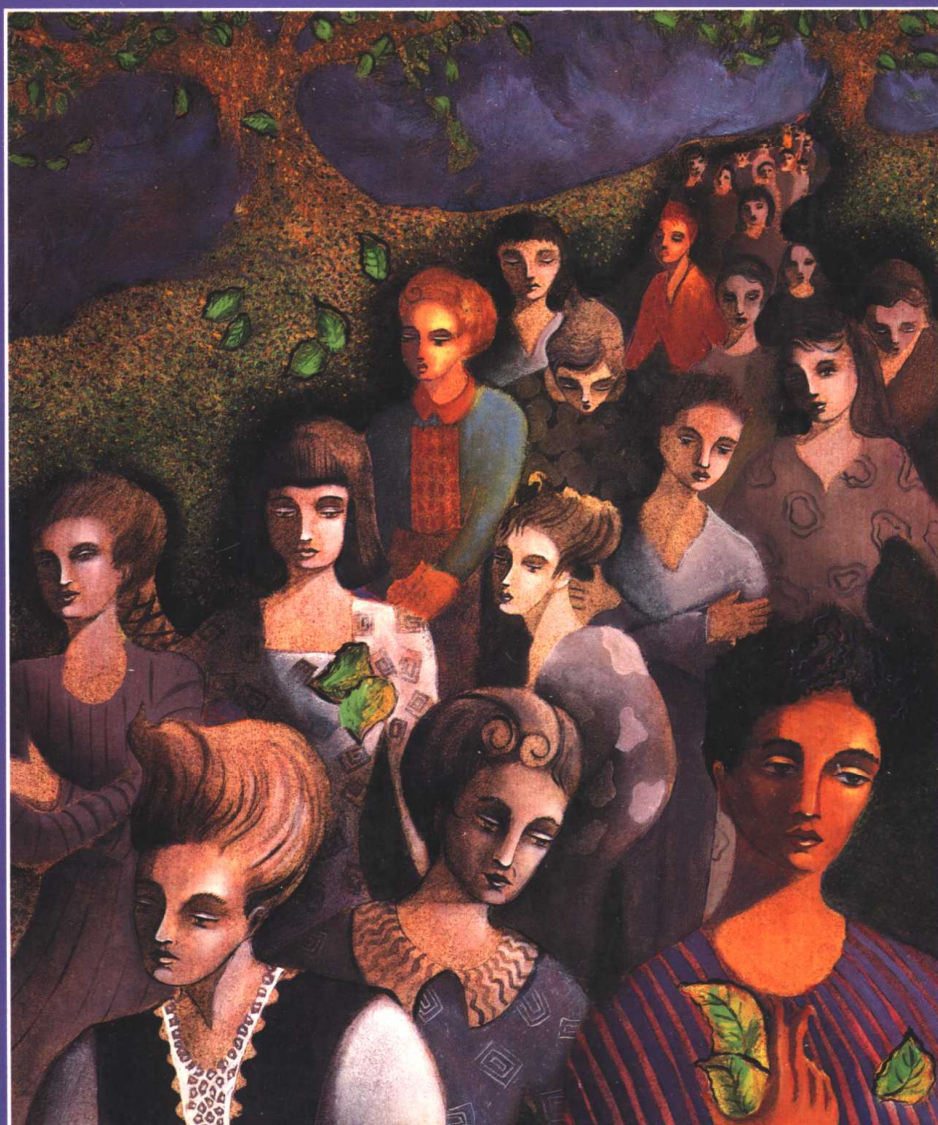



WOMEN'S WORK


An Anthology of American Literature

Barbara Perkins, Robyn Warhol, and George Perkins





WOMEN'S WORK



An Anthology of American Literature

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WOMEN'S WORK



An Anthology of American Literature

Man may work from sun to sun,
But woman's work is never done.

