

**John
Crowe
Ransom**

**Poems
And
Essays**

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POEMS
AND
ESSAYS


SELECTED,

EDITED,

AND

ARRANGED BY

THE AUTHOR

JOHN
CROWE

RANSOM

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The poems in this volume are the same as those in *Selected Poems*, published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1945, except that two are added from an earlier volume, also published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. The essays have had only periodical publication, as follows: "Old Age of an Eagle," *New Republic*, May 12, 1952; "More Than Gesture," *Partisan Review*, January-February, 1953; "On Shakespeare's Language," *Sewanee Review*, Spring, 1947; "Humanism at Chicago," *Kenyon Review*, Autumn, 1952; "The Literary Communities," *Confluence*, December, 1952; "Empirics in Politics," *Kenyon Review*, Autumn, 1953; "Why Critics Don't Go Mad," *Kenyon Review*, Spring, 1952; "The Concrete Universal," *Kenyon Review*, Summer, 1955.

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FIRST VINTAGE EDITION

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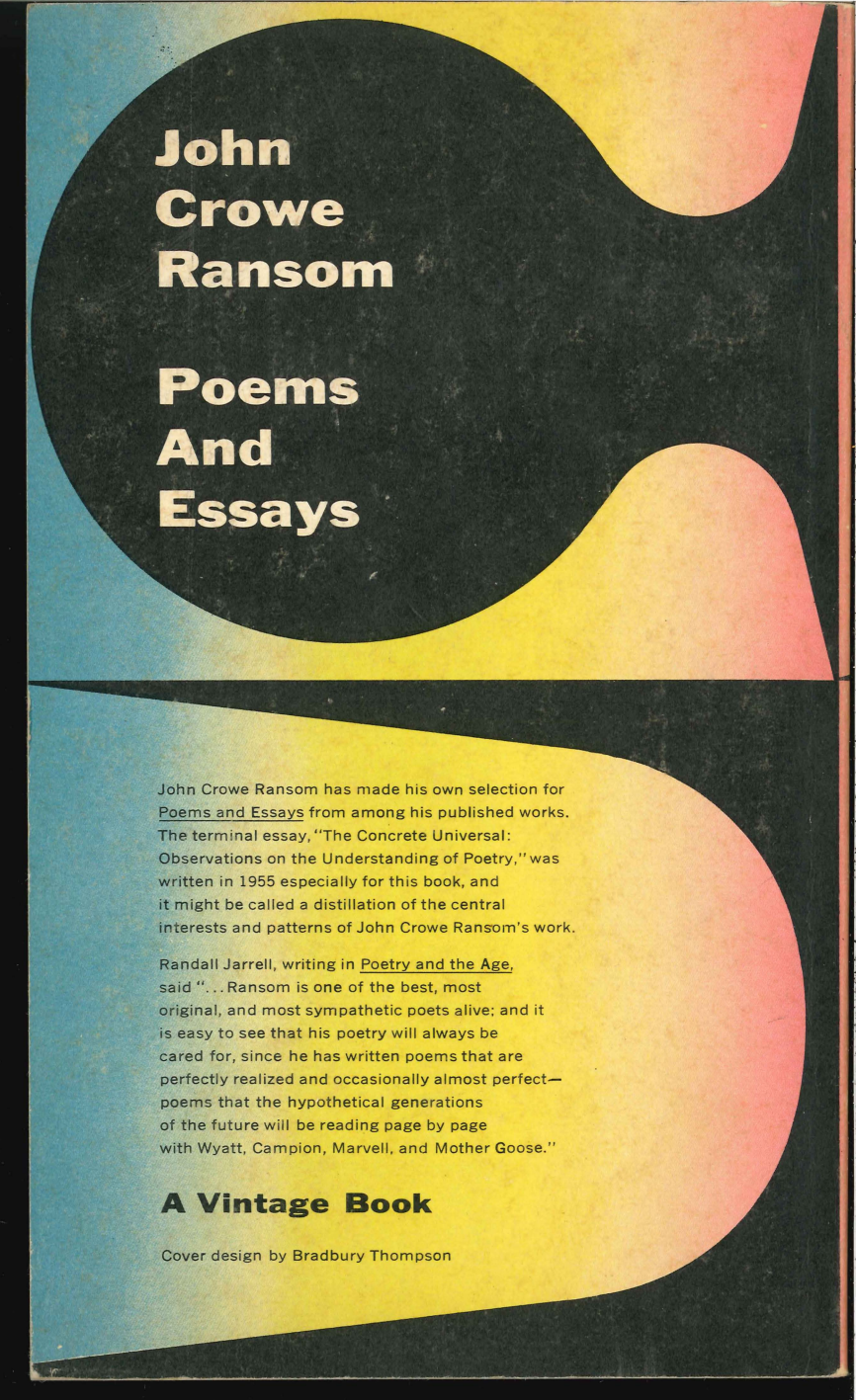
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JOHN CROWE RANSOM was born in Pulaski, Tennessee, in 1888. After attending Vanderbilt University and Oxford (as a Rhodes scholar), he served on the faculty of Vanderbilt from 1914 to 1937. Since that time he has taught at Kenyon College, where he also edits the Kenyon Review. He has published four volumes of verse: Poems about God, Chills and Fever, Two Gentlemen in Bonds, and Selected Poems; and three of prose: God Without Thunder, The World's Body, and The New Criticism. In 1951 Mr. Ransom received the Bollingen Prize for Poetry and the Russell Loines Memorial Fund Prize from the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

THIS BOOK was set on the Linotype in Janson, an excellent example of the influential and sturdy Dutch types that prevailed in England prior to the development by William Caslon of his own designs, which he evolved from these Dutch faces. Of Janson himself little is known except that he was a practising typesetter in Leipzig during the years 1660 to 1687. Composed, printed, and bound by THE COLONIAL PRESS INC., Clinton, Massachusetts. Paper manufactured by S. D. WARREN COMPANY, Boston, Massachusetts. Cover design by BRADBURY THOMPSON.



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John Crowe Ransom has made his own selection for Poems and Essays from among his published works. The terminal essay, "The Concrete Universal: Observations on the Understanding of Poetry," was written in 1955 especially for this book, and it might be called a distillation of the central interests and patterns of John Crowe Ransom's work.

Randall Jarrell, writing in Poetry and the Age, said "... Ransom is one of the best, most original, and most sympathetic poets alive; and it is easy to see that his poetry will always be cared for, since he has written poems that are perfectly realized and occasionally almost perfect—poems that the hypothetical generations of the future will be reading page by page with Wyatt, Campion, Marvell, and Mother Goose."

A Vintage Book

Cover design by Bradbury Thompson