

## CONTENTS

|                                                     |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------|
| <i>Foreword by Paul Crumbley and David Hoak</i>     | ix   |
| <i>Preface</i>                                      | xvii |
| <br>                                                |      |
| CHAPTER 1                                           |      |
| My Life in a Narrative                              | 1    |
| <br>                                                |      |
| CHAPTER 2                                           |      |
| An Innocent Era                                     | 9    |
| <br>                                                |      |
| CHAPTER 3                                           |      |
| Creature Both Male and Female                       | 22   |
| <br>                                                |      |
| CHAPTER 4                                           |      |
| The Taste of Love                                   | 47   |
| <br>                                                |      |
| CHAPTER 5                                           |      |
| I Have Yet to Find My Love                          | 84   |
| <br>                                                |      |
| CHAPTER 6                                           |      |
| Dreams and Ashes                                    | 106  |
| <br>                                                |      |
| CHAPTER 7                                           |      |
| I Can Live Free Inside                              | 128  |
| <br>                                                |      |
| CHAPTER 8                                           |      |
| I Am One of Those to Whom Miracles Happen           | 155  |
| <br>                                                |      |
| CHAPTER 9                                           |      |
| It Is Squaresville Here                             | 200  |
| <br>                                                |      |
| CHAPTER 10                                          |      |
| If Distinction Comes, Can Extinction Be Far Behind? | 211  |
| <br>                                                |      |
| <i>Acknowledgments</i>                              | 233  |
| <i>List of Abbreviations</i>                        | 237  |
| <i>Notes</i>                                        | 239  |
| <i>Bibliography</i>                                 | 249  |
| <i>Index</i>                                        | 253  |

## CHAPTER 1

# My Life in a Narrative

THREE DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS 1952, May Swenson, then thirty-nine years old, was restless and dissatisfied. She had left her Mormon family in Utah sixteen years earlier to settle in New York and to establish herself as a poet. She had published a few poems since coming east, and one had appeared in the *Saturday Review of Literature*. During sessions at Yaddo, the writers' colony in Saratoga Springs, New York, May had assembled what she considered three "books" for inclusion in a volume of collected poems, but she was unable to find a publisher. In frustration, May wrote in her diary:

In 2 months or so I must get a job again—save money. Meanwhile this plenitude of leisure, solitude—the perfect environment, it would seem, for creation. I'm not yet using it anywhere near fully. . . . The 3 books—Another Animal, Thing & Image, Sky Acquainted—can I do anything with them? Are they good enough? . . . I want to do new work, the chimpanzee with four hands; the kiss; the heart; the dream-machine. I want to confirm my life in a narrative—my Lesbianism—the hereditary background of my parents, grandparents, origins in the "old country"—When my brother Roy was here 2 weeks ago we talked of our childhood—the rocking horse with no ears & a real brush tail our father made.

In her diaries, May gave voice to her deepest thoughts as well as to casual observations. She wanted to "confirm [her] life in a narrative," beginning with her Swedish forebears. But May Swenson, who became one of the most important poets of her generation, never composed a formal autobiography, though she left an abundance of raw material in diaries, letters, prose, and poetry. Others have provided accounts of May's ancestry and early years in Logan, but in 1935, the voice of twenty-two-year-old May first emerges in real time from her earliest surviving diary.



May Swenson's immigrant parents raised their American child to speak in Swedish and to think like a Mormon. This particular cultural fusion percolated through two generations before reaching May. Her Swedish paternal and maternal grandparents had converted from Lutheranism to Mormonism in the late nineteenth century and endured poverty and religious persecution before sailing to the United States and traveling to Utah, to Zion, the spiritual home and promised land of the Latter-day Saints.

Swen Swenson, May's paternal grandfather, was born into a Lutheran family in Grödbby, Sweden, in 1850.<sup>1</sup> The youngest of seven children, Swen was the only one to leave his village to attend university. Determined to be a teacher, twenty-year-old Swen enrolled in a seminary in Lund, nearly four hundred miles from home. He lodged in a boarding house, where he fell in love with Thilda Pehrson, his landlady's daughter. Thilda and Swen were married in 1873. Swen became a schoolmaster near Lund, but in 1890 he suddenly and inexplicably lost his teaching position and his comfortable home in the schoolhouse. Swen and Thilda, now the parents of eight children and plunged into poverty, rented a tiny three-room cottage owned by a Mormon widow.

The Swensons, still practicing Lutherans, were visited repeatedly by LDS missionaries sent to them by the owner of their cottage. They gradually became interested in Mormonism, attracted to the church's teachings of love, goodness, and generosity, and to the emphasis on family, both in this life and in the next. They were also drawn to the concept of Zion, a holy gathering place and refuge from persecution where believers lived righteously and studied scripture to prepare communally for the imminent second coming of Christ.

In June 1892 Mormon missionaries baptized Swen and Thilda and their four oldest children. Among them was May's father, Dan Arthur, then eleven years old. Fearing local anti-Mormon sentiment, the couple had arranged a secret, late-night baptism ceremony at a lake within a dense forest. But despite their precautions, reports of the event circulated in the village, and the Swenson family incurred "the hatred of the whole [Lutheran] community."<sup>2</sup>

Swen, publicly scorned and consequently unemployable as a teacher, relied on Thilda, a nimble seamstress, to provide for their family. She designed elaborate aprons and wove fabric for them on a loom made by her husband, and soon the family's weaving concern became a moderately successful business. But the ever-present threat of religious persecution made the Swensons "fear for our lives if we had to leave home to do an errand."<sup>3</sup> The hostility they endured became intolerable and, within a year of their conversion, Swen and Thilda alerted the missionaries of their intention to immigrate to Zion, the land in the Salt Lake Valley established in 1847 as a refuge for Mormons.

A local network of Mormon missionaries—Americans about to return to their home in Zion and some wealthy Swedish Mormons planning to immigrate there—arranged to sponsor three of the Swensons' teenage children, a son and two daughters. Lutherans in the village doubtless believed that the children were destined to become victims of the "depravity of the Mormons, their practice of polygamy, and [their enslavement of] all who they could entice to emigrate to Utah (mainly young girls . . . )."<sup>4</sup> In fact, LDS president Wilford Woodruff had banned the practice of polygamy two years before the Swensons converted, and, according to Dan, his siblings were treated with kindness by their sponsors, who paid expenses and accompanied them to Zion. In exchange, the children worked for their benefactors as housemaids and farmhands until they repaid their debt. Three months after the departure of the last teenage child, a local Swedish couple whom Thilda had converted to Mormonism agreed to take the Swensons' seven-year-old daughter to America "for safekeeping" and to be a playmate for their own young daughter.

