

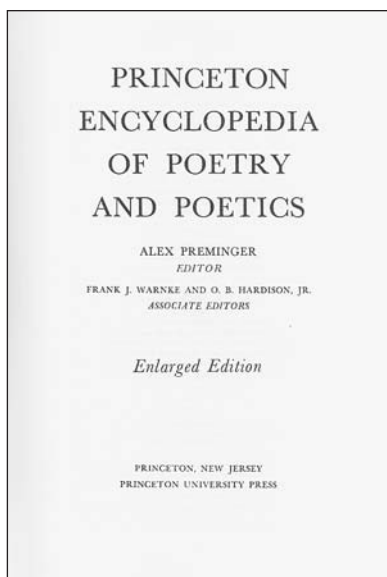
1965 *Princeton
Encyclopedia
of Poetry
and Poetics*

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Edited by Alex
Preminger

I consider this volume nearly as
essential for any working poet
as a good dictionary.

—Judson Jerome, *Writer's
Digest*



From “abecedarius” (an acrostic poem) to “zeugma” (yoking unlike words), the *Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* is a reference gold mine that resulted from the cumulative efforts of a distinguished group of literary scholars and writers, spearheaded by its devoted editor Alex Preminger, an assistant librarian at Princeton University. This one-of-a-kind reference work was his life’s work. First published in 1965, the original version quickly became a treasure-filled reference for students and scholars of poetry and literature in general. Among the 215 original contributors were Northrop Frye writing on allegory, Murray Krieger on belief in poetry, Philip Wheelwright on myth, John Hollander on music, and William Carlos Williams on free verse.

In 1974, the Enlarged Edition multiplied the entries with dozens of new subjects, including rock ’n’ roll lyrics, computer poetry, and black poetry, to name just a few. In its most recent incarnation, published in 1993, the “new” *Encyclopedia*, fully revised by T.V.F. Brogan, expanded the contents of the reference work even further to incorporate the explosion of theoretical and methodological interests in the field during the 1970s and 1980s. Along with extensive revisions to previous entries, this edition included new topics such as cultural criticism, discourse, feminist poetics, and Chicano poetry. Contributing for the first time were Elaine Showalter on feminist poetics, Houston Baker on the Harlem Renaissance, and Andrew Ross on Marxist criticism—among others.