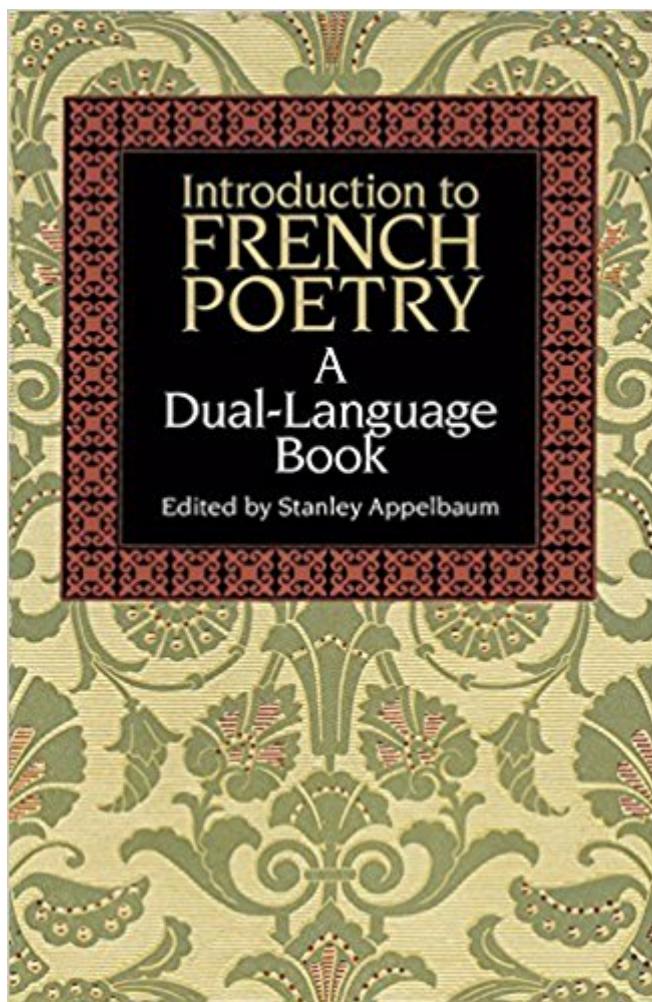


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Introduction To French Poetry (Dual-Language) (English And French Edition)



Synopsis

An unusually useful survey of the development of French poetry, this book anthologizes works by France's finest and most influential poets – 30 in all – from the mid-fifteenth century to our own time. Included are such luminaries as Charles d'Orléans, François Villon, Joachim du Bellay, Ronsard, La Fontaine, Voltaire, Chénier, Hugo, Musset, Gautier, Vigny, Baudelaire, Mallarmé, Verlaine, Rimbaud, Claudel, Valéry, Apollinaire, Perse, and Bonnefoy. In addition the work of poets less familiar to the English-speaking world, yet instrumental in the formulation of the French tradition – Scève, Sainte-Beuve, Malherbe – is here as well. The French texts come from the best critical editions, or in the case of the moderns, those authorized by the poets themselves. Teachers of French will appreciate the clear prose translations on facing pages; the translator does not attempt to be a poet himself, rather to lead the reader to a full appreciation of the poem as it was written. An introductory essay gives as understandable a short summary of the formal aspects of versification as can be found anywhere – the early orthodoxy of rhyme and meter, the gradual introduction of enjambment and metrical variation, through the word games and innovations of Apollinaire and his circle. A biographical and critical essay on each poet and his work not only depicts the poet as an individual but also gives a fine sense of the progressing and changing tradition of French poetry itself. An illustration, usually a portrait of the poet, accompanies each selection. The clarity and comprehensiveness of this attractive anthology (as well as its low cost) make it an ideal volume for an introductory survey of French poetry. For the student just beginning the study of French, this book is good supplementary material; the format of this book makes it easy to experience French poetry and learn vocabulary and grammar at the same time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dual language books, like this, are great ways to improve on language skills. I found this book to be a great way to improve my french comprehension. Poetry is difficult to read in foreign languages, even with dictionaries, because the images are often abstract and very hard to understand with using only the actual definitions of words. So with this book, having the english translation next to it was a great way to help my french, help my understanding of larger images, and enjoy the poetry itself. The poetry is beautiful. I really recommend this book.

This is a thin volume, but in it is a wonderful little collection of mini-bios and examples of the works of excellent French poets. As the title implies, the poems are in French on the left pages, and in English on the opposite sides. Honestly, even if you aren't enthralled by poetry, this is a practical way to familiarize yourself with some colloquial (albeit sometimes antiquated) French language. This is a cheap item (\$7.00), and worthy of collection. The intro even has a brief lesson in metrical arrangement patterns. I think this book serves well to illustrate how beautiful the French language can be, especially when artfully manipulated by such historical talents as Victor Hugo and Voltaire. 4.1 stars.

Maybe this book's purpose is to be as concise as possible and give people a taste of French poetry. However, I thought that it could have delved a little further into certain writers and perhaps, created a fuller picture. However, from someone who bought the book a year and a half ago, it is wonderful to learn more about world literature and has certainly helped me do just that.

"Introduction to French Poetry: A Dual-Language Book," edited by Stanley Applebaum, is a useful introduction to French verse. Thirty poets, active from the 15th to the 20th centuries, are covered, with each allotted a two-page biography and one or two poems. Meanwhile, a 13-page introduction provides broad perspective and a three-page tutorial on the metrical and structural nature of the verse. And, of course, the dual-language presentations are useful learning tools. All this said, this volume is uneven in assessing its chosen poets, with its ambitious goals frequently compromised by the limited space allotted per writer. To cite but one example, the assessment of Charles Baudelaire and his impact on the evolution of French poetry is far more successful than the material provided in

this regard for Arthur Rimbaud. On balance, this anthology is best regarded as a good first step in mapping out with other books additional exploration of the riches of French poetry.

Book is really a series of encyclopedia-type entries of French poets. Very few examples of their work; mostly capsule biographies. If you want poetry, several other books would be better, but decent as a quick reference of poets' lives.

This book has many French poets with their poems in both English and the French. The book also introduces each poet and the poets are in historical order helping one get the evolution of French poetry from very old to the new. One can also learn about each poet and his or her poetry and then choose who among them to read more of.

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