Swen and Thilda were desperate to leave Sweden and to reunite as a family in Zion. They sold their books, clothes, furniture, even Thilda's few pieces of jewelry to emigrate with their four sons, but the proceeds brought only enough to purchase a full-fare ticket for Thilda and three half-fare tickets for the younger children. At first Swen and Thilda planned to leave fourteen-year-old Dan with Swen in Sweden to earn money for their tickets. But Dan looked young for his age, and his parents hoped he could slip by unchallenged on a half-fare ticket to help his mother on the journey. So Dan departed with his mother

and his two baby brothers, while his younger brother stayed behind with their father. Though he felt guilty for taking his brother's place, Dan realized that "mother could never have managed alone on that journey, with two babies to care for, as well as carrying the luggage."<sup>5</sup>

They traveled in steerage across the North Sea to Scotland, then made a three-week transatlantic crossing from Glasgow on a steamship to New York, where they boarded a train to Salt Lake City for a trip that lasted five days. Thilda suffered from recurring migraine headaches on the journey, and Dan's help with logistics proved crucial. His two older sisters, who had repaid their sponsors for their fares and were working in Salt Lake City as housemaids, met the traveling party at the train station in early September 1894. A few days later, Dan's older brother, now a farmworker, joined the rest of the Swensons. After a brief stay together in Salt Lake City at the home of a Mormon family, Thilda, Dan, and the babies continued to Pleasant Grove, about thirty-six miles south of Salt Lake, where Thilda's Swedish friends were caring for her youngest daughter.

Thilda, now forty-six, rented a house for her family on the outskirts of Pleasant Grove. According to Dan, "It was an old adobe house next to a small canal, so it was handy to get water for the household. There were two small rooms and they were alive with bed bugs."<sup>6</sup> Thilda supported her family by working twelve-hour days cleaning houses, doing laundry, and sewing. Within ten weeks, she had saved and borrowed enough money for her eleven-year-old son in Sweden to purchase a ticket to America. Once he arrived, she moved the family from "The Bed Bug House," as Dan called it, to another closer to town. The new house, Dan wrote, "was just a one-room dugout, with a dirt roof that leaked in rainy weather. We called the place 'The Cellar' since that was actually what the place might have been suited for, a potato cellar."<sup>7</sup>

Swen left Sweden and joined his family in 1896, the year Utah became a U.S. state. Dan was by then proficient in English, but having attended school only in the winter, he had barely completed fifth grade. Within a few years, the now-intact Swenson family purchased a two-room shanty on eighty acres of dry and stony land in Manila, Utah, about two hundred miles northeast of Pleasant Grove. They improved the house, cleared the land, planted fruit trees, maintained beehives, and eked out a living by raising crops of wheat, corn, potatoes, and

alfalfa. Swen and Thilda managed this profitable farm with the help of their younger children, the older ones having married and moved away. Dan, meanwhile, found employment in a gold mining camp in Mercur, fifty miles from Pleasant Grove, and boarded nearby with a married sister.

On a visit home, Dan met a young man who had attended Utah Agricultural College in Logan. According to Dan, “He told me that at the school one could obtain a good education and also learn a trade. The idea appealed to me, but how could I, an insignificant immigrant, have the nerve to attain to a college education? But the seed had been planted, and by and by it began to grow. True, my companions at work, hearing of my aspirations, laughed at me and made me the butt of their jokes, telling me that I would never be going to school.”<sup>8</sup>

In September 1901, at the age of twenty and with only a fifth-grade education, Dan traveled to Logan, 120 miles away, to register at Utah Agricultural College, where twenty-one faculty members instructed a student body of between two hundred and three hundred students. Guided by sympathetic teachers, Dan enrolled in “sub-preparatory classes” to address the gaps in his education. He performed remarkably well in English class, and by the end of his first year he was reading Shakespeare, Milton, Walter Scott, and Washington Irving, although not without considerable effort. According to Dan, “I didn’t always have room in the margin for all the definitions, because I often had to look up the definitions for the definitions.”<sup>9</sup>

Dan also became a star in the Mechanical Arts Department, where his favorite class was woodworking. He designed and built an elaborate cellarette (a small cabinet for storing wine and other alcoholic beverages), although, as an LDS member, Dan did not consume alcohol. More than sixty years later, he wrote in his autobiography, “I am sure that my plan contemplated the most elaborate piece of carving ever attempted at the College up to that time (and for that matter, since that time, if I do say so myself).”<sup>10</sup> Made of “quartered oak, with carved corner pieces and an elaborately carved panel for a door,” Dan’s cellarette, cited as “the best specimen of wood carving,” received a silver medal at the state fair in 1907.<sup>11</sup>

Utah Agricultural College provided Dan with a solid education and a marketable trade. Upon his graduation in 1907, six years after he

began his studies, Dan was hired as a picture-frame maker in a busy framing shop in Salt Lake City. At last life held promise. At the age of twenty-seven, Dan could now save a small portion of his income and dream of finding a wife and buying a house.

Dan was a devout member of the LDS Church who attended services, sang in the choir, and taught Sunday school. Prompted by his parents, he consistently contributed a tenth of his meager earnings to the church. Dan was ordained a priest and, in anticipation of serving a mission, was elevated to the status of elder in 1908, thus enabling him to perform the sacrament of baptism.<sup>12</sup> The Mormon community in Sweden was growing rapidly, and in 1909 Dan was summoned to return to his native land as a missionary. He and a fellow missionary traveled through the Swedish countryside preaching, selling religious books, distributing devotional pamphlets, and baptizing converts. After a year and a half of this peripatetic life, Dan was assigned to work at the mission office in Stockholm to edit the Mormon journal *The Star*, as his father had done. For the first time, at the age of thirty, Dan had a desk job. Describing his work in his autobiography, he wrote:

I kept plenty busy at my desk, early and late, for I had much to do. . . . In addition to getting out the “Star” on time (which involved correction of the manuscript as it was set up and returned from the printer, which was done twice before the OK to print it was given) my responsibility was to wrap and address and send out a copy to each subscriber within the mission as well as to all who lived outside of Sweden, and also to have charge of all the tracts and publications and fill the orders by mail as they came in constantly from the missionaries throughout the mission. Then of course there were the meetings and sometimes concerts in the chapel to attend and an assignment to speak in meeting once in a while.

At these times there were occasions when a ray of sunshine made the world seem bright. It was when Greta Hellberg could get off from her busy duties at the Old Folks Home . . . and come to attend the meeting and I could greet her and feel her soft hand in mine and look into her smiling eyes.

I was [also] made assistant to . . . the new choir leader. . . . He would often send the sopranos and altos with me to my office to practice their parts. . . . Greta was by far the best alto. She sang herself right into my heart.<sup>13</sup>

Margaret (“Greta”) Hellberg had been born into a large family. Greta’s father died when she was seven, leaving her mother to support the family. “In 1901,” Greta recorded in her autobiography, “great things happened to us to change our lives.”<sup>14</sup> The Mormon missionaries found the Hellbergs, and, when Greta was twelve, she and four other family members converted.

