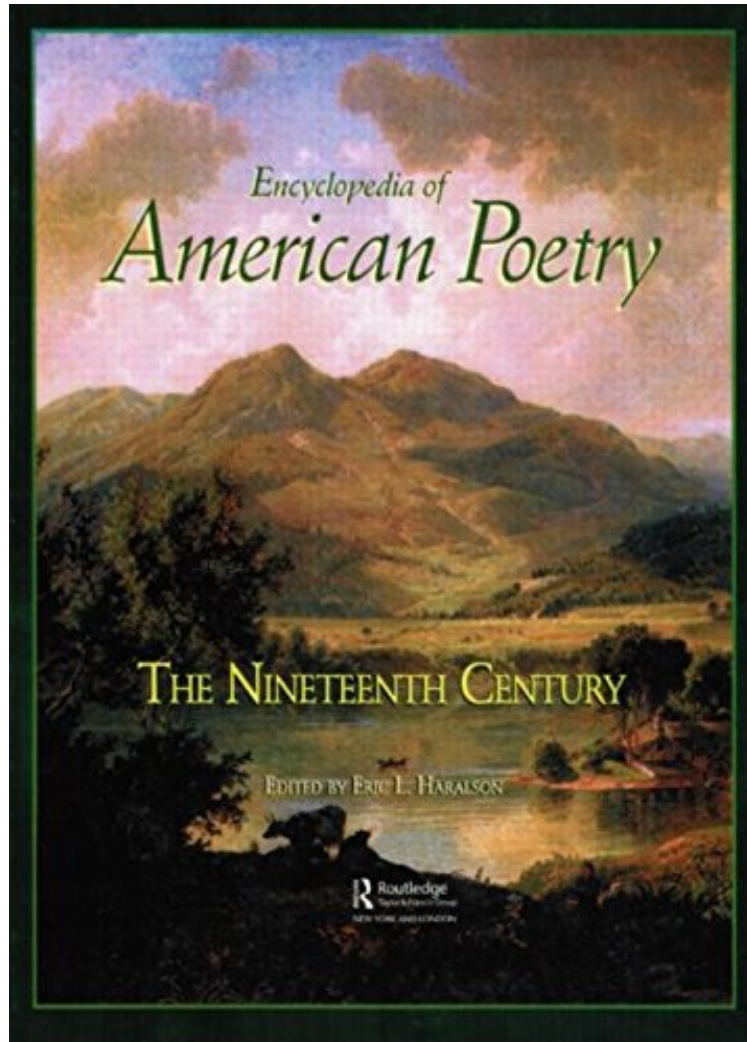


[FREE] Encyclopedia of American Poetry: The Nineteenth Century

## Encyclopedia of American Poetry: The Nineteenth Century

*From Routledge*

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**From Routledge : Encyclopedia of American Poetry: The Nineteenth Century** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of American Poetry: The Nineteenth Century:

With contributions from over 100 scholars, the Encyclopedia of American Poetry: The Nineteenth Century provides essays on the careers, works, and backgrounds of more than 100 nineteenth-century poets. It also provides entries on specialized categories of twentieth-century verse such as hymns, folk ballads, spirituals, Civil War songs, and Native American poetry. Besides presenting essential factual information, each entry amounts to an in-depth critical essay,

and includes a bibliography that directs readers to other works by and about a particular poet.

