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PHILIP COLEMAN and PHILIP MCGOWAN -- THE BLACK BOOK: JOHN BERRYMAN'S HOLOCAUST REQUIEM / MATTHEW BOSWELL -- "CONTINUITY WITH LOVERS DEAD": BERRYMAN, LOWELL, AND THE TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICAN SONNET / ALEX RUNCHMAN -- THE WRITTEN AND THE ORAL IN HOMAGE TO MISTRESS BRADSTREET / PAGE RICHARDS -- HOW-TO-DO / RON CALLAN -- FAILED VISION? / JUSTIN

QUINN -- BERRYMAN IN HIS SYCAMORE / EDWARD CLARKE --

SHAKESPEARE AND BERRYMAN: SONNET 129 AND DREAM SONG 1 / KIT FRYATT -- FORM AND DISCONTENT: THE PROSODY OF THE DREAM SONGS / PETER DENMAN -- "DRAMATIZING THE DREADFUL": AFFECTIVE POSTURES IN THE DREAM SONGS / ANTHONY CALESHU -- ALLUSIONS, ETC.: BERRYMAN, CATULLUS, SAPPHO / MICHAEL HINDS -- "HE LIVED LIKE A RAT": THE TRICKSTER IN THE DREAM SONGS / STEPHEN MATTERSON -- "ONE GRAND EXCEPTION": THE DREAM SONGS AS

THEODICY? / BRENDAN COOPER -- THE LIFE OF BERRYMAN'S CHRIST / TOM ROGERS -- "WE WRITE VERSE WITH OUR EARS": BERRYMAN'SMUSIC

/ MARIA JOHNSTON -- JOHN BERRYMAN AND SHAKESPEAREAN

AUTOBIOGRAPHY / PETER MABER -- LOVE and FAME AND THE SELF IN SOCIETY / PHILIP COLEMAN -- JOHN BERRYMAN AND THE WRITING OF SILENCE / PHILIP MCGOWAN -- SNOW LINE / LAVINIA GREENLAW -- THE GEOGRAPHY PAPER / BRENDAN KENNELLY -- TRANSIT / MAURA DOOLEY -- IN SICKNESS: THREE POEMS AFTER JOHN BERRYMAN / HARRY CLIFTON -- NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS / Editors After thirty Falls -- INDEX / Editors After thirty Falls.

Sommario/riassunto

Prefaced by an account of the early days of Berryman studies by bibliographer and scholar Richard J. Kelly, "After thirty Falls" is the first collection of essays to be published on the American poet John Berryman (1914-1972) in over a decade. The book seeks to provoke new interest in this important figure with a group of original essays and appraisals by scholars from Ireland, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, and the United States. Exploring such areas as the poet's engagements with Shakespeare and the American sonnet tradition, his use of the Trickster figure and the idea of performance in his poetics, it expands the interpretive framework by which Berryman may be evaluated and studied, and it will be of interest to students of modern American poetry at all levels. What makes the collection particularly valuable is its inclusion of previously unpublished material – including a translation of a poem by Catullus and excerpts from the poet's detailed notes on the life of Christ – thereby providing new contexts for future assessments of Berryman's contribution to the development of poetry, poetics, and the relationship between scholarship and other forms of writing in the twentieth century.