Shunned by friends and relatives because of her family’s Mormon faith, Greta left home for Stockholm before she turned fifteen. She struggled to support herself, working as a housemaid, a waitress, and a shopgirl. Greta was in her early twenties when she met Dan in 1911. Mutual love and respect and their devotion to the Mormon faith formed the basis of their strong and enduring relationship. Greta later wrote, “I can truly say that we two were always sweethearts.”<sup>15</sup>

But Stockholm’s damp weather weakened Dan’s pulmonary system to the point that he was no longer able to work. Having reluctantly left Greta, Dan returned to Utah’s clear air in 1912. There, his lungs improved and he was able to perform occasional tasks for the church. Nevertheless, he was bereft without his “sweetheart.” Greta, recounting their separation in her autobiography, recalled, “[H]e wrote to me every day telling me of his love so I knew that he felt we should not wait to get married since he was already thirty-two years old.”<sup>16</sup>

Six months after Dan left Sweden, a Mormon family in Utah sponsored Greta by paying for her passage to America. “[It] seemed like an eternity,” wrote Dan as he awaited her arrival, “for I loved her so much.”<sup>17</sup> Dan and Greta were married at Thilda and Swen’s house in Salt Lake City on August 21, 1912. They sealed themselves to each other according to the Mormon marriage rite and vowed to remain together not merely “till death do us part” but “for time and all eternity.”

Driven by perseverance, talent, resourcefulness, and faith, May’s progenitors were the authors of their own success stories. They measured their accomplishments not in material riches but in spiritual wealth, for they were deeply religious. They accepted and internalized

8 CHAPTER 1

LDS doctrine, sacrificed time and money to support the church, and led their lives according to Mormon principles. The Swensons also cherished their Swedish identity, keeping the language and traditions of their native country alive within themselves. These were May's ancestors, and their influence on her was profound.

Dan had maintained his friendship with his Agricultural College woodworking teacher, Professor A. J. Hansen. Upon learning that Dan had married and was back in Salt Lake City, Hansen arranged a teaching position for his prize student in the Mechanical Arts Department at the college. On a cold January day in 1913, Dan and Greta set out for Logan, eager to begin a new phase of their life together. Greta was five months pregnant.

## INDEX

*Note:* Page numbers in *italic* type indicate illustrations. “MS” refers to May Swenson.

- “Above the Arno,” 187  
 Abraham Lincoln Brigade, 76  
 Academy of American Poets, xiv, 223  
 Adams, Ansel, 60  
 afterlife, 20, 194  
 “After the Dentist,” xi  
 aging, *See* time and aging  
 Aiken, Conrad, 171  
 Albers, Josef, 72  
 Alcott, Louisa May, *Little Women*, 16  
 “The Alyscamps at Arles,” 187  
 Amagansett, New York, 208–10  
 American Academy of Poets, 226  
 American Guide Series, 84  
 American Institute of Graphic Arts, xi, 216  
 American Memories Collection, 86, 87  
 An American Place, New York, 59–61  
 American Place Theatre, 196, 200  
 Ames, Elizabeth, 144–46, 160  
*The Amphion* (Logan High School year-book), 22, 28, 33  
 Amy Lowell Traveling Scholarship, 185  
 “Analysis of Baseball,” 214  
*Another Animal*, xii, 163, 165, 170–72, 179  
 anti-Semitism, 79, 121, 123  
 antiwar demonstrations, 79  
 appearance, of MS, 9, 134, 185  
 “Appearances,” 146–47  
 Arnold, Frank (“Fussy”), 48  
 art: engagement with, 112–13, 185; reflections on, 157  
 Artists’ Gallery, New York, 72–73, 75, 113  
*Arts Magazine*, 185  
 “Asleep,” 108  
 Astaire, Fred, 38  
 “As the Falcon,” 99  
 “At Breakfast,” 163  
 “At the Ballet,” 37  
 Atwell, Bill, 44–45  
 Auden, W. H., 145, 217  
 autobiographical writings, xviii–xix, 1, 109, 132–35, 181–82, 198–99  
 Avery, Milton, 185  
 awards and honors, xi, xiv, 77, 173, 185–86, 207, 214–16, 223, 226–28  
 “The Bad Luck Diary,” xix, 29, 134  
 Baizerman, Eugenie (née Silverman), 113, 134, 135  
 Baizerman, Saul, 112–14, 118, 121, 131, 134, 135, 161  
 Baldwin, James, 182–83; *Giovanni’s Room*, 182; *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, 182  
 Ballets Russes, 37  
 Banks, Ann, 85, 86  
 baptism, 2, 6, 20, 168, 227–28  
 Barnard, Mary, 231  
 Barnes, Djuna, 71; *Nightwood*, 59, 71  
 Baudelaire, Charles, 133  
 Baum, L. Frank, *Oz*, 15  
 Beat poets, 178–79, 181  
 Beer-Monti, Friederike (“Fritzie”), 72, 74–76  
 Bemelmans, Ludwig, 64  
 Benét, Stephen Vincent, 99, 136, 138, 145  
 Berg, Mary, 47–49, 55, 61  
 Berglie, Carole, 228–29  
 Berlin, Irving, 38  
 Bigelow, Suzanne, *May Swenson: A Poet’s Life in Photos* (with R. R. Knudson), xiv, xx, 112  
 Bingham, Harry, 244n15  
 birdwatching, 206, 211, 229–30  
 Bishop, Elizabeth: awards and honors, 147, 149, 226; beginning of friendship with, 147–51; in Brazil, 159, 185–86; childhood and education of, 157–58; comments on MS’s work, xiii, 163, 164–65, 170, 175, 195, 218; concerns about MS’s finances, 165–67; correspondence with, xi, xiii–xiv, xvii, xx, 158–60, 162–69, 171, 173–75, 178–81, 185–90, 194–96, 200–207, 209–10, 214–15, 220–21; death of, 224–26; and Lota Macedo Soares, 159, 185–88,

