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Colonel Room, Minton declared, they had to sweep up the jokes. February 1, 2002 marks the 100th birthday of Langston Hughes. To commemorate the centennial of his birth, Arnold Rampersad has contributed new Afterwords to both volumes of his highly-biographed poetry of this most extraordinary and prolific American writer. The second volume in this masterful biography finds Hughes rooting himself in Harlem, receiving stimulation from his rich cultural surroundings. Here he rethought his view of art and radicalism, and cultivated relationships with younger, more militant writers such as Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, and Amiri Baraka. Rampersad's Afterword to volume two looks further into his influence and how it expanded beyond the literary as a result of his love of jazz and blues, his opera and musical theater collaborations, and his participation in radio and television. In addition, Rampersad explores the controversial matter of Hughes' homosexuality and the possibility that, despite a lack of clear evidence, Hughes was homosexual. Exhaustively researched in archival collections throughout the country, especially in the Langston Hughes papers at Yale University's Beinecke Library, and featuring fifty illustrations per volume, this anniversary edition will offer a new generation of readers entrance to the life and mind of one of the twentieth century's greatest artists. His poems seem to appear in the world as naturally as wildflowers. — Denise Levernoz

Comforably intimate—classically adroit in its formal wit and invention—allegory unique yet in no way excluding, this meticulously editioned edition of a master poet's collected works gives us the defining bridge from the 'New American Poetry' of the '50s to that poetry now contemporary on both coasts and in all conditions. No one ever recognized the people with whom he lived more particularly than did Ted Berrigan, and no one ever brought them home to a reader with such suggestive and persistent power. This is a great, great book for all seasons of the mind and heart. — Robert Creedy

"Ted Berrigan was a leader of the New York School; his crazy energy embodied that movement and the city itself. It is wonderful to have his Collected Poems in print." —John Ashbery

A comprehensive and carefully chronicled volume that puts Ted Berrigan in his most influential poets of his generation. His poems: deft, light, definitively humorous, irreverent, poignant, marvelous and tough. The truth doing its work, 'the great man doing the ordinary thing,' with a quick ear and a quick tongue, revealing the personal in the universal. He gives you what you can find elsewhere in his poetry: "a sort of dream world to be born again thinking of you."

— Joanne Kyger

"In a life devoted to experimental poetry, Ted Berrigan shaped his poetry and the space he occupied with a bold anxiety based on his playfulness and powerfully skeptical view of the world. He wondered what might actually be captured within the pages of a book, but the Collected Poems allows us to again enjoy Ted Berrigan's delightfully demanding presence." — Lorenzo Thomas

"A singular balance of personal-historical vision and sentiment both sweet and sour, developed within the fractured verbalism of the late twentieth century found lyric, creates in Ted Berrigan's poems the unique colors of a particularly lived (and still intensely living) ensemble of moments." — Tom Clark, author of Late Returns: A Memoir of Ted Berrigan

"Some people are just more real than others. I don't know another way to say it. Ted Berrigan is totally real and he has fashioned an important sound for all of us to listen to. He put it all together just before everyone else in his time, our time, got going. America is lucky to count him as one of its great poets." — Peter Gizzi

"Going beyond exclusively national perspectives, this volume considers the reception of the ancient Greek poet Sappho and her first Latin translator, Catullus, as a literary pair who transmitted poetic culture across time and space to the 20th century, the most complete English translation to date. Widely celebrated as the greatest German playwright of the twentieth century, Bertolt Brecht was also, as George Steiner observed, "that very rare phenomenon, a great poet, for whom poetry is an almost everyday ratiocination and drawing of breath." Highly prolific, Brecht also wrote more than two thousand poems—though fewer than half were published in his lifetime, and early translations were heavily censored. Now, award-winning translators David Constantine and Tom Kuhn have heroicly translated more than 1,000 poems in the most comprehensive English collection of Brecht's poetry to date.

Written between 1913 and 1956, these poems celebrate Brecht's unquenchable "love of life, the desire for better and more of it," and reflect the technical virtuosity of an artist driven by bitter and violent politics, as well as by the untrammeled forces of love and erotic desire. A monumental achievement and a reclamation, The Collected Poems of Bertolt Brecht is a must-have for any lover of twentieth-century poetry.

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