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Introduction

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Introduction

Some time ago we decided to commemorate Pound in his centennial year, with results you find in this issue. That decision led to our remembering like years for H.D., Marianne Moore, and T. S. Eliot in 1986, '87, and '88. We hope to offer an issue devoted to each. As we approach the end of this century we might well look again toward those beginnings. Unhappily we missed Stevens ('79) and Williams ('83), not to mention Frost ('74), Dunbar ('72), and any number of others. Pound, H.D., Moore, and Eliot offer much more than a representative sequence, however, and if we follow through on them we may yet turn to Williams, in 1989, and commemorate his 106th year asymmetrically, as he might have preferred. The H.D. issue, edited by our colleague, Adalaide Morris, has advanced quite far in its planning. Inquiries are still welcome from potential contributors, but we are beginning to sense closure on that. The door is wide open though for Moore and Eliot, and we welcome your interest.

In this issue we are glad to present a number of writings related directly to Pound and other pieces that we think associate with him. The work of Justice, Laughlin, and Merwin, of Albright, Sieburth, Handspring, Kimpel and Eaves speak for themselves. Their inclusion offers no mystery, and we are grateful to each writer for responding to our invitation and frequently suggesting other persons whom we might contact.

Most of the rest of the issue associates with Pound without addressing him directly or even seeking to. The poetry, independently chosen in each case, has nevertheless a strong Mediterranean flavor. We have Jack Gilbert, Stavros Deligiorgis, and translations of Sappho, C. P. Cavafy, Yannis Ritsos, and Edoardo Sanguineti. We thought Pound himself might have taken an interest in the oral tales of Manx Islanders and equally in the Talon brothers, members of LaSalle's last expedition who sought to locate the mouth of the Mississippi and came in contact instead with much else. Had Pound known of them, he might have found a place for the Talons in his *Cantos*. We are pleased to present this first complete translation, in English, of their interrogation, a kind of debriefing, once they had returned to France. We have no fiction in this issue, but each of these pieces makes a good story.

D.H.