- Bishop, Elizabeth (*continued*)  
 190–91, 201–2, 205, 209–10; “The Monument,” 194–95; MS compared to, ix, xi, 157–58, 194–95; MS’s comments on poetry of, 150, 166, 174, 195; MS’s work for, 166–67; in New York City, 191; photograph of, 148; *Poems: North & South—A Cold Spring*, 147, 167, 174; “The Shampoo,” 166; as sponsor/advocate of MS, 160, 171, 218; as visiting professor, 196–97, 201–2, 216
- Black, Malachi, xii
- blessings. *See* patriarchal blessings
- Bloom, Harold, ix
- Bob (lover), 88–91
- Bodenheim, Maxwell, 97, 98
- Bogan, Louise, 180
- Böhler, Hans, 74–75, 109; portrait of May Swenson, 76
- Bolcom, William, 162
- Bollingen Prize, xiv, 226
- Bolton, Isabel. *See* Miller, Mary Britton
- Book of Mormon, 18
- Borg, Earl, 32, 37, 40
- “The Bough in Spring,” 58, 99
- “A Boy Looking at Big David,” 187
- Branch Agricultural College, Cedar City, Utah, 29
- Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, 77, 173, 179
- Brigham Young University, 205
- Brooks, Van Wyck, 152–53
- brothers. *See individuals by name*;  
 siblings
- Broughton, James, 181, 196
- Bryn Mawr College travel fellowships, 159, 172, 214
- Bureau of Child Welfare, 185
- “By Morning,” 164–65
- Cadmus, Paul, 101–2; *Greenwich Village Cafeteria*, 102
- Caedmon Records, xv
- A Cage of Spines*, xii, 180, 183, 185
- “Calm Weather,” 32
- Cantwell, Mary, 130
- Capote, Truman, 64
- Carroll, Lewis, *Alice in Wonderland*, 15–16
- Carter, Rosalyn, 226
- Cathedral of the Madeleine, Salt Lake City, 39–40
- “The Centaur,” 14–15, 29, 175–78
- Central Park, New York, 43, 51, 66, 72, 104, 138–39, 155
- Chanin Building, New York, 52, 56, 78
- chess, 94, 100, 109, 135, 145, 229, 230
- childhood, 9–21; birth, 9; diaries and, xvii; home life, 11–22; reflections on, 1, 13–15, 17. *See also* family
- children: MS’s disinterest in having, 135; poems likened to, 32–33
- “Christmas Day,” 22–23
- Churchill, Winston, 112
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS): and the afterlife, 20, 194; and baptism, 2, 6, 20, 168, 227–28; exclusionary practices of, 230; founding of, 44; hostility toward, 2–3, 7; MS and, ix, 18–20, 22, 26, 27, 44, 48, 56, 57, 59, 106–7, 155–56, 168, 198, 213, 216; and politics, 25; and polygamy, 3, 107; Rozanne Knudson and, 205–6, 212–13, 216, 230; sealing of spouses and families in, 7, 19–20; Swenson family and, 2–9, 17–20, 106, 167, 194, 198; women’s role in, 155–56, 213
- Ciardi, John, 77, 163, 171, 173
- Clark, Eleanor, 158
- “Cock-eyed World,” 33, 35
- communism/Communism, 41, 75, 76, 79, 80, 84, 86, 95, 100, 104–6
- Concentration Camp* (film), 100
- Conrad, Joseph, 133
- Copland, Aaron, 145
- Correia de Araújo, Lili, 201
- Cowley, Malcolm, 146, 160, 171
- Crisis* (documentary), 100
- critical responses and reputation, ix, xii–xiii, xiv, xvii, 58, 64, 161–62, 194, 196
- Crumbley, Paul, *Body My House* (edited volume, with Patricia M. Gantt), xiv, xx
- Cummings, E. E., ix, 101
- Czechoslovakia, 94–95, 100

- Dallas Times-Herald* (newspaper), 145  
 “The Dancer,” 37, 73, 99  
 death: of Elizabeth Bishop, 224–26;  
     experiences of, 23; of MS, xiv, 162,  
     230–31; reflections on, 30, 39, 94, 117,  
     226, 230; as subject matter, 23, 198,  
     231–32  
 de Kooning, Willem, 72  
 Delaney, Beauford, 147, 148, 149, 150  
 Dell (publisher), 220  
 Delta Phi Epsilon, 25  
 Democratic Party, 26  
 Dempsey, Jack, 67  
 Depression, 25–26, 48, 64–65, 130, 158  
*Deseret News* (Salt Lake City newspaper),  
     27  
 Deutsch, Babette, 171–72  
 Dewey, John, 65  
 diaries: correspondence with Bishop as  
     substitute for, 159; earliest extant, 29,  
     30; MS’s attitude toward, xix–xx,  
     56–57, 110–11, 141–42; no longer  
     extant, xvii, xx, 22, 29, 112; origins  
     of, xvii, xviii, 1, 20–21; reflections  
     on writing in, 141–43; sketch, 83;  
     as source material, ix–x, xvii–xviii;  
     violation of privacy of, xix, 56–57,  
     125–26, 142  
 Dickinson, Emily, x, xi  
 Dies, Martin, 95  
*Discovery* (magazine), 163, 164, 170  
 Doctrine and Covenants, 18  
 Dorn, Alfred, 88  
 Doty, Mark, xii, xv  
 Dove, Arthur, 60, 114  
 “Dreams and Ashes,” 122, 134  
 Dreiser, Theodore, 101  
 “Dr. Henderson,” xi–xii  
 drinking, 31–32, 38, 42, 55, 67,  
     72–74, 209  
 Dryden, John, 181  
 Duncan, Harry, 169  
 Duncan, Isadora, 49  
 “Earth Your Dancing Place,” xii  
 education: college, 23–29; denigration of  
     her own, xv, 158, 195; primary through  
     secondary, 9–24  
 Einstein, William, 60–61  
 Eliot, T. S., x, 59, 161  
 Ellison, Ralph, 85  
 employment. *See* work  
 European trip, 187–90  
 “Evolution,” 171  
 “Facing,” xii  
 Fajans, Irving, 86  
 family: background of, 2–8; LDS doctrines  
     concerning, 19–20; photographs of,  
     141, 192; relationship with, as an adult,  
     56–58, 97, 111, 115–16, 119, 121, 123–25,  
     139–40, 155–57, 167, 169–70, 181,  
     191–94, 205–7, 219. *See also* childhood;  
     siblings  
 Farrell, Dorothy, 80  
 Farrell, James, 80  
 Federal One, 95, 103  
 Federal Wholesale Druggists’ Association,  
     122–23  
 Federal Writers’ Project (FWP), 65–66, 68,  
     80, 83–88, 83, 94–96, 100, 104–7, 153  
 “Feel Like a Bird,” 171  
 feminism, ix, xi  
 Ferlinghetti, Lawrence, 172, 178–79, 181  
 Ferry, Frances, 72, 73  
 Feuchtwanger, Lion, *Success*, 144, 244n15  
 Field, Edward, 173, 185, 197, 206, 216;  
     *Stand Up, Friend, with Me*, 185  
 finances: Bishop’s concerns about MS’s,  
     165–67; comfort with, 100, 122–23,  
     212; difficulties with, 48, 64, 68, 77–79,  
     121, 161, 162, 164; gifts given by MS,  
     170, 226; and home ownership, 211–  
     12; income from academic work, 197;  
     income from fellowships and awards,  
     173, 185, 196, 223, 226; income from  
     poetry readings and related activities,  
     179, 196, 215; income from sales of  
     poems, prose, and books, 164–65, 170,  
     180, 183, 212; income from work, 85,  
     122, 142, 151; savings, 49, 52, 140, 161,  
     162, 164, 212; welfare and, 80–81  
 Fisher, Vardis, *Children of God*, 107  
*The Floor*, 181, 196, 200  
 Ford Foundation, 178, 196  
 Forster, E. M., 151  
 Foster, Ruth, 151  
 Franco, Francisco, 76