From Publishers Weekly "True poetry has always striven for, and has in the last twenty years come to perfect, a nobility of expression that is of vital importance for our democratic esthetic, moral, and political culture." So writes John Hollander in the notably cheerful introduction to his selection of *The Best American Poetry 1998*. Highlights of the nobly constructed anthology include an excerpt from John Bricuth's forthcoming *Just Let Me Say This About That*, Thylia Moss's "The Right Empowerment of Light," John Koethe's "The Secret Amplitude" and Jacqueline Osherow's "La Leggenda della Vera Croce." As always in this David Lehman edited series, each poet contributes a short note on his or her anthologized poem. (Scribner, \$14 352p ISBN 0-684-81450-1; \$30 cloth 81453-6; Aug.) For a glimpse of the former state of the art, look no further than this fall's *Encyclopedia of American Poetry: The Nineteenth Century*. Edited by Eric L. Haralson (with Hollander as an advisory editor), the 115 entries in this biographical encyclopedia cover every poet included by Hollander in *The Library of America's* acclaimed *American Poetry: The Nineteenth Century*. Contributors to the encyclopedia include Angus Fletcher (on James Russell Lowell), Daniel Hoffman (on Poe and Stephen Crane) and Barbara Packer (on Joseph Rodman Drake). (Fitzroy Dearborn, \$95 536p ISBN 1-57958-008-4; Sept.) Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From *Library Journal* This fascinating resource was developed for use with the Library of America's comprehensive two-volume anthology *American Poetry: The Nineteenth Century*, edited by John Hollander (LJ 9/1/93), offering informative essays concerning the lives and works of the more than 100 authors anthologized there. In each essay, readers are directed to poems in the Library of America volumes, with parenthetical references citing the volume and page. Yet this work can also stand alone as a powerful source of biographical and critical information about little-known poets from the 19th-century literary world, including African American, Native American, and women poets who represent a significant cultural and historical heritage. Each entry lists selected works and includes a bibliography for those interested in further research. Recommended for all libraries, particularly those that already own the Library of America anthology. ACynde Bloom Lahey, New Canaan Lib., CT Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From *Booklist* This one-volume encyclopedia is intended as a companion to the Library of America anthology *American Poetry: The Nineteenth Century*. More than 1,000 poems from nearly 150 American poets are included in that collection published in 1993. Haralson, who served as a researcher on the Library of America project, conceived of this reference companion to provide accounts of the lives, writings, and other achievements of more than 100 of the poets anthologized. Entries are substantial, ranging from three pages to more than ten in the case of poets like Emily Dickinson. In addition to furnishing biographical information, each entry is also a critical essay, discussing the poetry as well as the literary and historical significance of the poet. As a companion to the anthology, the essays include specific references to volume and page numbers in the anthology where the reader can find many of the verses under discussion. Cross-references to other poets in the encyclopedia are indicated in the entries by bold face. At the end of each entry a reference list includes selected works of the poet as well as suggestions for further reading. A few topical essays, on American Indian poetry and popular poetry, for example, are also included. The entries are signed, and contributors, primarily academics, are listed in an appendix. Both a general index and a title and first line index are included. The range of the inclusions is great--the well-known poets, such as Dickinson, Emerson, and Longfellow, are accompanied by those better known for other pursuits--John Quincy Adams, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edith Wharton--as well as very minor figures and the forgotten and the forgettable. Many writers popular in their day and significant in that context no longer appear in literary reference works or anthologies. Since many authors who have been marginalized or left out of the American literary canon are being rediscovered, it is perhaps for these poets that this encyclopedia will prove most useful. Two entries that follow each other are cases in point. John Townsend Trowbridge was a popular and prolific writer in his time, primarily a novelist, especially of books for boys but also of some narrative poetry and light verse. The entry here acknowledges that he was a very conventional poet and that he has dropped from the public eye. His significance lies in his role as friend and critic of Whitman. In any case, while Trowbridge has brief entries in the *Oxford Companion to American Literature* [RBB O 1 95], and in the venerable Allibone's *Critical Dictionary of English Literature* (Lippincott, 1858<sup>^</sup>-1871), as well as in some other older literary reference works, he is not featured in Gale's widely used *Dictionary of Literary Biography* series, nor has he ever turned up in Gale's *Nineteenth Century Literary Criticism* set. Certainly his poetry is not included in *Guide to American Poetry Explication* (G. K. Hall, 1989). The next entry is for a poet almost unknown in his own day, Frederick Goddard Tuckerman (1821<sup>^</sup>-1873). Tuckerman, a recluse like Emily Dickinson, was rediscovered in the 1930s and critically acclaimed. Still, as the contributor notes, he remains a fairly obscure figure. He also does not appear in the Gale series noted above or in Scribner's *American Writers* set. The long essay here, with close attention to the poetry itself, will prove very useful to any student interested in this poet. As the editor notes, while this reference work is an ideal companion to the Library of America anthology and will be useful as such, it also stands alone as a comprehensive reference work for students, teachers, and scholars. It will be valuable in academic and large public libraries or anywhere that found the anthology itself an essential purchase.