

Contents

| | |
|--|------|
| Foreword | |
| EDWARD HIRSCH | xiii |
| Preface | xv |
| Acknowledgments | xvii |
| House, Field, Stones, and Stars: An Introduction | |
| WILLIAM BARILLAS | 1 |

OPEN HOUSE (1941)

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | “Open House”: Prying and Potential in an Early Poem | |
| | BRANDON RUSHTON | 31 |
| 2 | “To My Sister” | |
| | WILLIAM HEYEN | 37 |
| 3 | “Beneath an Undivided Sky”: Environmental Disorder and Human Passivity in “Interlude” | |
| | KRISTIN M. DISTEL | 40 |
| 4 | “Sharper on the Ear”: “The Light Comes Brighter” and the Subtle Phenomena of Place | |
| | ROD PHILLIPS | 45 |
| 5 | Smart Like Auden? “Lull” and “September 1, 1939” | |
| | PATRICK GILL | 49 |
| 6 | Ironic Quest in “Highway: Michigan” | |
| | RONALD PRIMEAU | 54 |
| 7 | Movement through Space, Sound, and Time in “Night Journey” | |
| | MARCEL INHOFF | 59 |

THE LOST SON AND OTHER POEMS (1948)

| | | |
|---|--|----|
| 8 | “Cuttings” and “Cuttings (<i>later</i>)”: Roethke’s Minute Carnivals | |
| | MICHAEL HINDS | 69 |

Contents

- 9 All the Small, Unlovely Things: “Root Cellar”
JOHN ROHRKEMPER 78
- 10 Locating the Poet in “Weed Puller”
LYN COFFIN 83
- 11 “Orchids”: Undomesticating the Greenhouse
BROOKE HORVATH 86
- 12 “Moss-Gathering” and Roethke’s Romantic Child of Nature
MARC MALANDRA 92
- 13 The Storm of the Mind vs. Family and Machine in “Big Wind”
RUSSELL BRICKEY 96
- 14 “Long Days under the Sloped Glass”: Greenhouse Memories
in “Transplanting”
CARRIE DUKE 102
- 15 “Frau Bauman, Frau Schmidt, and Frau Schwartze” and the
Sleeping Beauty Tale
MARCIA NOE and LAURA DUNCAN 108
- 16 Meter in “My Papa’s Waltz”
WILLIAM BARILLAS 115
- 17 Syntax and Diction in “Dolor”
LUKE BREKKE 119
- 18 Imagery and Abstraction in “Night Crow”
SARAH KATHRYN MOORE 124
- 19 “The Lost Son”: An Emotional Journey through the
Landscapes of Loss
BORJA AGUILÓ OBRADOR 128
- 20 Respite for the Lost Son: “A Field of Light”
JEFFREY CLAPP 136

PRAISE TO THE END! (1951)

- 21 Homegrown Cosmologies: Animism and Elegy in “Where
Knock Is Open Wide”
DAVID WOJAHN 143
- 22 “Give Way, Ye Gates” and Roethke’s Praise to the End! Sequence
PETER BALAKIAN 152

Contents

THE WAKING (1953)

- 23 “The Visitant”
CAMILLE PAGLIA 163
- 24 “Elegy for Jane”: The Nature of Grief
DAVID RADAVIDICH 166
- 25 Dancing “The Dance”: Roethke’s Poetics of Appropriation
ADAM PUTZ 172
- 26 Subduing Fear in “The Waking”
FRANK J. KEARFUL 179

WORDS FOR THE WIND (1958)

- 27 Love, Selfhood, and Sublimation in “Words for the Wind”
ANDREW DAVID KING 191
- 28 Moving Circles in “I Knew a Woman”
JAY PARINI 200
- 29 “First Meditation” and Roethke’s Career
DON BOGEN 205

I AM! SAYS THE LAMB (1961)

- 30 A Few Thousand Words on Theodore Roethke, Children’s Poetry,
and Three Poems Concerning Two Turtles (One of Whom
Is Named Myrtle)
JOSEPH T. THOMAS JR. 213

THE FAR FIELD (1964)

- 31 “The Longing”: Alienation, Place, and the Desire for Home
KATHARINE BUBEL 225
- 32 Spirit, Self, and Shorebirds: The Pacific Pastoral of “Meditation
at Oyster River”
NICHOLAS BRADLEY 236
- 33 “Journey to the Interior,” “The Longing,” and the Search for
a Definitive Text
NEAL BOWERS 244

Contents

| | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 34 | Mnetha in “The Long Waters” JOHN J. MCKENNA | 250 |
| 35 | The Ecological Vision of “The Far Field” BERNARD QUETCHENBACH | 255 |
| 36 | Nature Mysticism in “The Rose” EDWARD MORIN | 262 |
| 37 | “The Abyss”: Finding the Next Life in This One TRENTON HICKMAN | 271 |
| 38 | “Otto”: An Insight into Roethke’s Poetic Vision JEFF VANDE ZANDE | 277 |
| 39 | “The Meadow Mouse”: A Poem of Compassion NORMAN CHANEY | 282 |
| 40 | The Zoopoetics of “The Pike” AARON M. MOE | 287 |
| 41 | Roethke’s Dark Society: Revisiting “In a Dark Time” WALTER KALAJDZIAN | 292 |
| 42 | “I Am Not Yet Undone”: Navigating the Journey from Life to Death in “Infirmity” LAURA GILL | 300 |
| 43 | Symbolism and the Mystic’s Way in “The Tree, the Bird” CHRISTOPHER GIROUX | 306 |
| 44 | “Once More, the Round”: Roethke’s Last Word WILLIAM BARILLAS | 312 |
| | Works Cited | 327 |
| | Notes on Contributors | 339 |
| | Index | 349 |