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*Critical Essays on*  
**JAMES MERRILL**

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# Critical Essays On James Merrill

**Harold Bloom**



## **Critical Essays On James Merrill:**

*Critical Essays on James Merrill* Guy L. Rotella, 1996 This volume collects representative scholarship on the work of one of our most honoured contemporary poets A selection of reviews provides a snapshot of Merrill s critical reception eight essays offer an introduction to Merrill s life and work and the introduction places Merrill s career in literary cultural and critical contexts by means of an extended bibliographical narrative This volume includes works by some of the finest contemporary poets and critics including Mona Van Duyn John Hollander Stephen Yenser Lynn Keller and David Kalstone

*James Merrill* Harold Bloom, 1985 Essays to help you understand and appreciate the works of James Merrill *James Merrill*, 2020 A collection of critical essays on the works of American poet James Merrill arranged in chronological order of publication This is an electronic version of the original edition of this Bloom s Modern Critical Views title cont *James Merrill, Essays in Criticism* David Lehman, Charles Berger, 1983 Merrill s trilogy published in three separate volumes and reprinted in its entirety in *The Changing Light at Sandover* Atheneum 1982 provides the focal point and inspiration for these 11 essays The authors cover Merrill s linguistic inventiveness and his love of puns and palindromes Includes David Kalstone s essay on autobiographical details in Merrill s work Rachel Jacoff s explanation of his debt to Dante and David Jackson s eyewitness account of Merrill transcribing messages at his Ouija board ISBN 0 8014 1404 0 22 50 *James Merrill's Apocalypse* Timothy Materer, 2000 Materer interprets Merrill s body of work from the perspective of his epic *The Changing Light at Sandover* and shows that in his earliest poems and in the volumes preceding *The Changing Light* Merrill repeatedly expressed his fear of nuclear holocaust and his sense that some momentous revelation was near at hand Materer demonstrates how apocalyptic motifs also inspire *Late Settings* *The Inner Room* and *A Scattering of Salts* BOOK JACKET

*Critical Essays on James Dickey* Robert Kirschten, 1994 A comprehensive collection of essays on this important American writer containing both early reviews and a broad selection of more modern scholarship Among the authors of reprinted articles and reviews are James Wright Wendell Berry Robert Bly Paul Carroll and Frederic Jameson In addition to a substantial introduction by editor Kirschten there are also five original essays commissioned specifically for this volume Annotation copyright by Book News Inc Portland OR **Encyclopedia of American Poetry: The Twentieth Century** Eric L. Haralson, 2014-01-21 The Encyclopedia of American Poetry The Twentieth Century contains over 400 entries that treat a broad range of individual poets and poems along with many articles devoted to topics schools or periods of American verse in the century Entries fall into three main categories poet entries which provide biographical and cultural contexts for the author s career entries on individual works which offer closer explication of the most resonant poems in the 20th century canon and topical entries which offer analyses of a given period of literary production school thematically constructed category or other verse tradition that historically has been in dialogue with the poetry of the United States *Selected Poems of James Merrill* James Merrill, 2008-10-28 This volume brings together the best of Merrill and dazzles at every turn

This balanced and compact selection will be an ideal introduction to his work for both students and general readers and an instant favorite among his familiars James Merrill himself once called his body of work chronicles of love and loss and in twenty books written over four decades he used the details of his own life comic and haunting exotic and domestic to shape a portrait that in turn mirrored the image of our world and our moment Includes poems from the domestic rupture of *The Broken Home* to the universal connections of *Lost in Translation* from the American storyteller of *The Summer People* to the ecologically motivated satirist of *Self Portrait in a Tyvek™ Windbreaker Log* Then when the flame forked like a sudden path I gasped and stumbled and was less Density pulsing upward gauze of ash Dear light along the way to nothingness What could be made of you but light and this

**American Poets and Poetry** Jeffrey Gray, Mary McAleer Balkun, James McCorkle, 2015-03-10 The ethnically diverse scope broad chronological coverage and mix of biographical critical historical political and cultural entries make this the most useful and exciting poetry reference of its kind for students today American poetry springs up out of all walks of life its poems are maternal as well as paternal stuff d with the stuff that is coarse and stuff d with the stuff that is fine as Walt Whitman wrote adding Of every hue and caste am I of every rank and religion Written for high school and undergraduate students this two volume encyclopedia covers U S poetry from the Colonial era to the present offering full treatments of hundreds of key poets of the American canon What sets this reference apart is that it also discusses events movements schools and poetic approaches placing poets in their social historical political cultural and critical contexts and showing how their works mirror the eras in which they were written Readers will learn about surrealism ekphrastic poetry pastoral elegy the Black Mountain poets and language poetry There are long and rich entries on modernism and postmodernism as well as entries related to the formal and technical dimensions of American poetry Particular attention is paid to women poets and poets from various ethnic groups Poets such as Amiri Baraka Nathaniel Mackey Natasha Trethewey and Tracy Smith are featured The encyclopedia also contains entries on a wide selection of Latino and Native American poets and substantial coverage of the avant garde and experimental movements and provides sidebars that illuminate key points

**This Composite Voice** Mark A. Bauer, 2004-06 First Published in 2003 Routledge is an imprint of Taylor Francis an informa company

