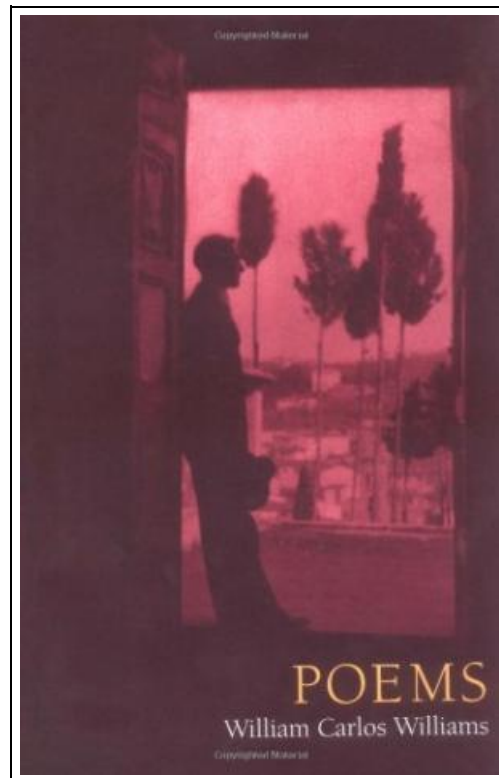


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University of Illinois Press, United States, 2002. Hardback. Book Condition: New. New.. 216 x 145 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Before William Carlos Williams was recognized as one of the most important innovators in American poetry, he commissioned a printer to publish 100 copies of *Poems* (1909), a small collection largely imitating the styles of the Romantics and the Victorians. This volume collects the self-published edition of *Poems*, Williams foray into the world of letters, with previously unpublished notes he made after spending nearly a year in Europe rethinking poetry and how to write it. As *Poems* shows his first tentative steps into poetry, the notes show him as he prepares to make a giant transformation in his art. Shortly after *Poems* appeared, Williams went through a series of experiences that changed his life - a trip to Europe, a marriage to the sister of the woman he genuinely loved, and the establishment of his medical practice. In Europe he was introduced to a consideration of an unlikely trio: Heinrich Heine, Martin Luther, and Richard Wagner, resulting in an exposure that subsequently influenced his developing style. Williams looked back on *Poems* as apprentice work, calling them, bad Keats, nothing else - oh well, bad Whitman too. But I sure loved them. There is not one thing of the slightest value in the whole thin booklet - except the intent, and never republished the collection. Now that Williams work is widely read and appreciated, his reputation secure, his development as a poet is a matter worth serious study, *Poems* can be seen as a point of departure, a clear record of where Williams began before his life and ideas about poetry made seismic shifts. Virginia M. Wright-Peterson's succinct introduction puts *Poems* in the context of his life...



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