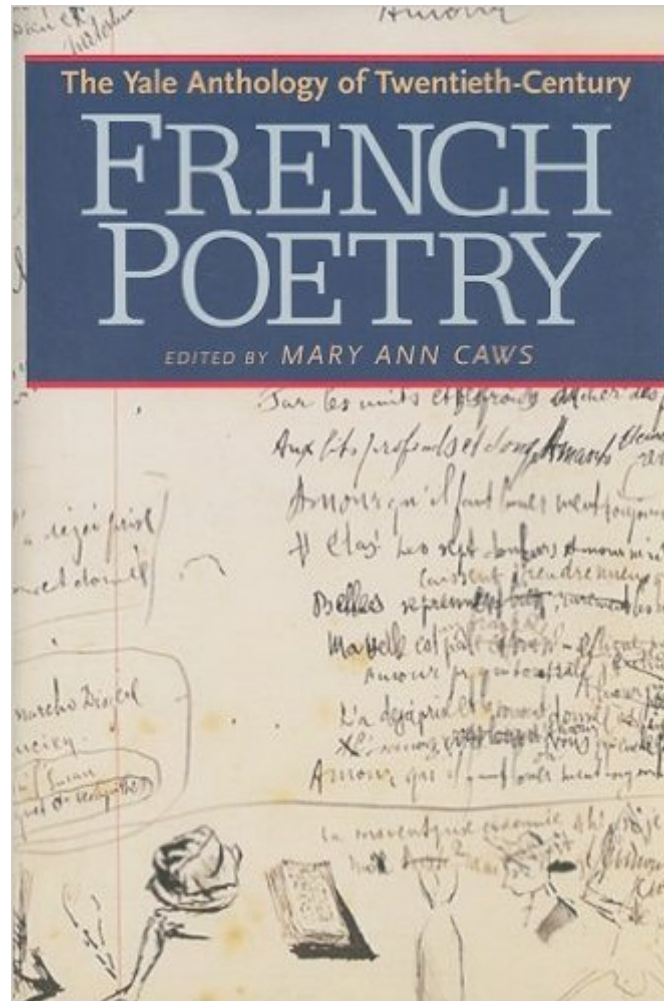


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The Yale Anthology Of Twentieth-Century French Poetry



Synopsis

Not since the publication of Paul Auster's The Random House Book of 20th Century French Poetry (1984) has there been a significant and widely read anthology of modern French poetry in the English-speaking world. Here for the first time is a comprehensive bilingual representation of French poetic achievement in the twentieth century, from the turn-of-the-century poetry of Guillaume Apollinaire to the high modernist art of Samuel Beckett to the contemporary verse of scourge Michel Houellebecq. Many of the English translations (on facing pages) are justly celebrated, composed by eminent figures such as T.S. Eliot, Wallace Stevens, and John Ashbery; many others are new and have been commissioned for this book. Distinguished scholar and editor Mary Ann Caws has chosen work by more than 100 poets. Her deliberately extensive, international selection includes work by Francophone poets, by writers better known for accomplishments in other genres (novelists, songwriters, performance artists), and by many more female poets than have typically been represented in past anthologies of modern French poetry. The editor has opted for a chronological organization that highlights six crucial "pressure points" in modern French poetry. Accompanying the selections are a general introduction, informative essays on each period, and short biographical notes—all prepared by the editor.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ms. Mary Ann Caws has done a real service to the reading public with this book. It covers a very wide range of French poetry ranging across nearly the entire 20th century. Early works include

poems from the French Symbolists, followed by the Surrealists. Both movements were strongly influential on later work by English language poets, such as John Ashbery. I always tended to dismiss much of Surrealism as gimmicky and lacking heart, but the poems included here by Paul Eluard gave the lie to that notion. I highly recommend this collection to anyone who enjoys poems that are not just pretty evocations of things and thoughts easily apprehended. These poems do present some challenges, but are the more worthwhile for it.

This book is a most interesting collection of French poetry translated in to English. My Husband has had it from the library for months and requested it as a gift so I could return the copy to the library at last.

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