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大众诗学 *Popular Poetics*

卡尔·桑伯格诗歌及诗学研究

A Study of Carl Sandburg's Poetry and Poetics

张广奎 著

中国社会科学出版社

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Acknowledgements

This book is a revised edition of my doctoral dissertation. At its publication, I first feel grateful to my supervisor Professor Ou Hong, and some other scholars and friends.

When I was matriculated as a doctoral student by Sun Yat-sen University in 2002, I was immediately attacked by a kind of ignorant fear, because, at that time, frankly and honestly speaking, I hadn't done much in learning and lacked systematic knowledge about literature. In the three years (2002–2005), I had been haunted by the fear that became an impetus driving me forward step by step and little by little. Unfortunately and regretfully I could not have erased it completely from my mind, but it has turned much weaker (and weaker) than before. I know the lingering ignorant fear still exists and will be forever a drive for me.

Who on earth directed me to have cut down the ignorant fear to a less degree? Who enlightened me academically? Who gave me more space to develop? And who bestowed me more chances to reflect on my missteps and deficiency in learning and personal behavior, to meditate and reexamine myself from time to time? He was and is Professor Ou Hong. He influenced me in many aspects. But, here with thanks, I also apologize to Professor Ou for my imperfections of the three years' study. According to him, academic research is a piece of long-term and persistent work and needs much perseverance. So I take, and I have to take, my doctoral dissertation as the first step to learn to walk in academia.

Before more thanksgiving to some others, I am indebted to Professor Zhang Ziqing from Nanjing University, who read through the whole book and put forward some constructive opinions for this revised edition just before the publication, which avoided some deficiencies in the book.

And my thanks are given to my family. During the years, my family supported me both materially and spiritually, which I will feel conscience-stricken if I do not mention them. I feel proud for having such a loving big family including my father Zhang Guilin, my mother Tang Jifei, and my dear wife Wang Guangying who had been supporting our nuclear family with her own salary but without any help from me for three years, while she sacrificed opportunities for further study to develop herself.

Then, my special thanks go to the following friends and classmates: Long Jingyao who gave me a special help; Pu Durong who generously bought many valuable books for me from Ireland when he was there as a visiting scholar in Trinity College, Dublin; Li Chengjian and Lei Yanni who also got some precious books for me when they were in England; Sun Jicheng who is one of my best friends studying in Peking University and got me the first essential materials about Carl Sandburg when he was in Stockholm, Sweden; Chen Xiaohong and Chen Shangzhen who read through my first rough draft and put forward some useful suggestions; and lastly, Zhang Xueying and Shen Jie who did much sundry work for me and us all.

Last, but not least. I dedicate this doctoral dissertation to my maternal grandmother who nursed me for a long period during and after the Chinese Cultural Revolution when my parents were busy teachers. And though in coma in her last days, she had murmured my infant name at times and could still recognize me just on the last second day before she died on Tuesday, January 25, 2005, and it was the third day morning after I got home in Xuzhou when I finished the first draft of my dissertation in Guangzhou. I wish she rest in peace in heaven.

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Chronology

1878 Born January 6, Galesburg, Illinois, first son of August and Clara Sandburg, Swedish immigrants. Baptized Carl August.

1891 Leaves school after eighth grade. Works at various jobs, including newsboy and milk-delivery boy.

1892 Works as shoeshine boy in barbershop.

1894 Takes second milk-wagon job.

1896 Visits Chicago for the first time.

1896 Sees Robert Todd Lincoln (the eldest son of President Lincoln) at fortieth anniversary of Lincoln-Douglas debate, Knox College, Galesburg.

1897 Rides boxcar to Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado. Works on railroad section gang, as farm hand, dishwasher, and at odd jobs.

1898 Serves as apprentice to house painter, Galesburg. On April 26, enlists in Company C, sixth Infantry Regiment, Illinois Volunteers. Serves as private in Puerto Rico during Spanish-American War. Returns to Galesburg. Enrolls as special student in Lombard College, Galesburg.

1899 Appointed to West Point in May. Fails written examination in grammar and arithmetic. Enters Lombard College in September. To support himself, serves in town fire department. Becomes business manager of the *Lombard Review*.

1900 Works in summer selling Underwood & Underwood stereoscopic photographs, with Frederick Dickinson.

1901 Editor-in-chief of the *Lombard Review*. With Frederick Dickinson, edits *The Cannibal*, the *Jubilee Year Book*.

1902 Leaves college before graduating to wander over country, selling Underwood & Underwood stereoscopic photographs. Attested for riding rails without

ticket, serves ten days in Allegheny County jail, Pittsburgh.

1903 Returns to Galesburg. Writes articles for column called "Inklings & Idling" in the Galesburg *Evening Mail*. Writes editorials for the *Galesburg Labor News*. In December has first poetry and a few prose pieces published in a booklet by Asgard Press, *In Reckless Ecstasy*.

