award: Philip Levine, *Ashes: Poems New and Old*
 National Poetry Series: George Barlow, *Gumbo*; Larry Levis, *The Dollmaker's Ghost*; Robert Peterson, *Leaving Taos*; Reg Saner, *So This Is the Map*; Michael Ryan, *In Winter*
 Louise Glück, *Descending Figure*
 Lyn Hejinian, *My Life*
 Sharon Olds, *Satan Says*
 Alicia Ostriker, *The Mother-Child Papers*
- 1981 MacArthur Fellowships: A. R. Ammons, Joseph Brodsky, Derek Walcott, and Robert Penn Warren
 Pulitzer Prize: James Schuyler, *The Morning of the Poem*
 National Book Award: Lisel Mueller, *The Need to Hold Still*
 National Poetry Series: Jonathan Aaron, *Second Sight*; Cyrus Cassells, *The Mud Actor*; Denis Johnson, *The Incognito Lounge and Other Poems*; Nami Shihab Nye, *Hugging the Jukebox*; Sherod Santos, *Accidental Weather*
 Charles Bernstein, *Disfrutes*
 Carolyn Forché, *The Country Between Us*
 Michael Palmer, *Notes for Echo Lake*
 Bob Perelman, *Primer*
 Ron Silliman, *Tjanting*
- 1982 Pulitzer Prize: Sylvia Plath, *The Collected Poems* (posthumous)
 National Book Award: William Bronk, *Life Supports: New and Collected Poems*
 National Poetry Series: Joanne Kyger, *Going On: Selected Poems 1958–1980*; Jane Miller, *The Greater Leisures*;

CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

- Donald Revell, *From the Abandoned Cities*; Susan Tichy, *The Hands in Exile*; John Yau, *Corpse and Mirror*
 Jayne Cortez, *Firespitter*
 Larry Eigner, *Water/Places/a Time*
 Joanne Kyger, *Going On: Selected Poems, 1958–1980*
 Bernadette Mayer, *Midwinter Day*
 James Merrill, *The Changing Light at Sandover*
 Hannah Weiner, *The Code Poems*
 Charles Wright, *The Southern Cross*
- 1983 MacArthur Fellowships: Brad Leithauser and A.K. Ramanujan
 Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award: Galway Kinnell, *Selected Poems*
 National Poetry Series: Wendy Battin, *In the Solar Wind*; Stephen Dobyns, *Black Dog, Red Dog*; Mary Fell, *The Persistence of Memory*; James Galvin, *God's Mistress*
 A. R. Ammons, *Lake Effect Country*
 Charles Bernstein, *Islets/Irritations*
 Frank Bidart, *The Sacrifice*
 Elizabeth Bishop (posthumous), *Collected Poems 1927–1979*
 Joy Harjo, *She Had Some Horses*
 Gary Snyder, *Axe Handles*
 John Yau, *Corpse and Mirror*
- 1984 MacArthur Fellowships: Robert Hass, Charles Simic, and Galway Kinnell
 Pulitzer Prize: Mary Oliver, *American Primitive* and John Ashbery, *A Wave*
 National Poetry Series: Amy Bartlett, *Afterwards*; Kathy Fagan, *The Raft*; Robert L. Jones, *Wild Onion*; Nathaniel Mackey, *Eroding Witness*; Bruce Smith, *Silver and Information*
 Bruce Andrews and Charles Bernstein, eds., *The L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E Book*
 Mei-Mei Bersenbrugge, *The Heat Bird*
 Robert Duncan, *Ground Work: Before the War*
 Kenneth Rexroth, *Selected Poems*
 Yusef Komunyakaa, *Copacetic*
- 1985 MacArthur Fellowship: John Ashbery
 Pulitzer Prize: Carolyn Kizer, *Yin*

CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

- National Poetry Series: Stephen Dunn, *Local Time*; Alice Fulton, *Palladium*; Reginald Gibbons, *Saints*; Jack Myers, *As Long as You're Happy*
 Amy Clampitt, *What the Light Was Like*
 Susan Howe, *My Emily Dickinson*
 Sonia Sanchez, *Homegirls and Handgrenades*
 Gjertrud Schnackenberg, *The Lamplit Answer*
- 1986 MacArthur Fellowships: Daryl Hine and Jay Wright
 Pulitzer Prize: Henry Taylor, *The Flying Change*
 National Poetry Series: Barbara Anderson, *Junk City*; John Engels, *Cardinals in the Ice Age*; Mark Halliday, *Little Star*; Sylvia Moss, *Cities in Motion*; Charlie Smith, *Red Roads*
 Philip Dacey and David Jauss, eds., *Strong Measures: Contemporary American Poetry in Traditional Forms*
 Alice Fulton, *Palladium*
 Li-Young Lee, *Rose*
- 1987 MacArthur Fellowships: Douglas Crase, Richard Kenney, Mark Strand, and May Swenson
 Pulitzer Prize: Rita Dove, *Thomas and Beulah*
 National Poetry Series: Jeffrey Harrison, *Singing Underneath*; Marie Howe, *The Good Thief*; William Olsen, *The Hand of God and a Few Bright Flowers*; Jeffrey Skinner, *A Guide to Forgetting*; Cole Swensen, *New Math*
 Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*
 Rachel Blau DuPlessis, *Tabula Rosa*
 Robert Duncan, *Ground Work II: In the Dark*
 Jorie Graham, *The End of Beauty*
- 1988 Pulitzer Prize: William Meredith, *Partial Accounts: New and Selected Poems*
 National Poetry Series: Emily Hiestand, *Green the Witch-Hazel Wood*; David Mura, *After We Lost Our Way*; Len Roberts, *Black Wings*; Lee Upton, *No Mercy*; Paul Zimmer, *Great Bird of Love*
 Ted Berrigan, *A Certain Slant of Sunlight*
 Michael Palmer, *Sun*
 Leslie Scalapino, *way*
- 1989 MacArthur Fellowship: Allen Grossman
 Pulitzer Prize: Richard Wilbur, *New and Collected Poems*

CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

- National Poetry Series: Tom Andrews, *The Brother's Country*;
 Thomas Centolella, *Terra Firma*; David Clewell, *Blessings
 in Disguise*; Roland Flint, *Stubborn*; Carol Snow, *Artist and
 Model*
 Ed Dorn, *Abhorrences*
 Robert Hass, *Human Wishes*
 Bernadette Mayer, *Sonnets*
 Thylia Moss, *Pyramid of Bone*
- 1990 MacArthur Fellowships: Jorie Graham and John Hollander
 Pulitzer Prize: Charles Simic, *The World Doesn't End*
 National Poetry Series: John Balaban, *Words for My Daughter*;
 Billy Collins, *Questions about Angels*; Roger Fanning, *The
 Island Itself*; Thylia Moss, *Rainbow Remnants in Rock
 Bottom Ghetto Sky*; Laura Mullen, *The Surface*
 Frank Bidart, *In the Western Night: Collected Poems*
 Alice Fulton, *Powers of Congress*
 Amy Gerstler, *Bitter Angel*
 Joy Harjo, *In Mad Love and War*
 Derek Walcott, *Omeros*
- 1991 Debut of the World Wide Web as a publicly available service
 MacArthur Fellowships: Alice Fulton and Eleanor Wilner
 Pulitzer Prize: Mona Van Duyn, *Near Changes*
 National Book Award: Philip Levine, *What Work Is*
 National Poetry Series: Stuart Dischell, *Good Hope Road*;
 Lynn Emanuel, *The Dig*; Judith Hall, *To Put the Mouth to*;
 James Richardson, *As If*; David Romtvedt, *A Flower Whose
 Name I Do Not Know*
 John Ashbery, *Flow Chart*
 Billy Collins, *Questions about Angels*
 Robert Creeley, *Selected Poems*
 Joanne Kyger, *Just Space: Poems, 1979–1989*
 Adrienne Rich, *An Atlas of the Difficult World*
- 1992 MacArthur Fellowships: Amy Clampitt and Irving Feldman
 Pulitzer Prize: James Tate, *Selected Poems*
 National Book Award: Mary Oliver, *New and Selected Poems*
 National Poetry Series: Gerald Burns, *Shorter Poems*; Mark
 Doty, *My Alexandria*; Terry Ehret, *Lost Body*; Mark Levine,
Debt; Lawrence Raab, *What We Don't Know about Each
 Other*

CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

- Sherman Alexie, *The Business of Fancydancing*
 Bruce Andrews, *I Don't Have Any Paper So Shut Up*
 Charles Bernstein, *A Poetics*
 Thom Gunn, *The Man with Night Sweats*
 Lyn Hejinian, *The Cell*
- 1993 MacArthur Fellowships: Thom Gunn, Ann Lauterbach, and Jim Powell
 Pulitzer Prize: Louise Glück, *The Wild Iris*
 National Book Award: A. R. Ammons, *Garbage*
 National Poetry Series: Rafael Campo, *The Other Man Was Me: A Voyage to the New World*; Martin Edmunds, *The High Road to Taos*; Karen Swenson, *The Landlady in Bangkok*; Rachel Wetzsteon, *The Other Stars*; Kevin Young, *Most Way Home*
 Jorie Graham, *Materialism*
 James Schuyler, *Collected Poems*
 Alex Preminger and T. V. F. Brogan, eds., *The New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*
- 1994 MacArthur Fellowship: Adrienne Rich
 Pulitzer Prize: Yusef Komunyakaa, *Neon Vernacular: New and Selected Poems*
 National Book Award: James Tate, *A Worshipful Company of Fletchers*
 National Poetry Series: Erin Belieu, *Infanta*; Pam Rehm, *To Give It Up*; Matthew Rohrer, *Hummock in the Malookas*; Samn Stockwell, *Theater of Animals*; Elizabeth Willis, *The Human Abstract*
 Ted Berrigan, *Selected Poems*
 Michael Fried, *To the Center of the Earth*
 Louise Glück, *Proofs & Theories*
 Paul Hoover, ed. *Norton Anthology of Postmodern American Poetry*
- 1995 MacArthur Fellowship: Sandra Cisneros
 Pulitzer Prize: Philip Levine, *The Simple Truth*
 National Book Award: Stanley Kunitz, *Passing Through: The Later Poems*
 National Poetry Series: Heather Allen, *Leaving a Shadow*; Marcus Cafagna, *The Broken World*; Daniel Hall, *Strange Relation*; Juliana Spahr, *Strange Response*; Karen Volkman, *Crash's Law*

CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

- Lucie Brock-Broido, *The Master Letters*
 Billy Collins, *The Art of Drowning*
 Alice Fulton, *Sensual Math*
 Michael Palmer, *At Passages*
 Rosmarie Waldrop, *A Key into the Language of America*
- 1996 MacArthur Fellowships: Richard Howard and Thylia Moss
 Pulitzer Prize: Jorie Graham, *The Dream of the Unified Field*
 National Book Award: Hayden Carruth, *Scrambled Eggs and Whiskey*
 National Poetry Series: Jeanne Marie Beaumont, *Placebo Effects*; A. V. Christie, *Nine Skies*; Jeff Clark, *The Little Door Slides Back*; Barbara Cully, *The New Intimacy*; Mary Leader, *Red Signature*
 Robert Duncan, *Ground Work*
 Mark Jarman and David Mason, eds., *Rebel Angels: 25 Poets of the New Formalism*
 Susan Howe, *Frame Structures*
 Ronald Johnson, *ARK*
 Reginald Shepherd, *Angel, Interrupted*
- 1997 MacArthur Fellowship: Susan Stewart
 Pulitzer Prize: Lisel Mueller, *Alive Together: New and Selected Poems*
 National Book Award: William Meredith, *Effort at Speech: New and Selected Poems*
 National Poetry Series: Sandra Alcosser, *Except by Nature*; Bartine Bellen, *Tales of Muraski and Other Poems*; Robert Gibb, *The Origins of Evening*; Lisa Lewis, *Silent Treatment*; Heather Ramsdell, *Lost Wax*
 Kim Addonizio, *Jimmy & Rita*
 Frank Bidart, *Desire*
 Brenda Hillman, *Loose Sugar*
 Lisa Robertson, *Debbie: An Epic*
- 1998 MacArthur Fellowships: Linda Bierds, Edward Hirsch, and Ishmael Reed
 Pulitzer Prize: Charles Wright, *Black Zodiac*
 National Book Award: Gerald Stern, *This Time: New and Selected Poems*
 National Poetry Series: Rigoberto Gonzalez, *So Often the Pitcher Goes to Water Until It Breaks*; Harry Humes,

CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

- Butterfly Effect*; Joan Murray, *Looking for the Parade*; Ed Roberson, *Atmospheric Conditions*; Lee Ann Roripaugh, *Beyond Heart Mountain*
 Anne Carson, *Autobiography of Red*
 Robert Creeley, *Life and Death*
 Alice Notley, *Mysteries of Small Houses*
 Charles Wright, *Appalachia*
- 1999 MacArthur Fellowship: Campbell McGrath
 Pulitzer Prize: Mark Strand, *Blizzard of One*
 National Book Award: Ai, *Vice: New and Selected Poems*
 National Poetry Series: Tenaya Darlington, *Madame Deluxe*;
 Eugene Gloria, *Drivers at the Short-Time Motel*; Corey Marks, *Renunciation*; Dionisio D. Martinez, *Climbing Back*; Standard Schaefer, *Nova*
 Rafael Campo, *Diva*
 Wanda Coleman, *Bathwater Wine*
 August Kleinzahler, *Green Sees Things in Waves*
 Michael Palmer, *The Danish Notebook*
 Leslie Scalapino and Lyn Hejinian, *Sight*
- 2000 MacArthur Fellowships: Anne Carson and Lucia M. Perillo
 Pulitzer Prize: C. K. Williams, *Repair*
 National Book Award: Lucille Clifton, *Blessing the Boats: New and Selected Poems 1988–2000*
 National Poetry Series: Jean Donnelly, *Anthem*; Susan Atefat Peckham, *That Kind of Sleep*; Spencer Short, *Tremolo*; Rebecca Wolff, *Manderley*; Susan Wood, *Asunder*
 Kay Ryan, *Say Uncle*
- 2001 Pulitzer Prize: Stephen Dunn, *Different Hours*
 National Book Award: Alan Dugan, *Poems Seven: New and Complete Poetry*
 National Poetry Series: Betsy Brown, *Year of Morphines*; David Groff, *Theory of Devolution*; Terrance Hayes, *Hip Logic*; Elizabeth Robinson, *Pure Descent*; Ruth L. Schwartz, *Edgewater*
 Christian Bök, *Eunoia*
 Alice Fulton, *Felt*
 Allen Grossman, *How to Do Things with Tears*
 Nada Gordon and Gary Sullivan, *Swoon*
 Rod Smith, *The Good House*

CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

- 2002 Lilly Pharmaceuticals heiress Ruth Lilly bequeaths \$100 million to *Poetry: A Magazine of Verse*
 Pulitzer Prize: Carl Dennis, *Practical Gods*
 National Book Award: Ruth Stone, *In the Next Galaxy*
 National Poetry Series: Julie Kane, *Rhythm and Booze*; W. B. Keckler, *Sanskrit of the Body*; Eleni Sikelianos, *The Monster Lives of Boys and Girls*; Gabriel Spera, *The Standing Wave*; Meredith Stricker, *Tenderness Shore*
 Rachel Blau DuPlessis, *Drafts 1–38*
 Myung Mi Kim, *Commons*
 Major Jackson, *Leaving Saturn*
 Harryette Mullen, *Sleeping with the Dictionary*
 Claudia Rankine and Juliana Spahr, eds., *American Women Poets in the 21st Century: Where Lyric Meets Language*
- 2003 Establishment of The Poetry Foundation
 Pulitzer Prize: Paul Muldoon, *Moy Sand and Gravel*
 National Book Award: C. K. Williams, *The Singing*
 National Poetry Series: Stephen Cramer, *Shiva's Drum*; Andrew Field, *Citizen*; Raymond McDaniel, *Murder (a violet)*; John Spaulding, *The White Train*; Mark Yakich, *Unrelated Individuals Forming a Group Waiting to Cross*
 Kenneth Golsmith, *Day*
 K. Silem Mohammad, *Deer Head Nation*
 C. D. Wright, *One Big Self*
- 2004 MacArthur Fellowship: C. D. Wright
 Pulitzer Prize: Franz Wright, *Walking to Martha's Vineyard*
 National Book Award: Jean Valentine, *Door in the Mountain: New and Collected Poems, 1965–2003*
 National Poetry Series: David Friedman, *The Welcome*; Tyehimba Jess, *leadbelly*; Corinne Lee, *PYX*; Ange Mlinko, *Starred Wire*; Camille Norton, *Corruption*
 Jen Bervin, *Nets*
 Michael Fried, *The Next Bend in the Road*
 D. A. Powell, *Cocktails*
 Christina Pugh, *Rotary*
 Claudia Rankine, *Don't Let Me Be Lonely*
 Srikanth Reddy, *Facts for Visitors*
 Matthew Rohrer, *A Green Light*
 Cole Swensen, *Goest*

CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

- 2005 Pulitzer Prize: Ted Kooser, *Delights and Shadows*
 National Book Award: W. S. Merwin, *Migration: New and Selected Poems*
 National Poetry Series: Steve Gehrke, *The Resurrection Machine*; Nadine Meyer, *The Anatomy Theater*; Patricia Smith, *Teahouse of the Almighty*; S. A. Stepanek, *Three, Breathing*; Tryfon Tolides, *An Almost Pure Empty Walking*
 Elizabeth Alexander, *American Sublime*
 Jennifer Moxley, *Often, Capital*
 Kay Ryan, *The Niagara River*
 Anne Winters, *The Displaced of Capital*
 John Yau, *Ing Grish*
- 2006 Pulitzer Prize: Claudia Emerson, *Late Wife*
 National Book Award: Nathaniel Mackey, *Splay Anthem*
 National Poetry Series: Laynie Browne, *The Scented Fox*; Noa Eli Gordon, *Novel Pictorial Noise*; Laurie Clements Lambeth, *Veil and Burn*; Martha Ronk, *Vertigo*; William Stobb, *Nervous Systems*
 Joshua Clover, *The Totality for Kids*
 Noah Eli Gordon, *Inbox*
 Terrance Hayes, *Wind in a Box*
 Tao Lin, *you are a little bit happier than i am*
 Alice Notley, *Grave Light: New and Selected Poems 1970–2005*
 Frederick Seidel, *Ooga-Booga*
- 2007 MacArthur Fellowship: Peter Cole
 Pulitzer Prize: Natasha Trethewey, *Native Guard*
 National Book Award: Robert Hass, *Time and Materials*
 National Poetry Series: Joe Bonomo, *Installations*; Oni Buchanan, *Spring*; Sabra Loomis, *House Held Together by Winds*; Donna Stonecipher, *The Cosmopolitan*; Rodrigo Toscano, *Collapsible Poetics Theater*
 Rae Armantrout, *Next Life*
 Mary Jo Bang, *Elegy*
 Matthea Harvey, *Modern Life*
 Natasha Trethewey, *Native Guard*
 Susan Howe, *Souls of the Labadie Tract*
 Rod Smith, *Deed*

CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

- 2008 Pulitzer Prize: Philip Schultz, *Failure*
 National Book Award: Mark Doty, *Fire to Fire: New and Collected Poems*
 National Poetry Series: Anna Journey, *If Birds Gather Your Hair for Nesting*; Douglas Kearney, *The Black Automaton*; Adrian Matejka, *Mixology*; Kristin Naca, *Bird Eating Bird*; Sarah O'Brien, *catch light*
 Anne Boyer, *The Romance of Happy Workers*
 Kevin Davies, *The Golden Age of Paraphernalia*
- 2009 MacArthur Fellowship: Heather McHugh
 Pulitzer Prize: W. S. Merwin, *The Shadow of Sirius*
 National Book Award: Keith Waldrop, *Transcendental Studies: A Trilogy*
 National Poetry Series: Julie Carr, *Sarah – Of Fragments and Lines*; Colin Cheney, *Here Be Monsters*; Carrie Fountain, *Burn Lake*; Erika Meitner, *Ideal Cities*; Jena Osman, *The Network*
 Rita Dove, *Sonata Mulattica*
- 2010 Pulitzer Prize: Rae Armantrout, *Versed*
 National Book Award: Terrence Hayes, *Lighthouse*
 National Poetry Series: Lauren Berry, *The Lifting Dress*; Billia Billiter, *Stutter*; James Grinwis, *Exhibit of Forking Paths*; M. A. Vizsolyi, *The Lamp with Wings: 60 Love Sonnets*; Laura Wetherington, *A Map Predetermined and Chance*
 Ben Lerner, *Mean Free Path*
 Anne Carson, *Nox*
 Timothy Donnelly, *The Cloud Corporation*
 John Koethe, *Ninety-Fifth Street*