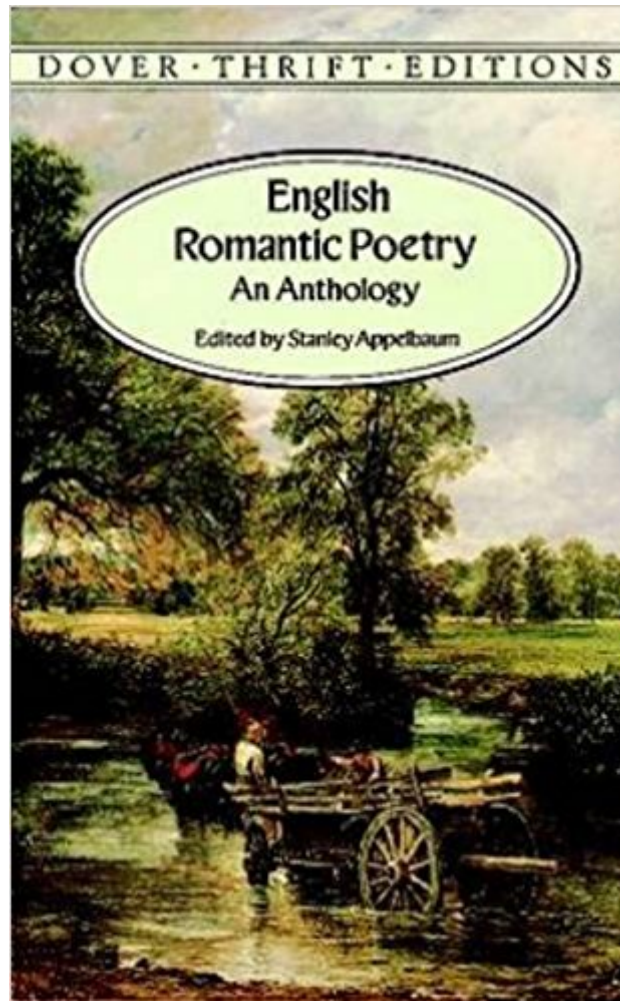


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English Romantic Poetry: An Anthology (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

Encompassing a broad range of subjects, styles, and moods, English poetry of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries is generally classified under the term "Romantic," suggesting an emphasis on imagination and individual experience, as well as a preoccupation with such theme as nature, death, and the supernatural. This volume contains a rich selection of poems by England's six greatest poets: William Blake (24 poems, including "The Tyger" and "Auguries of Innocence"), William Wordsworth (27 poems, including "Ode: Intimations of Immortality" and "I wandered lonely as a cloud"), Samuel Taylor Coleridge (10 poems, including "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" and "Kubla Khan"), Lord Byron (16 poems, including "The Prisoner of Chillon" and selections from Don Juan and Childe Harold's Pilgrimage), Percy Bysshe Shelley (24 poems, including "Ode to the West Wind" and "Adonis"), John Keats (22 poems, including all the great odes, "Isabella," and "The Eve of St. Agnes"). For this edition, Stanley Appelbaum has provided a concise Introduction to the Romantic period and brief commentaries on the poets represented. The result is a carefully selected anthology that will be welcomed by lovers of poetry, students, and teachers alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The price is certainly right. I used this book to teach a high-school poetry class. The selection of Blake is the weakest part of it: the selections from Innocence and Experience aren't ample enough to give a real sense for the book, and exclude some lyrics that I just couldn't do without (e.g. the "Holy Thursday" of Experience). The complete lack of notes (which originally I thought of as a plus

:>) led to some unnecessary pain for students -- I remember one attempted close-reading of "The Extinction of the Venetian Republic" which toiled slowly through the poem, dealing with mysteries that wouldn't have been mysterious at all if there had been even a brief note on the political context of the poem. On the plus side, there is not a bad poem in the whole book: every rift is loaded with ore. And it's an attractive paperback, nicely typeset, comfortable in the hands: it doesn't feel like a cheapo-cheapo book, which you'd rather expect from the price.

