

新编全国师范大学英语教学丛书

*A*PPRECIATING AMERICAN POETRY

# 美国 诗歌赏析

主编 姜涛

新 华 出 版 社

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# 前 言

《美国诗歌赏析》力求将学术性、知识性和观赏性融为一体，在点评诗作语言、内容、技巧的同时，强调人文、社会、哲学、宗教等学科知识的接受，不仅是一个简捷便利的读本，同时也是美国诗歌研究者有价值的参考资料。

本书面向英语本科三、四年级的学生，也适用于同等英语水平的广大读者，既可用作教材、教辅，也是闲暇阅读的好材料。通过该书的学习或阅读，读者可以“尝一脔而知全味”，也可以此书为“敲门砖”，登堂入室，在英语诗歌的殿堂里寻宝。

这是一个在有限的篇幅内力求全面的选本。起自安妮·布雷特里特，止于西尔维亚·普拉斯，共选诗人23位，诗作54首，基本囊括美国诗坛上的主要诗人和他（她）们的代表诗作。这些诗大多数是公认的名作，但也包括一些出现频率不高，却能反映作者高超技巧或为诗人本人所偏爱的诗篇。

为方便读者阅读，现对本书的体例稍作说明。

本书每章均含以下几部分：

1) 开篇设有详实的英文版诗人简介，以便读者对诗人的生活背景、创作风格等有一个大概的印象，同时又能激发其阅读诗歌的兴趣。

2) 所选诗歌，以短篇为主，尽可能反映出诗人创作的不同

风格。

3) 诗歌中的生僻词语、短语、难句, 重要的人名、地名等专有名词, 相关的文化、背景知识等采用中英文双语注释, 既便于阅读理解, 夯实基础英语知识, 又节省读者时间。

4) 所附中文评析不失为理解诗作的一种途径, 旨在深化读者对诗歌的理解与鉴赏, 吸取了前人研究的精华, 更多的是编者的个人体会。

5) 每章最后附有二至三道就诗作思想内容、语言特点、写作技巧等方面提出的讨论题, 旨在培养和促进读者对诗歌的深层思考。本书的编者采取集体合作、分工负责的办法。主编统筹负责, 编者具体承担各个章节。需要指出的是, 全书的统筹安排与各章英文版诗人简介及其诗作的艺术特征部分均由姜涛教授编写。

由于经验与时间有限, 书中难免有不足之处, 恳请广大读者批评指正。

编 者

2006 年 1 月于哈尔滨师范大学

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## Anne Bradstreet (1612 – 1672)

### About the Poet

Anne Bradstreet was born in 1612 in England. She was the daughter of Thomas Dudley and Dorothy Yorke. Dudley, who had been the leader of volunteer soldiers in the English Reformation and Elizabethan Settlement, was then a steward to the Earl of Lincoln; Dorothy was a gentlewoman of noble heritage and she was also well educated. Anne was very much the apple of her father's eye. When she was about seven she had eight tutors in languages, music, and dance and her father took great care to see that she received an education superior to that of most young women of the time. At the age of 16 she married a young man, Simon Bradstreet, a recent graduate of Cambridge University who shared her father's Puritan beliefs. A year after their marriage her husband was appointed to assist in the preparations of the Company of the Massachusetts Bay, and the following year the Bradstreets and the father's family sailed to the New Continent on the *Arabella*, one of the first ships to bring Puritans to New England. Thomas Dudley and his friend John Winthrop made up the settlement's government; Winthrop was Governor; Dudley, Deputy Government and Bradstreet, Chief Administrator. In the intervals of hard household tasks and the care of her eight children, Anne found time for her literary interests, and in 1650, the first edition of her poems was published in England as *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America*. It was the first published volume of poems written by a resident in the New World and was widely read. After the

publication of *The Tenth Muse* she wrote some other poems most of which are about her family and religion. Her verses to her husband and children, her *Meditations Divine and Moral*, and her famous *Upon the Burning of Our House* all show that she was a creative woman who was full of inspiration. The first American edition of *The Tenth Muse* was published in revised and expanded form as *Several Poems Compiled with a Great Variety of Wit and Learning, Full of Delight* (1678). Other books are *The Works of Anne Bradstreet in Prose and Verse* (John Harvard Ellis, 1867), *The Tenth Muse* (1650) and, *From the Manuscripts, Meditations Divine and Morall Together with Letters and Occasional Pieces by Anne Bradstreet* (Josephine K. Piercy, 1965), *The Complete Works of Anne Bradstreet* (Joseph R. McElrath, Jr., 1981).