Traditional saying

About the Editors

Barbara Perkins is Adjunct Professor of English at the University of Toledo and Associate Editor of *Narrative*. Since its founding she has served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Society for the Study of Narrative Literature. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and has taught at Baldwin-Wallace College, The University of Pennsylvania, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Eastern Michigan University, and the University of Newcastle, Australia. She has contributed essays to several reference works including *Contemporary Novelists*, *Great Writers of the English Language*, and *The World Book Encyclopedia*. Her books include *Contemporary American Literature* (with George Perkins), *Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia of American Literature* (with George Perkins and Phillip Leininger), *Kaleidoscope: Stories of the American Experience* (with George Perkins), and *The American Tradition in Literature*, 8th edition (with George Perkins).

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George Perkins is Professor of English at Eastern Michigan University and an Associate Editor of *Narrative*. He holds degrees from Tufts and Duke universities and received his Ph.D. from Cornell. He has been a Fulbright Lecturer at the University of Newcastle in Australia and has held a Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh. In addition to Newcastle and Edinburgh, he has taught at Washington University, Baldwin-Wallace College and Fairleigh Dickinson University. His books include *The Theory of the American Novel*, *Realistic American Short Fiction*, *American Poetic Theory*, *The Harper Handbook to Literature* (with Northrop Frye and Sheridan Baker), *The Practical Imagination* (compact edition with Frye, Baker, and Barbara Perkins), *Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia of American Literature* (with Barbara Perkins and Phillip Leininger), *Contemporary American Literature* (with Barbara Perkins), *Kaleidoscope: Stories of the American Experience* (with Barbara Perkins), and *The American Tradition in Literature*, 8th edition (with Barbara Perkins).

We dedicate this book, with warm affection, to Laura,
Suzanne, and Alison Perkins, and to Patricia Warhol.



Preface



Changing attitudes toward women's history, together with increasing attention to the evolving roles of women in contemporary society, have long mandated serious study of women's thoughts and imaginings as recorded, chiefly, in their words. For Americans, the record of American literary history is of paramount importance, and, within limits, the accomplishments of American women may be studied in the larger context provided by books that have helped to lay the foundations for this one, including *The American Tradition in Literature* (8th edition, 1994), *Contemporary American Literature* (1988), and *Kaleidoscope: Stories of the American Experience* (1993). For extended study of the accomplishments of women, however, such books and the courses constructed around them are not enough.

We have designed *Women's Work* to meet the need for a comprehensive survey of the writings of American women from colonial days to the present. Chief among our guiding principles has been a desire to represent women's writing at its highest level of accomplishment. In making our selections, however, we have tried to give due consideration to different kinds of accomplishment and to varying criteria for literary and historical excellence, weighing our personal judgments against the best wisdom, as we understand it, of the community of scholars in American literature and women's studies.

In order to represent the varied nature of women's writing, we have added to the usual anthology genres—fiction, poetry, drama, and essays—some representation of diaries, letters, autobiographies, oratory, and journalism. We have preferred works that stand complete in our presentation, but we have also enriched the offerings with portions of major writings too long for full inclusion; in

these instances, the intent is to provide a substantial flavor of the whole.

The order of presentation is chronological. A brief overview, "American Women in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries," introduces the selections from colonial times to the end of the nineteenth century. Another, "Twentieth-Century Women Writers," introduces the writings of the twentieth century. For each writer, we have supplied a brief biographic, critical, and bibliographic introduction. At the end of the volume, a longer bibliography provides sources of information generally on American literature and more specifically on the literature of American women.

For each selection, we have tried to provide a faithful copy of the text that in our judgment supplies the best reading. Unless it is obvious, the source of each text is indicated in the author introductions or footnotes. Our omissions from the copy text are indicated by spaced asterisks. Footnotes are our own, except for those found in the originals, where the name of the author is given in square brackets. Some early texts have been newly edited for this book, as indicated in headnotes or footnotes, and we have occasionally normalized spelling or punctuation, but the diction remains as found, with archaic usages explained in footnotes. Titles are those of the original except where printed between square brackets. Important dates are given at the end of each selection: At the right margin appears the date of first publication in a book by the author; a date preceding that, separated by a comma, is the date of first periodical publication; a date at the left margin is the date of composition.

