

The Oxford Book of American Poetry

From Oxford University Press

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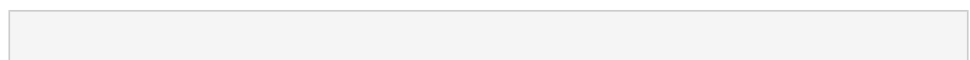
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The Oxford Book of American Poetry From Oxford University Press

Here is the eagerly awaited new edition of *The Oxford Book of American Poetry* brought completely up to date and dramatically expanded by poet David Lehman. It is a rich, capacious volume, featuring the work of more than 200 poets—almost three times as many as the 1976 edition. With a succinct and often witty head note introducing each author, it is certain to become the definitive anthology of American poetry for our time.

Lehman has gathered together all the works one would expect to find in a landmark collection of American poetry, from Whitman's *Crossing Brooklyn Ferry* to Stevens's *The Idea of Order at Key West*, and from Eliot's *The Waste Land* to Ashbery's *Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror*. But equally important, the editor has significantly expanded the range of the anthology. The book includes not only writers born since the previous edition, but also many fine poets overlooked in earlier editions or little known in the past but highly deserving of attention. The anthology confers legitimacy on the Objectivist poets; the so-called Proletariat poets of the 1930s; famous poets who fell into neglect or were the victims of critical backlash (Edna St. Vincent Millay); poets whose true worth has only become clear with the passing of time (Weldon Kees). Among poets missing from Richard Ellmann's 1976 volume but published here are W. H. Auden, Charles Bukowski, Donald Justice, Carolyn Kizer, Kenneth Koch, Stanley Kunitz, Emma Lazarus, Mina Loy, Howard Moss, Lorine Niedecker, George Oppen, James Schuyler, Elinor Wylie, and Louis Zukosky. Many more women are represented: outstanding poets such as Josephine Jacobsen, Josephine Miles, May Swenson. Numerous African-American poets receive their due, and unexpected figures such as the musicians Bob Dylan, Patti Smith and Robert Johnson have a place in this important work.

This stunning collection redefines the great canon of American poetry from its origins in the 17th century right up to the present. It is a must-have anthology for anyone interested in American literature and a book that is sure to be consulted, debated, and treasured for years to come.



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Editorial Review

Review

"David Lehman's Oxford anthology is the single most important volume of American poetry in a generation. While we can all quibble about inclusions and exclusions (even in a 1,000-page selection), Lehman's eye--and his ear--have produced a work that will last us well into the new century."--Ashton Nichols, *Dickinson College*

"It can't get much better than this."--Rochelle Moore, *Associated Content*

"The book is not only a sound historical survey, but also gives the reader a powerful taste of poetry's impact upon the wider world."--*The Economist*

"Indeed, for the reader otherwise disinclined to pick up a volume of poetry, you may also find yourself enjoying the selections in this collection. It will be a purchase that will stay with you far longer than any meal at a fancy restaurant upon which you might spend the money. And it will be better for you as well."--*The Washington Times*

"There is no one more qualified to undertake such a project...a brilliant updating of the previous edition."--James Tate, a member of the Academy of American Arts and Letters and winner of the 1992 Pulitzer Prize in poetry

About the Author

David Lehman is Poetry Coordinator of the New School Writing Program in New York City. His most recent books of poetry are *The Evening Sun* and *When a Woman Loves a Man* and he has written five books of critical prose, including *The Last Avant-Garde: The Making of the New York School of Poets* and *The Perfect Murder: A Study in Detection*. He founded *The Best American Poetry* series in 1988 and continues to serve as general editor of this prestigious anthology. He also edited *Great American Prose Poems: From Poe to the Present* and co-edited *The KGB Bar Book of Poems*, based on the reading series he directed with Star Black in New York's East Village.

John Brehm (Associate Editor) is a poet and free-lance writer. His works include *The Way Water Moves* and *Sea of Faith*, which won a Brittingham Prize for Poetry. He lives in New York City.

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