# 256 INDEX

- Frankenburg, Lloyd, 191  
 Freud, Sigmund, 68  
 friendships. *See* social life and friendships  
 Frost, Elizabeth A., ix  
 Frost, Robert, x, 77, 80, 179; “Two Tramps in Mud Time,” 77, 96, 179  
 Fulbright fellowship, 184  
 FWP. *See* Federal Writers’ Project
- Gantt, Patricia M., *Body My House* (edited volume, with Paul Crumbley), xiv, xx  
 “The Garden at St. John’s,” 130–31  
 Garrigue, Jean, 149  
 Gasparo, Oronzo Vito, 103  
 Geffen, Alice, 228–29  
 Geffen, Felicia, 153  
 Gellhorn, Martha, 71  
 gender, hybridity of, 15, 36, 59, 139, 176–78, 183–84  
 Gielgud, John, 55–56  
 Ginsberg, Allen, 179, 181; *Howl and Other Poems*, 181  
*Glebe* (magazine), 114  
 “God,” xii  
 Goodall, Donald, 27, 111, 124  
 Gordon, Ricky Ian, 162  
 Gould, Joe, 97, 103  
 Graf, Charles, 130  
 Greenwich Village, New York, 59–60, 67, 72, 97–103, 113, 134, 202  
*The Grizzly* (Logan High School newspaper), 22–23, 27  
*The Guess and Spell Coloring Book*, 222  
 Guggenheim Foundation fellowships, xiv, xvii, 147, 149, 160, 161, 171, 172, 185–86  
 Guggenheim Museum, 207  
 “Guilty,” 231–32
- Half Sun Half Sleep: New Poems*, xii, 200  
 Hallmark, 217  
 Hammer, Langdon, *May Swenson: Collected Poems* (edited volume), xiv  
 Hansen, A. J., 8  
 Harcourt, 179  
 Harlem Renaissance, x  
 Harper’s (publisher), 179, 220
- Hartley, Marsden, 60, 114  
 Harvard University, 216, 226  
 “Haymaking,” x, 43, 99, 136, 198  
 health, 161, 216, 219–21  
 Hecht, Anthony, 194–95  
 Hemingway, Ernest, 71  
 Hemley, Cecil, 162, 163  
*Herald Journal* (Logan newspaper), 27, 29, 33–34, 226  
 Hermann, John, 86  
 “He Who Makes Music,” 54  
 Hitler, Adolf, 79, 94–95, 100  
 Hobbs, Gladys, 27, 29, 31, 33, 36, 38–42, 64, 68–70, 91, 94, 111, 124, 131, 135  
 Hobson, Dorothy, 116  
 Holmes, Oliver Wendell, 48  
 Holt, 191  
 horseback riding, 72, 82, 120, 123, 133, 155  
 Houghton Mifflin Fellowship Award, 147  
 Houghton Mifflin Poetry Prize, 149  
 Howard, Leslie, 55–56  
 “How can I get it all down,” 109  
 Hughes, Langston, 161–62  
 “A Hurricane at Sea,” 187
- Iconographs: Poems*, xi, xii, 204, 208, 215, 216, 221  
 “In Love Made Visible,” 134  
 “The Inmost Circle,” 138–39  
*In Other Words*, xii, xiii, 228  
 “In Spoonfuls,” 81–82  
*Intermountain Review* (journal), 29. *See also Rocky Mountain Reader; Rocky Mountain Review; Western Review*  
 International Poetry Forum, 217  
 International Publications, 178  
 “In the Bodies of Words: *For Elizabeth Bishop* (1911–1979),” 224–26  
 inversion, 183–84  
 “I Will Lie Down,” 161–62
- Jais, Regina, 49–50, 241n2, 241n3  
 James, Henry, 150  
 Jarrell, Randall, 151  
 Jensen, LaNorma, 15–16  
 jobs. *See* work  
 Joyce, James, 68, 133  
 “Jupiter Street,” 30–31  
 J. Widder & Co., 115

- Kafka, Franz, 93, 101  
 Kates, Arnold, 67–76, 71, 79–82, 88–93, 95, 116, 119, 131, 134–35, 172  
 Katz, Leslie, 149  
 Kazin, Alfred, 148  
 Kemp, Harry, 95–96  
 Kernis, Aaron Jay, 162  
 Kerouac, Jack, 179  
 Ketcham, Howard, 62  
 “The Key to Everything,” 134  
 Klee, Paul, 109  
 Knudson, Rozanne (“Zan”), xiv, xx, 32–33, 205–20, 207, 228–31; *May Swenson: A Poet’s Life in Photos* (with Suzzanne Bigelow), xiv, xx, 112; *Sports Poems* (edited volume), 218; *The Wonderful Pen of May Swenson*, xiv, xx; *Zanballer*, 219; *Zanbanger*, 219; *Zanboomer*, 219  
 Kreymborg, Alfred, xx, 114–16, 135–36, 136, 144–45, 151–53, 157, 160, 162  
 Kumin, Maxine, xi  
  
 La Gambina, Vincent, *Life Cafeteria, Greenwich Village*, 102  
 Lamont Award, 196  
 Laughlin, James, xx, 137, 137, 145, 146, 147, 160, 164, 171, 178  
 Laurel Press, 218  
 Lawrence, D. H., 53–54  
 Lawrence, Frieda, 54  
 LDS. *See* Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
 League to Support Poetry, 116  
 Lechay, James, 72, 74–77  
 Leigh (business executive), 50  
 lesbian identity: Djuna Barnes and, 59, 71; early attractions to women, 22, 26–27, 29–31, 38, 91; Elizabeth Bishop and, 159, 166–67; embrace of, x, xviii, 1, 26, 57, 91, 184; family’s knowledge of, 120–21; in Greenwich Village, 101–3; quality of relationships with women, 82; reflections on, 134; as subject matter, xii; Sylvia Norman and, 118. *See also* gender; long-term relationships; sexuality  
 Levitt, Saul, 86  
 Library of Congress, 86, 147, 215  
 Life Cafeteria, New York, 101–2  
 “Like Thee, Falcon,” 41  
 Lincoln Center Repertory Theatre, 196  
 Lindsay, Vachel, 161  
 Literary Lions of the New York Public Library, 228  
 Little, Brown, 221, 222  
 Living Lore Unit, 85–86  
 “Living Tenderly,” xii  
 Logan, Utah, 8–11, 15–16, 16, 20, 29–30, 33, 42  
 Logan High School, Utah, 22–23, 27, 28  
 Logan Library, Utah, 15–16  
 Long Island, New York, 185, 208–9. *See also* Sea Cliff, New York  
 long-term relationships: Anca Vrbovska, xix, 90–113, 116–29, 184; Arnold Kates, 67–82, 88–93, 95, 116, 119; Pearl Schwartz, xix–xx, 139, 142–44, 146, 148, 149, 155–56, 172–73, 180–82, 184–90, 197, 199–201, 205–9; Rozanne Knudson, 205–20, 228–31. *See also* love; sexuality; social life and friendships  
 “The Long Tunnel,” xviii, 109, 132–35  
 Louise (roommate in New York City), 47–49, 55–56, 61  
 love: and Anca Vrbovska, 103–4, 131; and Arnold Kates, 68, 74, 82, 89, 131, 134–35; first, 22; need conjoined with, 77, 80, 140; and Pearl Schwartz, 139, 142–44, 155; reflections on, 53, 58, 89, 91, 118–19, 129; and Rozanne Knudson, 205–10; search for, xvii, 31, 38–39, 42, 53, 131, 134; as subject matter, 76–77, 121–22; and Sylvia Norman, 131–35. *See also* long-term relationships; sexuality; social life and friendships  
 “Love Is,” 139  
 love poems, xii, 27, 108, 121–22, 134, 139  
 Lowell, Robert, xii–xiii, 147, 171, 216  
 Loy, Myrna, 49  
 Lu (roommate in New York City), 62  
 Lubitsch, Trudy, 130, 142, 149, 167  
 Luening, Otto, 162  
 Lutheranism, 2–3