Woman's Work owes much to those scholars of women's literature whose names appear in

the bibliographies throughout its pages. It owes more to the women represented within it and others for whom we could find no space. The generous support of McGraw-Hill has placed no limitations on the inclusion of writers and works that suited our plans within the physical scope of the book; we regret only the omission of Elizabeth Bishop, whose estate refused permission to reproduce her poems. We owe special thanks

to the vision of Steve Pensinger, who was quick to see the value of the project. Thanks also are due for the diligent editorial assistance of David Dunham and the research assistance of Kathleen Gormly and Elizabeth Halley.

Barbara Perkins
Robyn Warhol
George Perkins



WOMEN'S WORK



An Anthology of American Literature



Contents



Preface / xvii

**American Women in the
Eighteenth and Nineteenth
Centuries / 1**

**Anne Bradstreet
(1612–1672) / 8**

The Prologue / 9

In Honour of That High and Mighty
Princess Queen Elizabeth of Happy
Memory / 10

Contemplations / 14

The Flesh and the Spirit / 20

The Author to Her Book / 23

Before the Birth of One of Her
Children / 23

To My Dear and Loving
Husband / 24

A Letter to Her Husband, Absent
upon Public Employment / 24

Another / 25

In Reference to Her Children, 23
June, 1659 / 26

In Memory of My Dear Grandchild
Elizabeth Bradstreet, Who Deceased
August, 1665, Being a Year and Half
Old / 28

In Memory of My Dear Grandchild
Anne Bradstreet Who Deceased June
20, 1669, Being Three Years and
Seven Months Old / 29

On My Dear Grandchild Simon
Bradstreet, Who Died on 16

November, 1669, Being but a Month,
and One Day Old / 29

Upon My Son Samuel His Going
for England, Nov. 6, 1657 / 30

Here Follows Some Verses upon the
Burning of Our House July 10th,
1666. Copied Out of a Loose
Paper / 30

As Weary Pilgrim / 32

**Mary Rowlandson
(1636?–1711?) / 33**

*The Narrative of the Captivity
and Restoration of Mrs. Mary
Rowlandson / 34*

**Sarah Kemble Knight
(1666–1727) / 60**

The Journal of Madam Knight / 61

**Mercy Otis Warren
(1728–1814) / 76**

The Group / 77

Abigail Adams (1744–1818) / 97

Letters / 98

**Phillis Wheatley (c.
1753?–1784) / 109**

To the University of Cambridge,
in New-England / 110

On Being Brought from Africa
to America / 111

On the Death of the Reverend Mr.
George Whitefield / 111

An Hymn to the Morning / 112

An Hymn to the Evening / 113

To the Right Honourable William,
Earl of Dartmouth, His Majesty's
Principal Secretary of State for North
America, & c. / 113

