Reading the Middle Generation Anew: Culture, Community, and Form in Twentieth-century American Poetry

By Eric L. Haralson

University of Iowa Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Reading the Middle Generation Anew: Culture, Community, and Form in Twentieth-century American Poetry, Eric L. Haralson, Ten original essays by advanced scholars and well-published poets address the middle generation of American poets, including the familiar - Robert Lowell, Elizabeth Bishop, Randall Jarrell, and John Berryman - and various important contemporaries: Delmore Schwartz, Theodore Roethke, Robert Hayden, and Lorine Niedecker. This was a famously troubled cohort of writers, for reasons both personal and cultural, and collectively their poems give us powerful, moving insights into American social life in the transforming decades of the 1940s through the 1960s. In addition to having worked during the broad middle of the last century, these poets constitute the center of twentieth-century American poetry in the larger sense, refuting invidious connotations of "middle" as coming after the great moderns and being superseded by a proliferating postmodern experimentation. This middle generation mediates the so-called American century and its prodigious body of poetry, even as it complicates historical and aesthetic categorizations. Taking diverse formal and thematic angles on these poets - deconstructionist, biographical-historical, and more formalist accounts - this book re-examines their between-ness and ambivalence: their various positionings...

Reviews

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