258 INDEX

- MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, xiv, 226
- Macaulay, Rose, 151
- MacDowell Colony, 32, 145, 160, 164, 179, 183, 194
- Macdo Soares, Maria Carlota ("Lota") Costallat de, 159, 185–87, 190–91, 201–2, 205, 209–10
- MacGregor, Bob, 178
- MacIver, Loren, 191, 209
- Mademoiselle* (magazine), 130
- "Manhattan Moon," 64
- Mann, Thomas, 101, 144
- Marin, John, 60, 114
- Matisse, Henri, 47
- Maugham, Somerset, "The Summing Up," 151
- Mayhall, Jane, 147, 149
- May Swenson Papers, 1932–1998, Merrill-Cazier Library, Utah State University, Logan, xx
- May Swenson Papers, Department of Special Collections, Washington University, St. Louis, xviii, xx
- McCarthy, Mary, 158
- McCrudden, Francis Lambert, 98
- McCullers, Carson, 64
- McFall, Gardner, *May Swenson: Made with Words*, xiv
- Melville, Herman, 133
- Merrill, James, xii
- Miles, Josephine, 181
- Miller, Mary Britton (pseudonym: Isabel Bolton), 183–84; *Many Mansions*, 183
- "Mirage," 97
- modernism, 59–60, 96, 114, 217
- Moe, Orin, 161–62
- Moore, Marianne, ix, x, xi, 158, 167, 180
- More Poems to Solve*, xii, 212, 222
- Morgan, Floyd, 29–30, 33, 91
- Mormonism. *See* Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- "Mornings Innocent," xii, 139
- Morrill Land-Grant Act (1862), 24
- Morris, Muriel, 15–16, 21–22
- Morse, Mary, 159
- Moss, Howard, xii, 136, 164–65, 175; *The Poet's Story* (edited volume), 164
- Mumaw, Barton, 44, 46
- Mumford, Lewis, 84
- Munich Pact, 94–95
- music, MS's poems set to, 32, 161–62
- "Music Maker," 29, 58, 59
- "Mutterings of a Middlewoman," 163–64
- "My Name Was Called," 227–28
- "Naked in Borneo," 184–85
- name, of MS, 9
- Nation* (magazine), 162
- National Book Award, 172, 183, 196, 218
- National Council of Teachers of English, 205
- National Institute of Arts and Letters, 152–53, 215–16
- nature: lifelong attraction to, 15, 22, 27, 43, 104, 209; as subject matter, xi, xiv–xv, 43
- Nazis, 100, 105, 112, 119, 244n15; Communazis, 104
- "Neither Wanting More," 121, 134
- Nemerov, Howard, xiii
- Nevelson, Louise, 72
- New & Selected Things Taking Place*, xii, xiii, 221
- New Deal, 26
- New Directions* (anthologies), 146, 149, 152
- New Directions* (publisher), 137, 178, 182, 185, 196
- New Republic* (magazine), 167
- New York City: attraction to, x; difficulties of living in, x; early years in, xiii, xvii, 46–56; MS's brief autobiographical account of life in, 198–99; plans to move to, 32, 41–46; social life in, 48–49, 55–56, 59–61, 113, 121, 131. *See also* Greenwich Village, New York
- New Yorker* (magazine), x, 98, 136, 164–65, 166, 183, 184, 187, 204
- New York Review of Books* (magazine), 194
- New York Times* (newspaper), 25, 49, 61, 62, 64, 82, 98, 107, 130, 171, 179, 183, 186
- Nielsen, Veneta, 36
- Nin, Anaïs, 101
- Noonday Press, 162, 163
- Norman, Sylvia, 51, 118, 131–35, 140, 161

- Noss, Murray, 169  
 “Notes Made in the Piazza San Marco,” 187  
 “Now and Then,” xix, 181–86
- O’Brien, Edward J., *The Best Short Stories of 1919* (edited volume), 65  
 “October,” 17  
 Ogden, Utah, 30–31  
 O’Keeffe, Georgia, 60  
 Oliver, Mary, xi, xiii  
 Oppen, John, 72  
 Ostriker, Alicia, xv  
*Others* (magazine), 114
- Pahjonen, Hilja, 20  
 “The Pantheon, Rome,” 187  
 Parson, Robert, 25–26, 28–29  
 patriarchal blessings, 18–19  
 Pearson, Nancy K., xii  
 Peck, Bramwell, 33–36, 54  
 P.E.N., 171  
 Perkins, Maxwell, 37  
*Perspectives USA* (journal), 178  
 Peter A. Frasse Company, 153  
 Phi Beta Kappa Literary Exercises, 226  
 Phillips, Esther, 108  
 photographs of MS: childhood, 10, 11; college, 28; Europe, 188; family, 13, 14, 141, 192; high school, 23; New York City, 89, 122, 174; post–New York City, 207, 213, 222, 227; Yaddo, 148
- Picasso, Pablo, 47  
 Pittsburgh Press, 218  
 Plath, Sylvia, xi  
 Playhouse Repertory Theater, San Francisco, 181, 196  
 Poe, Edgar Allan, 98  
 “A Poem Happens to Me,” 78  
*Poems to Solve*, xii, 163, 165, 200, 212  
 “The Poet as Antispecialist,” xiv  
 poetry: Bishop’s comments on MS’s, xiii, 163, 164–65, 170, 175, 195; comments on Bishop’s, 150, 166, 174, 195; early proclivities for, 22–25, 29–30; influences on, x, xi, 179, 195; musical settings for, 32, 161–62; poems likened to children, 32–33; post-college practice of, 32, 37, 42; practice of/engagement in, 54, 58–61, 64, 70–78, 81–82, 96–100, 108–9, 116, 121–23, 136–39, 144–45, 151, 159–60, 169, 173, 204, 221–22; reflections on, xiv, 14–15, 78, 164–65; self-assessment of, xv, 1, 150, 158, 175, 195; translation of, 217–18; written in Europe, 187. *See also* love poems; shape poems
- Poetry* (magazine), 166  
*The Poetry and Voice of May Swenson* (recording), xv  
 poetry readings, 179, 181, 205, 207, 214–17, 229  
 politics, 26, 199  
 polygamy, 3, 107  
 “Portrait of Esther,” 108  
 portraits of MS, 76, 147  
 Pound, Ezra, x  
 Powell, William, 49  
 “The Power House,” 203–4, 208  
 Presley, Elvis, 230  
 Prima, Louis, 38  
 “The Prophet,” 54  
 prose, 22–23, 33, 78, 109, 138, 146–47, 163–64, 181–82, 185. *See also* autobiographical writings
- psychoanalysis, 132  
 publications: books, xii, xiv, 108, 165, 170, 180, 191, 200, 212, 215–16, 221, 222, 228; in journals, magazines, and anthologies, x, xvii, 1, 29, 43, 58, 116, 136, 145, 169, 183, 184, 187, 198; in the *New Yorker*, x, 183; posthumous, xii, xiv, 76, 78, 108, 134, 187; pursuit of, 1, 78, 99, 135–39, 145, 157, 164, 179
- Purdue University, 197, 199–206  
 Purdy, James, 179
- “Question,” xii
- Ravel, Maurice, 49  
*Raven Anthology* (magazine), 97, 113  
 Raven Poetry Circle, 97–99, 98, 113  
 readings. *See* poetry readings  
 “Rededication,” 138  
 Redford, Grant H., 28–29, 33, 36, 39, 94, 180–81, 197, 206  
 Reed, Henry, 171  
 Relief Society, 17