**Autoethnography** Tony E. Adams, Stacy Linn Holman Jones, Carolyn Ellis, 2015 Brimming with examples this book demonstrates how qualitative researchers can use autoethnography as a method for qualitative research Topics include a brief history of autoethnography the purposes and practices of doing autoethnography interpreting analyzing and representing personal experience and evaluating autoethnographic work

*Critical Essays on W.H. Auden* George W. Bahlke, 1991

*Critical Essays on Robert Bly* William Virgil Davis, 1992 Three dozen reviews and essays examine particular works and overall themes of contemporary American poet Bly documenting the reception of his work at the various stages of his career Some are reprinted others commissioned for the volume Annotation copyright by Book News Inc Portland OR

**Imaginary Biographies** Geoff Klock, 2007-06 Geoff Klock argues that the

bizarre portrayal of historical writers in post Enlightenment English poetry constitutes a genre a battleground for two central conflicts the confrontation of the self sufficient Romantic imagination with the brute fact of external precursors in the nineteenth century and the participation in and simultaneous deflation of Romantic idealism in the twentieth

**James Ingram Merrill** Jack W. C. Hagstrom, Bill Morgan, 2009 Pulitzer Prize winning poet James Merrill was one of America's most important writers for over forty years until his death in 1995 This comprehensive bibliography covering his entire life was prepared with the cooperation of the poet himself All books periodicals recordings translations critical and biographical appearances are listed here Entries are grouped in chapters according to type of work and each entry provides full descriptive bibliographic information A special feature of the book also reproduces the full text of previous uncollected poems and prose by Merrill Contents Introduction Books Pamphlets and Broad sides by James Merrill Books and Pamphlets Containing Original Contributions or First Book Appearances of Poems Translations or Prose by James Merrill First Periodical and Newspaper Appearances of Poems and Prose by James Merrill Translations of Poems and Prose by James Merrill Interviews with James Merrill Recordings of Prose and Poems by James Merrill Musical Settings of Poems by James Merrill Statements Endorsements on Dust Jackets and Wrapper Etc by James Merrill Inscriptions in Books Recorded in Book Dealers or Auction Catalogues by James Merrill Miscellany Dedications of Poems Prose or Books to James Merrill Obituaries of James Merrill Reviews of Books by James Merrill Critical Articles on James Merrill's Work Index Collected Novels and Plays of James Merrill James Merrill, 2011-03-09 Following the widely celebrated Collected Poems this second volume in the series of James Merrill's works brings us Merrill as novelist and playwright Just as in his poems we come upon prose pieces dramatic dialogue and even a short play in verse in his novels and plays we find the rhythms of his poetry reflected and given new form Merrill's first novel The Seraglio is a daring roman clef derived in large part from his early life as the cosmopolitan son of Charles Merrill one of America's most famous twentieth century financiers Written in a highly refined prose that owes something to Henry James the book is a compelling portrait of the luxury and treachery swirling around the Southampton beach house of an irrepressible family patriarch with his many mistresses and ex mistresses in attendance told from the point of view of his lively but troubled son At the other end of the narrative spectrum we find The Diblos Notebook an experimental novel in which a young American's adventures on a Greek island are deconstructed and assembled into a tentative fiction before our eyes Merrill's plays including the one act comedy of manners The Bait and the Chekhovian The Immortal Husband a reinvention of the myth of Tithonus who was granted eternal life but not eternal youth are also fresh turns on his characteristic themes home and travel reality and artifice simplicity and complication And for the first time in print here is Merrill's short play The Birthday a fledgling effort written in 1947 and a fascinating window onto the concern with spiritual communication and the otherworldly that would later blossom into his great epic The Changing Light at Sandover The Arizona Quarterly , 2013 *Twentieth-century American Poetry* Dana Gioia, David Mason, Meg Schoerke, 2004 Publisher

Description      **James Merrill, Postmodern Magus** Evans Lansing Smith, 2008-09 One of the unique voices in our century James Merrill was known for his mastery of prosody his ability to write books that were not just collected poems but unified works in which each individual poem contributed to the whole and his astonishing evolution from the formalist lyric tradition that influenced his early work to the spiritual epics of his later career Merrill s accomplishments were recognized with a Pulitzer Prize in 1977 for *Divine Comedies* and a National Book Critics Circle Award in 1983 for *The Changing Light at Sandover* In this meticulously researched carefully argued work Evans Lansing Smith argues that the nekylia the circular Homeric narrative describing the descent into the underworld and reemergence in the same or similar place confers shape and significance upon the entirety of James Merrill s poetry Smith illustrates how pervasive this myth is in Merrill s work not just in *The Changing Light at Sandover* where it naturally serves as the central premise of the entire trilogy but in all of the poet s books before and after that central text By focusing on the details of versification and prosody Smith demonstrates the ingenious fusion of form and content that distinguishes Merrill as a poet Moving beyond purely literary interpretations of the poetry Smith illuminates the numerous allusions to music art theology philosophy religion and mythology found throughout Merrill s work      *Critical Survey of Poetry: McGrath* Frank Northen Magill, 1992 Vol 8 includes guidelines to poetry explication

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