#### Poetic Features

Anne Bradstreet was a Puritan and she had a strong Puritan faith but she often doubted what she believed in, questioning the power of the male hierarchy, and even questioning God. Her love of nature and the physical world, as well the spiritual, often caused creative conflict in her poetry. Although she found great hope in the future promises of religion, she also found great pleasures in the realities of the present, especially of her family, her home and nature though she realized that perhaps she should not, according to the Puritan perspective. Anne's poetry is the records of her life and also serves as a document of the struggles of a Puritan wife against the hardships of New England colonial life and in some way is a testament to the plight of the women of the age. Anne's poetry, to some extent, is personal and instructive and full of self-exploration. Her language and imagery are often direct and relatively simple. Her later works, not published in her lifetime although shared with friends and family, are more private and personal and far more original than those published in *The Tenth Muse*. As far as the style and subject matter are concerned, her

love poetry is unique for her time, strikingly different from the poetry written by male contemporaries, even those in Massachusetts such as Edward Taylor and Michael Wigglesworth.

### Some Verses on the Burning of Our House

In silent night when rest I took  
 For sorrow near I did not look  
 I wakened was with thund'ring noise  
 And piteous shrieks of dreadful voice.  
 That fearful sound of "Fire!" and "Fire!"  
 Let no man know is my desire.  
 I, starting up, the light did spy,  
 And to my God my heart did cry  
 To strengthen me in my distress  
 And not to leave me succorless.  
 Then, coming out, behold a space  
 The flame consume my dwelling place.  
 And when I could no longer look,  
 I blest His name that gave and took,  
 That laid my goods now in the dust.  
 Yea, so it was, and so 'twas just.  
 It was His own, it was not mine,  
 Far be it that I should repine;  
 He might of all justly bereft  
 But yet sufficient for us left.  
 When by the ruins oft I pait  
 My sorrowing eyes aside did cast,  
 And here and there the places I spy

Where oft I sat and long did lie;  
Here stood that trunk, and there that chest,  
There lay that store I counted best.  
My pleasant things in ashes lie,  
And them behold no more shall I.  
Under thy roof no gust shall sit,  
Nor at thy table eat a bit.  
No pleasant tale shall e'er be told,  
Nor things recounted done of old.  
No candle e'er shall shine in thee,  
Nor bridgeroom's voice e'er heard shall be.  
In silence ever shall thou lie,  
Adieu, Adieu, all's vanity.  
Then straight I 'gin my heart to chide,  
And did thy wealth on earth abide?  
Didst fix thy hope on mold'ring dust?  
The arm of flesh didst make thy trust?  
Raise up thy thoughts above the sky  
That dunghill mists away may fly.  
Thou hast an house on high erect,  
Framed by that mighty Architect,  
With glory richly furnished,  
Stands permanent though this befled.  
It's purchased and paid for too  
By Him who hath enough to do.  
A price so vast as is unknown  
Yet by His gift is made thine own;  
There's wealth enough, I need no more,  
Farewell, my pelf, farewell my store.



The world no longer let me love,  
My hope and treasure lies above.

### Notes

1. *Some Verses on the Burning of Our House* \_\_\_\_\_ one of her group of poems expressing domestic matters and affections. For the Pioneer Colonists, home was a refuge from the often harsh, new environment. For Anne Bradstreet, the burning of her home and belongings in July, 1666 was a great loss for someone devoted to her family and domestic pleasures. The poem, however, contains no self-pitying elements. Instead, Bradstreet uses the personal loss to reconcile it with her belief in the wisdom of God's will. (这首诗是安妮·布雷特里特诗集中的一首，主要描写的是家庭事务及情感。对于北美殖民地的先驱者们而言，家就是躲开恶劣的新环境的避风港。而对于安妮来说，发生在 1666 年的这场使她失去家居及财物的大火对于她和她的家人来说，都是巨大的损失。但在这首诗中并没有包含任何自我怜悯的成分。相反，诗中却集中反映了她强烈的宗教信仰及对上帝意志的遵从。)

2. I wakened was with thund'ring noise/And piteous shrieks of dreadful voice./That fearful sound of 'Fire!' and 'Fire!' \_\_\_\_\_ Opening with an image of sleep, the poem alerts the reader to what would be considered a moral lapse by Bradstreet, for she was not being ever watchful for sin. The notion of millennialism, to go through life as the second coming of Christ was imminent, meant that a Puritan was always prepared for the Judgment Day. So here, "fire" alludes to the day of judgment.

(本诗的开头出现了睡觉的意象，以此提醒读者注意布雷特里特在道德上的失误，因为她没有事先对自己的过错有所警惕。千禧年主义是指耶稣复活即将来临，所以，作为一个虔诚的清教徒应做好准备迎接审判日的到来。因此，这里的“火”暗指审判日。)

3. thund'ring \_\_\_\_\_ thundering. (闪电)