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Cathay



Synopsis

Cathay is a collection of classical Chinese poems translated by the American poet Ezra Pound. Though Pound didn't speak Chinese, he based his translations on notes by Ernest Fenellosa, in the process setting a benchmark for modernist translations. The interpretative nature of Pound's work broke new ground in the treatment of poetry, and his status as an outsider allowed him a creative space not available to more literal translators. Cathay stands today as a seminal work strongly influential both on the poetry of his day and the succeeding generation.

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Customer Reviews

Historically important, intellectually impressive, emotionally moving -- this little book changed so much about how American poetry was written for whole groups of future poets. The centennial edition gives us the text again in its original attractive cover design, but someone felt compelled to overload the text with way too much extra material. I'm a scholar of modern American poetry, so I found nothing new here. I suppose it is no longer economically feasible to publish small volumes.

Thank you, it's lovely

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