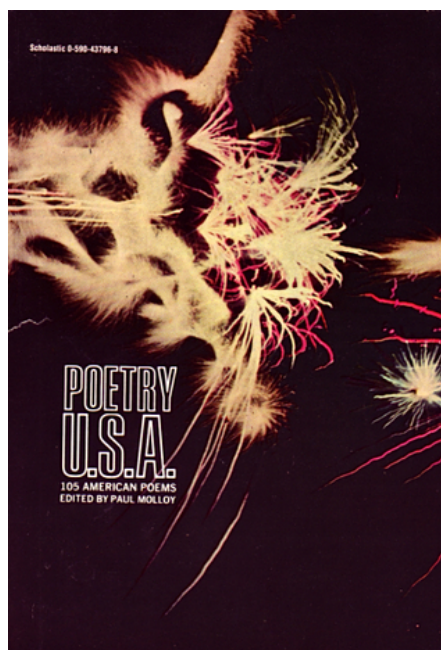




Poetry U.S.A.

Paul Molloy

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Poetry U.S.A. Details

Date : Published 1968 by Scholastic Inc.

ISBN : 9780590437967

Author : Paul Molloy

Format : Paperback 159 pages

Genre : Poetry, Literature, American



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HeavyReader says

I didn't much like this books. Most of the poems didn't move me. I only liked a few of them.

Most of the poems in this collection are by men; only twelve of the fifty-two poets included were written by women. I have a difficult time believing the editor couldn't have found more suitable poems by women to include.

This book was intended for high school students. The editor says in his introduction, "[t]o insure the practicality of the selections, I have tried each poem with students in my ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade classes. All of the poems that appear in this anthology have met the test of my students' interest and enthusiasm." I'm not sure who these high school students who greeted these poems with enthusiasm are. I could barely stay awake through most of the pieces included here, much less muster enthusiasm. If this is the poetry high school students are getting, no wonder so many of them profess to hate it.

Oh wait, I just read in the bio of the editor that he taught for twenty-four years at Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire. Before that, he taught at Harvard and at the Hanover, Massachusetts high school. I guess this book contains the kind of poetry rich, Anglo, New England kids are enthusiastic about. That's fine, rich, Anglo, New England kids are entitled to like what they like, but let's not pretend that most of these boring poems are going to appeal to a wide audience of teenagers (or adults, for that matter). I *like* poetry (as a category), but I didn't like the majority of what I found here.

In addition to the poems, this book included the sections "notes on the poems," "notes on the poets' lives," and an index of the poems and poets.

Among the poems I *did* like are "Portrait by a Neighbor" by Edna St. Vincent Millay, "A Decade," by Amy Lowell, "The Great Scarf of Birds," by John Updike, "First Lesson" by Philip Booth, "Riding the 'A'" by May Swenson, and "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost.

Vivek Patel says

Reading Journal:

One phrase from FIRE AND ICE: Some say the world will end in fire some say in ice. It really makes you think that the world really going to end. You know you don't want to face the fact that it's going to end. Robert Frost is getting to the point. He wants to think and decide what he is trying to get across here. Is it going to be fire or ice, or is going to be what you think it is? It sounds like it's in a dark tone to make you wonder he's not joking and that you need to wonder about this matter.

Greta says

Some poems thrill me, others don't. Most of the poems included in this collection didn't. This is not the most cohesive collection of poems and it doesn't help that the information that might enable you to better understand the poem or the poet is stashed at the back of the book. Most of these selections made my mind wander and I've been out of high school since the 1980s. I can't imagine having enjoyed reading any of these

as a teenager (except, perhaps, for Robert Frost). Having said that, if there were a teacher who could explain the significance of the poems included in this anthology, line by line, I might have gotten more out of the book than I did.