1905 Becomes assistant editor of *Tomorrow Magazine*, in Chicago, which also publishes his poems and sketches.

1906 Becomes lyceum lecturer on Walt Whitman.

1907 Publishes "A Dream Girl" in *The Lyceumite*. As associate editor of *The Lyceumite*, in Chicago, writes the series "Unimportant Portraits of Important People." Asgard Press publishes *Incidentals* in November. Delivers lectures on Whitman and Bernard Shaw at Elbert Hubbard's Roycroft Chapel. In December becomes organizer for Social Democratic Party

1908 Goes to Wisconsin as district organizer in the Lake Shore and Fox River Valley district. Asgard Press publishes *The Plaint of a Rose in January*. On June 15 marries Lilian Steichen, schoolteacher, also a Socialist. Speaks for the Socialists at a large Chautauqua at Marinette, Wisconsin. Campaigns through Wisconsin aboard "Red Special" with Socialist candidate Eugene V. Debs during Presidential campaign. Writes pamphlet *You and Your Job*, published by Social Democratic Publishing Company, Milwaukee.

1909 Lives in Appleton, Wisconsin, from January to April. Moves to Beaver Dam, then to Milwaukee, where he becomes advertising copy writer for Kroeger's Department Store. Later in the year becomes a reporter for the Milwaukee *Sentinel*, the Milwaukee *Journal*, and the Milwaukee Daily News. Writes "Letters to Bill" and tuberculosis article for *La Follette's Weekly Magazine*. Tours Wisconsin (forty-five cities) with "flying squadron" of Anti-Tuberculosis League.

1910 Father dies March 10. Emil Seidel, Socialist mayor of Milwaukee, appoints him to post of private secretary. In August resigns to become city editor of the Milwaukee *Social-Democratic Herald*. Works for Victor Berger's Political Action. Asgard Press publishes *Josefly: An Appreciation*. Socialist party reprints

You and Your Job.

1911 First child, Margaret, is born June 3. Three articles, "The Man and the Job," "Making the City Efficient," and "My Baby Girl," are published in *La Follette's Weekly Magazine*.

1912 Writes articles for Victor Berger's Milwaukee *Leader*. His article "Where Is My Girl To-Night" appears in *Woman's New Idea Magazine*. Contributes two articles to *The Coming Nation*. Moves to Chicago in September. Joins *Chicago Evening World* staff briefly.

1913 Goes to *The Day Book*, Chicago, then *System*, a management magazine, for which he sometimes writes under the pseudonym R. E. Coulson. In December goes to the *American Artisan & Hardware Record*, writing under the pseudonym Sidney Arnold.

1914 Returns to *The Day Book*. Has some poems published in the March issue of *Poetry: A Magazine of Verse*. Wins Helen Haire Levinson Prize for best poems of the year. Moves to Maywood, a suburb of Chicago, in the fall.

1915 Writes two articles on "That Walsh Report" and three on "Fixing the Pay of Railroad Men" for *The International Socialist Review*. *Reedy's Mirror* publishes article on Margaret Haley.

1916 Has four poems printed in *The Little Review* in April. *Chicago Poems* is published by Henry Holt. Daughter Janet is born June 27.

1917 Covers labor conference for the American Federation of Labor at Omaha, in July, and Minneapolis Labor Convention. Joins Chicago Daily News in August. "The Four Brothers," first published in *Poetry*, appears in *Chicago Daily News* in October. Publishes article, "The 8-Hour Rail Drive," under pseudonym Jack Phillips in *The International Socialist Review*.

1918 Quits Chicago *Daily News*. Goes to the Chicago *Evening American* for three weeks, then joins Newspaper Enterprise Association. Does series of ten articles on "Books the Newspaperman Ought to Read" for *Pep*, an NEA magazine. Goes to Stockholm in October. Daughter Helga is born November 24. *Cornhuskers* is published by Henry Holt. Returns to New York before Christmas.

1919 Assigned to NEA offices in Chicago. *Reedy's Mirror* publishes "Bal-

tic Fogs" in April. Rejoins *Chicago Daily News* as labor reporter; is later appointed motion-picture editor. Shares Poetry Society of America prize with Margaret Widdemer. Harcourt, Brace and Howe publishes *The Chicago Race Riots*. Covers American Federation of Labor Convention in Atlantic City in June, and the Gary, Indiana, steel strike, where he goes with William Allen White. Writes series on shop-steward system in the garment industry. Moves to Elmhurst, a suburb of Chicago.

1920 Gives lecture-recital at Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa. *Smoke and Steel* is published by Harcourt, Brace and Howe.