On the Death of Dr. Samuel
Marshall / 114

To S. M. a Young African Painter,
on Seeing His Works / 115

To His Excellency General
Washington / 116

On the Death of General
Wooster / 117

Susanna Haswell Rowson
(1762–1824) / 118

[from] *Charlotte Temple: A Tale*
of Truth / 120

Catherine Maria Sedgwick
(1789–1867) / 177

[from] *Hope Leslie* / 178

Sojourner Truth (c.
1797–1883) / 191

Reminiscences by Frances D.
Gage / 192

What Time of Night It Is / 194

Caroline Stansbury Kirkland
(1801–1864) / 195

[from] *A New Home* / 196

Margaret Fuller
(1810–1850) / 205

[from] *Woman in the Nineteenth*
Century / 206

[from] *Memoirs of Margaret Fuller*
Ossoli / 217

Fanny Fern (Sarah Payson
Willis) (1811–1872) / 224

[from] *Ruth Hall* / 226

Male Criticism on Ladies' Books / 243

The "Coming" Woman / 244

The Working-Girls of New
York / 245

Harriet Beecher Stowe
(1811–1896) / 246

[from] *Uncle Tom's Cabin, or Life among*
the Lowly / 248

Harriet Jacobs
(1813–1897) / 313

[from] *Incidents in the Life of a Slave*
Girl / 315

Susan Warner
(1819–1885) / 350

[from] *The Wide, Wide World* / 352

Alice Cary (1820–1871) / 378
The Wildermings / 378

Rose Terry Cooke
(1827–1897) / 383

How Celia Changed Her Mind / 383

Emily Dickinson
(1830–1886) / 394

49 [I never lost as much but
twice] / 396

67 [Success is counted sweetest] / 396

130 [These are the days when Birds
come back—] / 396

185 ["Faith" is a fine invention] / 397

211 [Come slowly—Eden!] / 397

214 [I taste a liquor never
brewed—] / 397

- 216 [Safe in their Alabaster Chambers—] / 397
- 241 [I like a look of Agony] / 398
- 249 [Wild Nights—Wild Nights!] / 398
- 254 ["Hope" is the thing with feathers—] / 398
- 258 [There's a certain Slant of Light] / 398
- 280 [I felt a Funeral, in my Brain] / 398
- 285 [The Robin's my Criterion for Tune—] / 399
- 288 [I'm Nobody! Who are you?] / 399
- 303 [The Soul selects her own Society—] / 399
- 315 [He fumbles at your Soul] / 399
- 322 [There came a Day at Summer's full] / 399
- 324 [Some keep the Sabbath going to Church—] / 400
- 328 [A Bird came down the Walk—] / 400
- 338 [I know that He exists] / 400
- 341 [After great pain, a formal feeling comes—] / 401
- 376 [Of Course—I prayed—] / 401
- 401 [What Soft—Cherubic Creatures—] / 401
- 435 [Much Madness is divinest Sense—] / 401
- 441 [This is my letter to the World] / 401
- 448 [This was a Poet—It is That] / 401
- 449 [I died for Beauty—but was scarce] / 402
- 465 [I heard a Fly buzz—when I died—] / 402
- 501 [This World is not Conclusion] / 402
- 508 [I'm ceded—I've stopped being Theirs—] / 402
- 510 [It was not Death, for I stood up] / 403
- 511 [If you were coming in the Fall] / 403
- 520 [I started Early—took my Dog—] / 403
- 528 [Mine—by the Right of the White Election!] / 404
- 536 [The Heart asks Pleasure—first—] / 404
- 547 [I've seen a Dying Eye] / 404
- 569 [I reckon—when I count at all—] / 404
- 579 [I had been hungry, all the Years—] / 404
- 585 [I like to see it lap the Miles—] / 405
- 632 [The Brain—is wider than the Sky—] / 405
- 640 [I cannot live with You—] / 405
- 650 [Pain—has an Element of Blank—] / 405
- 657 [I dwell in Possibility—] / 406
- 664 [Of all the Souls that stand create—] / 406
- 670 [One need not be a Chamber—to be Haunted—] / 406
- 709 [Publication—is the Auction] / 407
- 712 [Because I could not stop for Death—] / 407
- 732 [She rose to His Requirement—dropt] / 407
- 754 [My Life had stood—a Loaded Gun—] / 408
- 986 [A narrow Fellow in the Grass] / 408
- 1052 [I never saw a Moor—] / 408
- 1078 [The Bustle in a House] / 408
- 1100 [The last Night that She lived] / 409