Dover Thrift Edition books are known for providing classical literature for a great price, without abridging the material (unless they say so of course). This anthology is no exception. The best poets of the English Romantic period are included, including two of my favorites, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Wordsworth. Blake, Byron, Shelley, and Keats are also represented quite liberally. Don't expect too much of this anthology outside of the actual poems themselves though. It is a Thrift Edition after all. The paper is strong, but not of the highest quality. There are brief introductions to each of the poets, but no real commentary or notes on the poems themselves. The editor does translate some of the ancient languages that the poets occasionally employ, like Latin and Greek. At the end there is an index of first-lines and titles. Also, I have to say, that these are not "romantic" as modern readers often use the term. "Romantic" refers to an era of art, music, philosophy, and literature where artists and writers allowed their emotions to overflow using a whole host of symbols, creating great works that owed more to the depths of the Imagination than the rational intellect. Coleridge was himself a theologian and philosopher and expressed many of his ideas of Imagination and eternal Symbol in his poems. Overall, this is a good sampling of some of the finest poetry available. Factoring in price and quantity, it is definitely 4 stars.

Fine choice of poetry. The collection works beautifully on my Kindle app for PC. However, when I transferred this collection to my Kindle, the lists of poem titles and the links to them disappeared leaving only links to the poets. This means a lot of paging through text to get to the individual poems that are piled up on each other with little if any spacing between. There is an index of first lines at the back of the collection but this contains page numbers without links so is almost useless. I am only able to make use of this wonderful collection of poetry on my Kindle by using it with the information given on my Kindle for PC application. Why would the format be so different on PC and Kindle, when it's the same download?

I think most readers know what they are going to get with a 'Dover edition or reprint'. An attractive,

spartan looking volume(It has changed in recent years and their volumes are more colorful) without extensive commentary or note. The works themselves. In this case it is a collection of the poetry of the great Romantics, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Keats, Shelley, Byron. There are of course many anthologies of this poet, most with more elaborate notes and explication. But I love many of these poems so much that I am happy to see them again in any new edition. The poetry of the English Romantic period is among the greatest Mankind has. On that basis primarily I would recommend this volume.

For most of my life I have had a passion for poetry. Even though I am not a real fan of English poetry, decided to expand my horizons and read more poetry on this topic. This volume (English Romantic Poetry: An Anthology edited by Stanley Appelbaum) focuses on six poets of the English Romantic era. They include work from William Blake, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, George Gordon, Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley and John Keats. There are numerous wonderful poems in this collection but I also found a few that were just too long and sometimes boring to read. I did like one of the long poems (Samuel Taylor Coleridge's The Rime of the Ancient Mariner), but I have always loved the short poem forms best. Some of the long poems in this collection are longer than many short stories I have read. I am sure some poetry lovers enjoy these long never ending poems, but this is not my cup of tea. Nevertheless, there are many beautiful poems in this collection from some of England's most famous poets and that is why I liked it enough to give it 4 stars. In conclusion, if you are an English poetry lover you will probably enjoy this volume. Rating: 4 Stars. Joseph J. Truncale (Author: Haiku Moments: How to read, write and enjoy haiku)

Ralph Richardson was such a fine actor, how could he produce such a dreadful rendition of Coleridge and Blake? His 'Kubla Khan' sounds for all the world like a master of ceremonies at a boxing match -- 'And in the red corner, representing Xanadu...!' It's painful to listen to. He declaims and announces rather than recites. However -- and it is a big however -- Frederick Worlock's recitation of Burns and Anthony Quayle's Shelley and Wordsworth are superb. In particular, Quayle delivers Wordsworth with an insight and sensitivity that is truly remarkable. His is a carefully thought out and finely-honed performance. If these particular recordings are not available elsewhere (I have no idea if they are) then it's worth buying these tapes just for them. Worlock too is excellent, perfectly at home with Burns' dialect. But Quayle's performance is of the sort that takes you to another place.

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