1921 Share Poetry Society of America Annual Book Award with Stephen Vincent Benet.

1922 Publishes first book for children, *Rootabaga Stories*, and a new volume of poetry, *Slabs of the Sunburnt West*, both brought out by Harcourt, Brace and Company (later Harcourt, Brace & World), the publisher of the rest of his major work.

1923 *Rootabaga Pigeons*, his second book of stories for children, is published.

1926 *Rootabaga Stories* is published in France by F. Rieder & Company, Editeurs, as *Au Pays de Rootabaga*, translated by Leon Bazalgette. Magazine serial rights to *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years*, called "The Unfathomed Lincoln," are bought by *Pictorial Review*.

1926 Two-volume *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years* is published on Lincoln's birthday. Buys summer cottage at Tower Hill, Michigan. *Selected Poems*, edited by Rebecca West, is published by Jonathan Cape, London. Mother dies in December.

1927 Publishes a collection of folk songs, *The American Songbag*. Buys five-acre lot in Harbert, Michigan, on which to build large year-round home.

1928 Is invited to read as Phi Beta Kappa poet at Harvard. Receives Litt. D. from Lombard College. In spring, moves into new house at Harbert. Publishes volume of poetry, *Good Morning, America*. *Abe Lincoln Grows Up* (the first twenty-six chapters of *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years*) published.

1929 Receives Litt. D. from Knox College. Publishes biography, *Steichen the Photographer*, and book for children, *Rootabaga Country*.

1930 *Potato Face* and poems for children, *Early Moon*, are published.

1931 Receives Litt. D. from Northwestern University. Sister Martha Goldstone dies.

1932 Leaves *Chicago Daily News* in May. Publishes biography, *Mary Lincoln: Wife and Widow* (with an Appendix by Paul M. Angle) .

1934 Lectures at University of Hawaii.

1936 *The People, Yes* is published in August.

1938 *Lincoln and Whitman Miscellany*, an essay, is published by Holiday Press, Chicago. Sandburg is awarded the Order of the North Star by the King of Sweden.

1939 Four-volume *Abraham Lincoln: The War Years* is published.

1940 Wins Pulitzer Prize for history. Is elected to American Academy of Arts and Letters. Delivers six Walgreen Fund lectures at University of Chicago. Receives Litt. D. degrees from Harvard, Yale, New York University, Wesleyan University, and Lafayette College.

1941 Essay *Bronze Wood* is published by Grabhorn Press, San Francisco. Receives Litt. d. from Syracuse University and from Dartmouth College; LL. D. from Rollins College. Grandson John Carl is born December 3.

1942 Writes weekly column for Chicago Times Syndicate, commentary for U. S. government film "Bomber," foreign broadcasts for office of War Information, captions for *Road to Victory* (Museum of Modern Art, New York) . *Storm Over the Land* (excerpted from *The War Years*) is published.

1943 *Home Front Memo* is published. Granddaughter Karlen Paula is born June 28.

1944 Publishes *The Photographs of Abraham Lincoln* (with Frederick Hill Meserve). Brother, Martin Sandburg, dies April 7.

1945 Moves to Connemara Farm, Flat Rock, North Carolina, in late fall.

1946 Birthplace at Galesburg, Illinois, is dedicated. *Poems of the Midwest* (*Chicago Poems* and *Cornhuskers* together in one volume) is published by World

Publishing Company, Cleveland.

1948 Publishes novel, *Remembrance Rock*. Goes to Hollywood to help in planning it as film. Receives LL. D from Augustana College.

1949 *Lincoln Collector: The Story of Oliver R. Barrett's Great Private Collection* is published.

1950 Receives Ph. D. from Uppsala University, Sweden. Publishes *Complete Poems*, which wins Pulitzer Prize for poetry. The *New American Songbag* is published.

1952 Receives American Academy of Arts and Letters gold medal for history and biography.

1953 First volume of autobiography, *Always the Young Strangers*, is published. Attends Carl Sandburg Day banquet in Chicago, January 6, on seventy-fifty birthday. Receives Poetry Society of America gold medal. Publishes *A Lincoln Preface*, which was intended for, but not published as, a preface to *The Prairie Years*. Receives Tamiment Institute Award for *Always the Young Strangers*.

1954 *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years and The War Years*, a condensation of the six volumes in one, is published. Receives scroll from Civil War Round Table in New York.

1955 *Prairie-Town Boy* (a version for children of *Always the Young Strangers*) is published. Writes prologue to *Family of Man*, a volume of photographs selected by Edward Steichen, published by the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

1956 Is paid \$ 30,000 by the University of Illinois for his manuscripts, library, and papers. Receives Humanities award from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York. November 18 is proclaimed Carl Sandburg Day in Chicago. The first of sixteen schools named after him opens in Harvey, Illinois.

1957 *The Sandburg Range*, an anthology of his work, is published. Carl Sandburg elementary School opens in Wheeling, Illinois.