- 1129 [Tell all the Truth but tell it
slant—] / 409
- 1207 [He preached upon "Breadth" til
it argued him narrow—] / 409
- 1463 [A Route of Evanescence] / 409
- 1540 [As imperceptibly as Grief] / 409
- 1545 [The Bible is an antique
Volume—] / 410
- 1624 [Apparently with no
surprise] / 410
- 1651 [A Word made Flesh is
seldom] / 410
- 1670 [In Winter in my Room] / 410
- 1732 [My life closed twice before its
close—] / 411
- 1737 [Rearrange a "Wife's"
affection!] / 411
- 1755 [To make a prairie it takes a
clover and one bee] / 411
- 1760 [Elysium is as far as to] / 411
- Letters / 412
- To recipient unknown, about 1858
- To recipient unknown, about 1861
- To recipient unknown, early 1862?
- To T. W. Higginson, 15 April 1862
- To T. W. Higginson, 25 April 1862
- To T. W. Higginson, 7 June 1862
- To T. W. Higginson, July 1862
- To T. W. Higginson, August 1862

Rebecca Harding Davis
(1831–1910) / 418

Life in the Iron-Mills / 419

Louisa May Alcott
(1832–1888) / 440

[from] *Little Women* / 442

Constance Fenimore Woolson
(1840–1894) / 543

Miss Grief / 545

Sarah Morgan
(1842–1909) / 557

[from] *The Civil War Diary of Sarah
Morgan* / 558

Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins
(1844–1891) / 576

[from] *Life among the Piutes* / 577

Sarah Orne Jewett
(1849–1909) / 582

The Town Poor / 583

Kate Chopin (1850–1904) / 590

A Pair of Silk Stockings / 591

The Storm: A Sequel to "The 'Cadian
Ball" / 594

Mary Noailles Murfree
(1850–1922) / 597

Over on T'other Mounting / 598

Grace Elizabeth King
(1851–1932) / 609

A Crippled Hope / 610

Mary E. Wilkins Freeman
(1852–1930) / 615

The Revolt of "Mother" / 616

A New England Nun / 625

Sarah Pratt McLean Greene
(1856–1935) / 632

[from] *Cape Cod Folks* / 633

Charlotte Perkins Gilman
(1860–1935) / 639

The Yellow Wallpaper / 640

Twentieth-Century Women Writers / 651

Edith Wharton (1862–1937) / 655

The Muse's Tragedy / 657
The Other Two / 665

Mary Austin (1868–1934) / 676

The Fakir / 677

Willa Cather (1873–1947) / 683

Paul's Case / 685

Ellen Glasgow (1873–1945) / 696

Jordan's End / 697

Amy Lowell (1874–1925) / 706

A Lady / 707
Patterns / 708
Opal / 710
A Decade / 710
Meeting-House Hill / 710
Lilacs / 711

Gertrude Stein (1874–1946) / 713

The Gentle Lena / 715

Susan Glaspell (1876?–1948) / 731

A Jury of Her Peers / 733

Mary Antin (1881–1949) / 745

[from] *The Promised Land* / 746

Anzia Yezierska (c. 1881–1970) / 751

The Free Vacation House / 752

Elinor Wylie (1885–1928) / 757

The Eagle and the Mole / 758
Wild Peaches / 758
Sanctuary / 760
Prophecy / 760
Let No Charitable Hope / 761
O Virtuous Light / 761
Pastiche / 762

H. D. (Hilda Doolittle) (1886–1961) / 762

Sea Rose / 763
Mid-day / 764
Garden / 765
Orchard / 765
Pear Tree / 766
Oread / 767
Helen / 767
[from] *The Walls Do Not Fall* / 767
[from] *Tribute to the Angels* / 772

Marianne Moore (1887–1972) / 775

Poetry / 776
In the Days of Prismatic Color / 778
Peter / 778
A Grave / 779
An Egyptian Pulled Glass Bottle
in the Shape of a Fish / 780
The Past Is the Present / 781
Silence / 781
No Swan So Fine / 781
The Frigate Pelican / 782
The Pangolin / 783
Nevertheless / 786
The Mind Is an Enchanting
Thing / 786
In Distrust of Merits / 787
A Jelly-Fish / 789