- religion, MS and, ix, 39–40. *See also*  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day  
Saints
- Republican Party, 26
- “The Rest of My Life,” 221–23
- Rexroth, Kenneth, 178
- Reynolds, Sallie, 37, 229–31
- Rhinehart, Max, 77
- Rich, Adrienne, xi, xii
- Richards, Helen, 15, 22, 24, 27, 53, 82,  
91, 131
- Rilke, Rainer Maria, 101
- Rimbaud, Arthur, 133
- Rinehart, 180
- Rockefeller Foundation, 172–73, 207
- Rockefeller Plaza, New York, 62, 63
- Rocky Mountain Reader* (journal), 29. *See also* *Intermountain Review*; *Rocky Mountain Review*; *Western Review*
- Rocky Mountain Review* (journal), 29, 43,  
58. *See also* *Intermountain Review*;  
*Rocky Mountain Reader*; *Western Review*
- Roethke, Theodore, 171
- Roosevelt, Eleanor, 244n15
- Roosevelt, Franklin D., 25–26, 65
- Rosen, Abraham Paltial (“Plat”), xix,  
50–59, 61–62, 77–79, 91, 110, 140,  
142
- Rosenborg, Ralph, 72–73
- Round Table, 114
- Rudolph, Rita, 108, 112
- Rukeyser, Muriel, 171, 217
- Russian Cathedral Choir, 31
- Safire, William, 64
- Saitta, Anca Vrbovska.  
*See* Vrbovska, Anca
- Saitta, Joe, 88, 129
- Salinger, J. D., “A Perfect Day for  
Bananafish,” 139
- Salt Lake City, xvii, xviii, 6, 29–33, 36–41
- “The Salty Things I Taste,” 99
- Salute to Poetry and American Poets  
(1980), 226
- Sandburg, Carl, 161–62
- Sappho, 37, 231
- Saroyan, William, “The Snake,” 42
- Sarton, May, 144, 244n14
- Saturday Review of Literature* (magazine),  
x, 43, 136, 198
- Scandinavian Foundation, 217
- Schnabel, Artur, 39
- Schneebaum, Tobias, 184
- “The School of Desire,” 150
- Schwartz, Pearl, xix–xx, 139, 142–44, 143,  
146, 148, 149, 155–56, 162, 167, 172–73,  
180–82, 184–90, 197, 199–201, 205–9,  
212
- Scribble* (magazine), 26
- Scribbler’s Club, 26, 28
- Scribner’s, 169, 170, 191, 200, 207, 212, 216,  
221, 222
- Sea Cliff, New York, 210–14, 220, 227–30
- Sea Cliff Library, New York, 229
- sealing: posthumous, 20; of spouses and  
families, 7, 19–20
- Seattle Symphony Orchestra, 31
- Seattle Times* (newspaper), 197
- “The Seed of My Father,” 191–93
- Sergeant, Elizabeth, 171
- Seventeen and One* (anthology), 116
- Sexton, Anne, xi
- sexuality: heterosexual interests and en-  
counters, 29, 31–32, 34–36, 39, 41–42,  
44–45, 50–57, 59, 61, 67–82, 88–93,  
135; and inversion, 183–84; lesbian ex-  
periences, 91, 94–95, 128–29, 133–34,  
142; losing her virginity, 34–35, 54–55;  
as subject matter, 150. *See also* gender;  
lesbian identity; long-term relation-  
ships; love poems
- shape poems, xi, 204, 208, 215
- Shapiro, Karl, 171
- Shawn, Ted, 37, 41, 44
- shoplifting, 40, 50, 59, 101
- “The Short Word,” 58
- Shye, Charles Zig, 50
- siblings: childhoods of, 9, 11–14, 17–18;  
MS’s gifts to, 170, 226; photograph  
of, 13; remembrances and comments  
regarding MS, xvii, xx, 10–12, 19–20,  
22, 26–27, 29, 30, 36, 170, 181. *See also*  
family
- sisters. *See individuals by name*; siblings
- Sjöberg, Leif, 217–18
- “Sketch for a Landscape,” 108
- Sky-Acquainted*, 163

# INDEX 261

- Smith, Doris, 79  
 Smith, Joseph, 44, 107, 168, 216  
 smoking, 26, 31, 32, 37, 38, 42, 144, 204, 216, 219, 221  
 Snodgrass, W. D., 217  
 “Snow by Morning,” x, 164–65  
 social life and friendships: in childhood, 15–16, 21; in college, 25–29; in high school, 22; life circumstances of her friends, 135; in New York City, 48–49, 55–56, 59–61, 113, 121, 131; post-college, 31–32, 41–42; in Sea Cliff, 228–31; writers, artists, and musicians, 171–73, 228–29; at Yaddo, 147, 160. *See also* Bishop, Elizabeth; lesbian identity; long-term relationships; love; Redford, Grant H.; sexuality  
 Solomon, Hyde, 160  
 “Some Quadrangles,” 226  
 songs. *See* music  
 Spanish Civil War, 76  
 Spector, Herman, 86  
 spelling, xxi  
 Stanford University, 205–6, 220  
*The Star* (journal), 6  
 “Staying at Ed’s Place,” 185  
 Stegner, Wallace, 206  
 Steinbeck, John, 84  
 Steinberg, Jacob, 163  
 Sterling, Jimmy, 72–73, 75, 242n19  
 Stevens, Wallace, x, 162  
 Stewart’s Cafeteria, New York, 101–2  
 Stieglitz, Alfred, 43, 48, 60–61, 101, 114  
 Stix, Hugh, 72–73, 75  
*Story Magazine* (journal), 64  
 Strand, Mark, 217  
 Strand, Paul, 61, 114  
*Student Life* (USAC newspaper), 26, 28  
 “A Subject of the Waves,” 213  
 “Sunday Exhibition—Still Life,” 58  
 “Surrealist,” 116  
 Swanson, Howard, 161; “Saw a Grave upon a Hill,” 161–62; “Snowdunes,” 161–62  
 Swedish language, xxi, 2, 9–10, 217–18  
 Swenson, Beth (sister), 11, 12, 14, 19, 22, 170, 192  
 Swenson, Dan Arthur (father), xvii, 2–18, 10, 14, 20, 24, 42, 56, 58, 67, 81, 100, 107, 115, 118, 120, 123, 140, 155–57, 170, 191–94, 192, 198, 206  
 Swenson, Dan H. (brother), 9, 13, 14, 19, 22, 26, 29, 141, 181, 192  
 Swenson, Edna (“Sunny”) [cousin], 22, 30, 31, 33, 36–37, 40–41, 43–44, 47  
 Swenson, George (brother), 9, 11–14, 14, 19, 22, 27, 94, 97, 105–7, 115–17, 119, 121, 141, 192  
 Swenson, Grace (stage name: Michael Raine) [sister], 11, 14, 19–20, 123–24, 125, 141, 192, 194, 198, 219  
 Swenson, Lloyd (brother), 11  
 Swenson, Margaret (Greta) Hellberg (mother), xxi, 6–12, 14, 15, 17–20, 27, 30, 56, 58, 82, 94, 115, 123–24, 191, 192, 200, 206, 211–12, 215–16, 219  
 Swenson, Margaret (“Muggins”) [sister], 11, 12, 17, 18, 22, 26, 27, 30, 111, 120–21, 123, 170, 192  
 Swenson, Paul (brother), 11, 12, 36, 56, 123, 139, 167, 192  
 Swenson, Roy (brother), 1, 9, 13, 14, 141, 192  
 Swenson, Ruth (sister), 11, 12, 14, 20, 26, 141, 170, 192, 194  
 Swenson, Swen (grandfather), 2–5, 23  
 Swenson, Thilda Pehrson (grandmother), 2–5, 23  
 Talk of the Town, New York, 102–3  
 Ted Shawn and His Men Dancers, 44  
 “That Never Told Can Be,” 134  
 theater, 181, 196, 200  
*Thing and Image*, 163  
 “This Is What My Love Is Thinking,” 108  
 Thomas, Dylan, 168–69; “Death Shall Have No Dominion,” 169; “Under Milkwood,” 169  
 Thompson, Lincoln, 32  
 “The Tiger’s Ghost,” 162  
 “Tiger’s Passion,” 116  
 time and aging: Bishop’s “The Shampoo” and, 166–67; MS and, 135, 140–41, 172, 198, 216, 219, 222, 230–32  
 “To a Dark Girl,” 139  
 “To D. H. Lawrence,” 54, 99  
 “To F.,” 99–100  
 Tofel, Jennings, 74, 75