1958 Is made "Honorary Ambassador" of North Carolina on March 27, Sandburg Day, at a luncheon in Raleigh, North Carolina. Sister Mary Johnson dies July 29.

1959 Delivers Lincoln Day address, February 12, in Washington, D. C. , before a joint session of congress attended by members of the Supreme Court, the Cabinet, and the diplomatic corps. Goes to Moscow with Edward Steichen under State Department auspices for "Family of Man" exhibit. Meets Ivan Kashkeen, Russian translator of his work. Travel to Stockholm for Swedish-American Day and award of Litteris et Artibus medal from King Gustav. Carl Sandburg High School opens in Mundelein, Illinois, and Levittown, Pennsylvania; Carl Sandburg Elementary School opens in San Burno, California.

1960 Goes to Hollywood as consultant for film "The Greatest Story Ever Told." Publishes two paper-bound volumes of poetry, *Harvest Poems* 1910 - 1960 and *Wind Song*, poems for children. Carl Sandburg Elementary School is dedicated in Minneapolis. Carl Sandburg Junior High School opens in Elmhurst, Illinois. Receives citation from U. S. Chamber of Commerce as a Great Living American "for lasting contribution to American literature."

1961 *Six New Poems and a Parable* is published by the University of Kentucky Press. Carl Sandburg elementary schools open in Rockville, Maryland; Pontiac, Michigan; Rolling Meadows, Illinois; Springfield, Illinois.

1962 Designated "Poet Laureate of Illinois." Writes Foreword for *To Turn the Tide*, a book of John F. Kennedy's speeches. Carl Sandburg Elementary School opens in Joliet, Illinois.

1963 *Honey and Salt* is published on January 6, his eighty-fifth birthday. Receives International United Poets Award as "Hon. Poet Laureate of the U. S. A."

1964 Receives Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Lyndon B. Johnson.

1966 Carl Sandburg Junior High School opens in Glendora, California.

1967 Dies July 22 at his home in Flat Rock, North Carolina (and the author hereof was born on July 30, 1967, which might be the lot of this study) . Carl Sandburg Elementary School opens in Littleton, Colorado. Carl Sandburg Junior College opens in Galesburg, Illinois.

Abbreviations

AS: *The American Songbag* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1927)

AYS: *Always the Young Strangers* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1953)

C: *Cornhuskers* (Mineola, New York: Dover Publications, Inc. , 2000)

CP: *Chicago Poems* (New York: Dover Publications, Inc. , 1994)

CPCS: *The Complete Poems of Carl Sandburg* (San Diego, New York and London: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1970)

CS: *Carl Sandburg* (Cleveland and New York: The World Publishing Company, 1961)

CSB: *Carl Sandburg: A Biography* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1991)

CSLW: *Carl Sandburg: His Life and Works* (University Park and London: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1987)

EWG: *Ever the Winds of Chance* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1983)

GMA: *Good Morning, America* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1928)

HP: *Harvest Poems 1910–1960* (San Diego, New York and London: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1988)

LCS: *The Letters of Carl Sandburg* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc. , 1968)

PDG: *The Poet and the Dream Girl* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1999)

PY: *The People, Yes* (San Diego, New York and London: Harcourt Brace

& Company, 1964)

SR: *The Sandburg Range* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1957)

SS: *Smoke and Steel* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1920)

SSW: *Slabs of the Sunburnt West* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1922)

WS: *Wind Song* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc. , 1960)

Introduction

In recent years, pop culture study is one of the academic hot spots. When we think of American culture, what first comes to our mind is often the pop culture: McDonald's, Coca Cola, Levi's, Disneyland, Michael Jordan, Julia Roberts, and so on. Why do we think of these? It is only because of their popularity—their being widely accepted. What is pop culture? Pop is short for popular. The origins of pop culture can often be traced to popular movies, television shows, and music stars or sports figures. They are accepted by a large group of people. Pop culture is usually promoted by business and advertisement. And it is in close connection with the acceptance of the broad masses of the people.

Since popular poetics belongs to culture, it must bear the features of wide acceptance by the masses, too. For deep investigation, let's investigate what role literature plays in society. It has been all the time a discussion and a debate. But most people tend to agree that literature should functionally play an active role for the instruction of the people in society. And due to this, if we take now a point of view from pop culture, firstly, Carl Sandburg's popular poetics could be attributed to his common origin, his role as a minstrel, his frequent appearance on TV screen reading aloud his poems, and his frequent participation in socialist activities benefiting the common people; secondly, it is because of his colloquial and musical language, common theme and popular poetic style, which could be and actually were accepted widely by the people in many aspects.

For deep and profound investigation in Sandburg's popular poetics, history must be traced to the period from 1878 to 1967, the life span of American poet Sandburg, when America experienced many great events, chronologically including Spanish American War (1898), World War I (1914–1918), the Great