Katherine Anne Porter
(1890–1980) / 790

Pale Horse, Pale Rider / 791

Zora Neale Hurston
(1891–1960) / 818

[from] *Their Eyes Were Watching God* / 819

[The Yellow Mule]

Edna St. Vincent Millay
(1892–1950) / 824

First Fig / 825

Second Fig / 825

Recuerdo / 825

The Spring and the Fall / 826

[Oh, Oh, you will be sorry for that word!] / 826

[What lips my lips have kissed, and where, and why,] / 827

[from] Sonnets from an Ungrafted Tree / 827

VII [One way there was of muting in the mind]

XIV [She had a horror he would die at night]

Justice Denied in Massachusetts / 828

[from] *Fatal Interview* / 829

II [This beast that rends me in the sight of all]

XIV [Since of no creature living the last breath]

XXX [Love is not all: it is not meat nor drink]

XLVI [Even in the moment of our earliest kiss]

[Those hours when happy hours were my estate,—] / 831

[I will put Chaos into fourteen lines] / 831

Caroline Gordon
(1895–1981) / 831

The Ice House / 832

Mari Sandoz (1896–1966) / 836

[from] *Crazy Horse* / 837

The Song of a Good Name

Louise Bogan (1897–1970) / 847

The Alchemist / 848

Men Loved Wholly Beyond Wisdom / 848

The Crows / 848

Women / 849

Dark Summer / 849

Roman Fountain / 850

Evening in the Sanitarium / 850

The Dragonfly / 851

Night / 851

Meridel Le Sueur
(1900–) / 852

[from] *The Girl* / 853

[The Bank Robbery]

Lillian Hellman
(1905–1984) / 868

Watch on the Rhine / 869

Eudora Welty
(1909–) / 910

Livvie / 911

Mary McCarthy
(1912–1989) / 919

Artists in Uniform / 920

Tillie Olsen (1913?–) / 928

[from] *Yonnondio* / 929

The Iron Throat

Gwendolyn Brooks
(1917—) / 936

A Song in the Front Yard / 937
The Vacant Lot / 938
Queen of the Blues / 938
The Bean Eaters / 940
We Real Cool / 941
Jessie Mitchell's Mother / 941
The Lovers of the Poor / 942
The Crazy Woman / 944

Amy Clampitt
(1920—) / 944

The Kingfisher / 945
What the Light Was Like / 946
Urn-Burial and the Butterfly
Migration / 949
Margaret Fuller, 1847 / 951
The Field Pansy / 953
A Winter Burial / 954
Amherst / 955

Hisaye Yamamoto
(1921—) / 956

Seventeen Syllables / 957

Denise Levertov
(1923—) / 964

The Third Dimension / 965
To the Snake / 966
Illustrious Ancestors / 967
About Marriage / 967
In Mind / 968
A Note to Olga / 969
Intrusion / 970
The 90th Year / 970
The Well / 971

Flannery O'Connor
(1925–1964) / 972

The Life You Save May Be Your
Own / 973

Maya Angelou
(1928—) / 979

[from] *I Know Why the Caged Bird
Sings* / 980

Anne Sexton (1928–1974) / 987

Her Kind / 988
For John, Who Begs Me Not to
Enquire Further / 989
The Double Image / 990
The Truth the Dead Know / 995
All My Pretty Ones / 996
With Mercy for the Greedy / 997
Self in 1958 / 998

Adrienne Rich
(1929—) / 999

Aunt Jennifer's Tigers / 1000
Living in Sin / 1000
Snapshots of a
Daughter-in-Law / 1001
"I Am in Danger—Sir—" / 1004
Face to Face / 1005
Diving into the Wreck / 1005
From a Survivor / 1007
For the Dead / 1008
[from] *Twenty-One Love
Poems* / 1009
XVIII [Rain on the West Side
Highway]
Upper Broadway / 1009

Lorraine Hansberry
(1930–1965) / 1010

A Raisin in the Sun / 1011