

**WELDON  
KEES**  
•  
**A  
Critical  
Introduction**

•  
edited with an  
introduction by  
**JIM ELLEDGE**



The Scarecrow Press, Inc.  
Metuchen, N.J., & London  
1985

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	ix
Foreword by Ralph J. Mills, Jr.	xv
Introduction	xvii

### THE LOST POEMS OF WELDON KEES

Preface for an Age	1
The Climate of Danger	1
No Sleep	2
Poem	3
Send Me Down	3
[Poem]	3
[Limerick]	4
Clean Limerick	4
[Poem]	4
Never Mind	4
This Is the Man	5

### CRITICAL COMMENTARIES

Weldon Kees	7
Preface to <u>The Collected Poems of Weldon Kees</u> , by Donald Justice	8
The Achievement of Weldon Kees, by Dana Gioia	10

Weldon Kees, by Karl Malkoff	33
The Disappearance of Weldon Kees, by Sharon Libera	36
The Poetry of Memory, by Emily Grosholz	46
Posthumous Investigations: The Poetry of Weldon Kees, by David Barton	47
Weldon Kees: Solipsist as Poet, by Robert E. Knoll	51
Weldon Kees: Moralizer as Poet, by William J. Zander	60
Weldon Kees: The Ghost of American Poetry, by Charles Baxter	66
"The Image Robinsonian": Weldon Kees' Robinson Sequence, by Jim Elledge	76
Introduction to <u>The Ceremony and Other Stories</u> , by Dana Gioia	92
Introduction to <u>The Lost Fiction of Weldon Kees</u> , by James Reidel	98
Introduction to <u>Two Prose Sketches</u> , by Dana Gioia	100
Boro Writer Makes Mark as a Painter	102
Point Richmond Artist Weldon Kees Devotes Time Evenly Be- tween Two Fields, by Helga Voigt	104
Weldon Kees, The Last Irascible: A Breaking and a Death, by James Reidel	106
Prologue to <u>Avant-Garde, 1935-1955: The World of Weldon Kees</u> , by Robert E. Knoll	134

## BOOK REVIEWS

### Reviews of The Last Man (1943)

From "Of Vitality, Regionalism, and Satire in Recent American Poetry," by Horace Gregory	141
Dismal Yew and Dismal Me, by Katinka Loeser	142
From "Some Recent Verse," by William Poster	143

Reviews of <u>The Fall of the Magicians</u> (1947)	
A Review of <u>The Fall of the Magicians</u> , by Milton Crane	144
New Verse, by Ambrose Gordon	145
Mirror to Human Inadequacy, by H.R. Hays	147
Reviews of <u>Poems 1947-1954</u> (1954)	
The Poetry of Weldon Kees, by Frederick Bock	149
From "Six Younger Poets," by John Andrew Fisher	152
A Review of <u>Poems 1947-1954</u> , by Hugh Kenner	153
A Victim of Today, by Kenneth Rexroth	158
From "Poems from Two Continents"	158
Reviews of <u>The Collected Poems of Weldon Kees</u> (1960)	
From "Poetry Chronicles," by Marius Bewley	159
Escape to New Life, by Brewster Ghiselin	162
From "Present Tense," by Samuel French Morse	163
The Poems of Weldon Kees, by Howard Nemerov	165
A Stranger on Madison Avenue, by Kenneth Rexroth	169
A Dark Tone, by Winfield Townley Scott	171
From "A Catalogue of Poets," by John Thompson	172
Reviews of <u>The Collected Poems of Weldon Kees</u> (1962)	
From "Poems and Books of Poems," by Thom Gunn	172
A Review of <u>The Collected Poems of Weldon Kees</u> , by Burton Raffel	174
From "Poetry Chronicle," by Louis Simpson	176
Reviews of <u>The Collected Poems of Weldon Kees</u> (1975)	
From "Four Voices," by Ben Howard	177
The Locksmith with the Blowtorch, by James Reiss	179

Disappearance Act: <u>The Collected Poems of Weldon Kees</u> , by Robert Stock	185
A Drowned Talent, by Vernon Young	192
Reviews of <u>The Ceremony and Other Stories</u> (1984)	
A Note on <u>The Ceremony and Other Stories</u> , by Brad Hooper	196
Madness Through a Kaleidoscope, by Evan S. Connell	197
Delights Amid the Dirges, by Robert W. Smith	199
Landscape Anonymous, Austere, by Jim Elledge	201
A Checklist of Works by Weldon Kees	
Weldon Kees: A Bibliographic Checklist, by Bob Niemi	203
Contributors	235
Index to Works by Weldon Kees	239