

**ANTHOLOGY OF MAGAZINE
VERSE FOR 1913.
INCLUDING THE MAGAZINES
AND THE POETS. A REVIEW**

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Anthology of Magazine Verse for 1913. Including the Magazines and the Poets. A Review by
William Stanley Braithwaite

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WILLIAM STANLEY BRAITHWAITE

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**ANTHOLOGY OF
MAGAZINE VERSE
FOR 1918**

*Including the Magazines
and the Poets . . . A Review*

BY
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"The Book of Elizabethan Verse," etc.*

ISSUED BY
W. S. B.

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

1918

TO THE POETS OF AMERICA
SINGING TODAY
THE SOUL OF THEIR COUNTRY
TRUTH, BEAUTY, BROTHERHOOD
THEIR NAMES ARE TORCHES

INTRODUCTION



POETRY is one of the realities that persist. The façade and dome of palace and temple, the monuments of heroes and saints, crumble before the ruining breath of time, while the Psalms last. So when another year passes and we sum up our achievements, there is no achievement more vital in registering the soul of a people than its poetry. But in all things that men do, their relationship is objective except those things in which art, religion, love, and nature express their influence through the private thoughts and feelings of men. These four things are the realities, all the others are symbols. And the essence of art, as well as religion and love and nature, is a conscious and mysterious thing, called Poetry. And men will find, if they will only stop to look, that at the bottom of all this poetry, no matter what the theme or the particular artistic shaping, there is something with which they are familiar, because in their own souls there has been an unceasing mystery which they find named in the magic utterance of some lonely and neglected maker of verses.

The poetry in the magazines for this past year has been of a general high standard. The long poems have been well sustained, and there has been a larger quantity of pure lyric pieces than in the past two or three years. The influence of Massfield has shown itself in American verse, notably in the two long poems by Harry Kemp, "The Harvest

Hand" and "The Factory." One of the noblest poems of the year is Henry van Dyke's "Daybreak in the Grand Cañon of Arizona," which breathes a fine national spirit, full of reverence for the greatness with which the American destiny is symbolized in the natural grandeur of our country. Mr. Markham has a long narrative in "The Shoes of Happiness," full of his visionary and spiritual promptings. And in "The Vision of Gettysburg" Mr. Robert Underwood Johnson reflects also the national spirit with particular significance.

The poetry of the year in volumes has not been as ample as last year. The three poets who have aroused most discussion are the Bengali poet Tagore, who brought to the Western world in "Gitanjali" a spiritual message full of mystic but exalted idealism; Francis Thompson, the great Catholic poet, because of the publication of his collected works; and Robert Bridges, who, by his appointment to the English laureateship, became known to a large number of readers who had hitherto been unfamiliar with his very perfect and delicate gift of lyric beauty. Of American poets the volumes by Fannie Stearns Davis, William Rose Benét, Josephine Preston Peabody, Margaret Root Garvin, and George Edward Woodberry are the most significant. The most important book of poems of the year by an American poet, however, is that of Nicholas Vachel Lindsay, "General William Booth Enters into Heaven and Other Poems." Here is a man with a big vision, with a fine originality, and an art that is particularly his own. There has been no "Lyric Year" this autumn, but a little

volume that serves in some sense its purpose is Miss Jessie B. Rittenhouse's "Little Book of Modern Verse," which is intended to represent the quality of contemporary American verse.

I want to call attention to a poet who has not yet presented himself except through an occasional magazine piece, but who has written two of the finest sonnets in American poetry. Last year I reprinted, in my annual summary, Mr. Mahlon Leonard Fisher's "As an Old Mercer," and pronounced that an achievement which could hardly be surpassed. But in the sonnet "November," which is reprinted in this book, Mr. Fisher has done, I believe, something that is even greater. It must rank with Lizette Woodworth Reese's "Tears" and Longfellow's "Nature" as the best sonnets that have been accomplished by American poets. I have known one competent judge and lover of poetry to declare that not since Keats' "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer" and Miss Reese's "Tears" has there appeared so fine a sonnet in English poetry. The man who has written "November" has added something to American poetry that cannot be too highly estimated.

Another poet who has enriched the magazines this year, after a period of silence, is Mr. Edwin Arlington Robinson, and in "The Field of Glory" we are under the spell once more of that characteristic magic with which he is endowed alone among American poets.

As in former years, in my annual summary in the *Boston Transcript*, I have examined the contents of the leading American monthly magazines.

I originally started, nine years ago, when the first summary appeared, with these six: *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, *Scribner's*, *Century*, *Lippincott's*, and *McClure's*. Later I turned to *The Forum*. The poetry in *McClure's* during the two years previous to the beginning of the present year had fallen off; the magazine would reprint occasionally verses from the books of accomplished but little known English and Irish poets, which, with the small amount of space that it devoted to verse, left but little chance of encouragement to native singers. This year I have included *The Smart Set*, which, under the new editorship of Mr. Willard Huntington Wright, himself a poet of considerable attainment, has been the means of offering the public a high and consistent standard of excellence in the verse it printed.

To the six magazines, namely, *Harper's*, *Scribner's*, *Century*, *Forum*, *Lippincott's*, and *The Smart Set*, I have added this year a weekly, *The Bellman*. West of New York it is the best edited and most influential periodical published. Indeed, it is widely read in the East. In its pages three of the younger American poets of distinctive achievement have been presented. Though the late Arthur Upson had published some two or three books of verse before *The Bellman* was established, yet it was practically the first American magazine to print his work. Amelia J. Burr made her first considerable poetic appearance in *The Bellman*, and the best work, the sonnets that have placed Mr. Mahlon Leonard Fisher in the forefront of contemporary American, or English, sonnet writers, appeared in

this same publication. As last year, I have winnowed from other magazines distinctive poems for classification and notice, one each from *The Outlook*, *The Independent*, the *North American Review*, *Poetry*, *A Magazine of Verse*; three from the *Poetry Journal* and three from the *Yale Review*.

The poems published during the year in the seven representative magazines I have submitted to an impartial critical test, choosing from the total number what I consider the "distinctive" poems of the year. From the distinctive pieces are selected eighty-one poems, to which are added five from the other magazines not represented in the list of seven, making a total of eighty-six, which are intended to represent what I call an "Anthology of Magazine Verse for 1913."

By a further process of elimination, similar to that of previous years, I have made another selection of forty poems which for one reason or another in the purpose of this estimate seem to stand grouped above the others.

The medium of magazine publication, towards which some critics, and some poets too (a fact which can hardly be justified), and a considerable portion of the reading public have a disparaging opinion, is deserving of better repute for the general high quality of poetic art that is published. Not many years ago it was a favorite exercise of the reviewer, when noticing the average book of verse which happened to include selections reprinted from various magazines, to term the work "magazinable," or the poet a "magazine poet." Even poets