- To Mix with Time*, xii, xiii, 191, 194  
 “The Totem,” 194–95  
 “The Tramp Poet,” 95–96  
 “Transition,” 72, 242n15  
 translation work, 217–18  
 Tranströmer, Tomas, 217–18; *Seeing in the Dark*, 217; *Windows & Stones*, 218, 222  
 Traphagen School of Art, 120  
 “A Trellis for R.,” 208  
*Tribune* (New York newspaper), 82, 186  
*Tribune* (Salt Lake City newspaper), 27, 36, 38, 40  
 “Trinity Place,” 108, 116  
 Turetsky, Grace, 162  
 Twayne Press, 163, 217  
  
 UAC. *See* Utah Agricultural College  
 the unconscious, 132–33  
 United Nations, 199  
 University of Georgia, 206  
 University of Utah, 29, 31  
 University of Washington, 29, 180, 196–97, 201–2  
 Unsubdued (house in Delaware), 220, 224, 229–30  
 Untermeyer, Louis, 171; *Treasury of Great Poems* (edited volume), 171  
 USAC. *See* Utah State Agricultural College  
 U.S. Department of the Interior, 107  
 U.S. Travel Bureau, 107–8, 115  
*Utah* (magazine), 30–31, 36–41  
 Utah Agricultural College (UAC), 5, 8, 10, 15, 24. *See also* Utah State Agricultural College; Utah State University  
 Utah State Agricultural College (USAC), 24, 47–48, 158, 181, 198. *See also* Utah Agricultural College; Utah State University  
 Utah State University, 24, 226. *See also* Utah Agricultural College; Utah State Agricultural College  
  
 Van Doren, Mark, 171  
 Vassar College, 158  
 Vernon Short Story Medal, 22–23  
 Village Vanguard, New York, 103  
*Vogue* (magazine), 130  
  
 Vrbovska, Anca, xix, 87–88, 89, 90–113, 98, 116–29, 131, 142, 184; *The Gate beyond the Sun*, 88, 129; *The Other Selves*, 129; “Sanguine Sea,” 129; “Song,” 129  
  
 WAA. *See* Workers Alliance of America  
 Wanning, Thomas Edward, 149  
 “War Summer,” 120  
 “Was Worm,” xii  
*The Wave* (film), 61  
 Weber, Max, 114  
 “Wednesday at the Waldorf,” 207  
 Welch, Edith, 26–27, 28, 29–30, 33, 53, 82, 91, 131, 226  
 welfare, 80–81  
 West, Ray B., Jr., 28–29, 31, 36, 43, 58, 64, 145, 187  
*Western Review* (journal), 29, 145. *See also* *Intermountain Review*; *Rocky Mountain Reader*; *Rocky Mountain Review*  
 Wheelock, John, 169, 171  
 “White Mood,” 161–62  
 Whitman, Walt, x, xi, xv, 42, 43, 48  
 “Why We Die,” 161–62  
 Wilbur, Richard, xii, 171  
 Wilde, Oscar, 151  
 “Wild Water,” 76–77, 99  
 Williams, Tennessee, 64  
 Williams, William Carlos, x, 155  
 “Without having to phrase it,” 109  
 Wolfe, Thomas, x, 31, 36–37, 43, 45–46, 48; *Look Homeward, Angel*, 36–37; *Of Time and the River*, 36–37; *The Story of a Novel*, 37  
 “Women,” xi  
 women’s role in LDS Church, 155–56, 213  
 Woodruff, Wilford, and Woodruff Manifesto, 3, 107  
 Woolf, Virginia, *Orlando*, 151  
 work: for Anzia Yezierska, 65–71; for Bishop, 166–67; earnings from, 85, 122, 142, 151; in Federal Writers’ Project, 83–88, 95–96, 100, 104–7; at New Directions, 178, 196; for newspapers and magazines, 29–33, 36–40; for Plat Rosen, 50–56, 58–59, 61–62, 78–79; reflections on, 143–44, 153, 163–64; secretarial, xviii, 49–50,

# INDEX 263

- 62–64, 79, 82, 107, 115, 131–33, 142–44, 153–54, 160, 163, 199; teaching/writer residencies, 197, 199–206, 214; writing and editing, 122–23. *See also* Federal Writers' Project; Works Progress Administration
- Workers Alliance of America (WAA), 80–81, 95, 106–7
- Works Progress Administration (WPA), 65–66, 68, 71, 73, 76, 81–87, 99, 104–5, 107–8, 115. *See also* Federal Writers' Project
- World War I, 9
- World War II, 84, 104–5, 112, 115–17, 119
- WPA. *See* Works Progress Administration
- WPA Guide to New York City*, 102
- Wright, Jim, 217
- Wright, Richard, 80, 84, 182
- Writers' Workshop, University of Iowa, 172–73
- Yaddo writers' colony, 1, 144–47, 157, 159–62, 190
- Yale Series of Younger Poets, 99, 145
- Yeziarska, Anzia, 65–69, 66, 71, 73–74, 78, 80–81; *Bread Givers*, 65, 71; "The Fat of the Land," 65; *Hungry Heart*, 65; "More than Bread," 71; "WPA: We Poor Americans," 71
- York College, City University of New York, 216, 219
- Young, Brigham, 216