

DEC. 2014

THE POETRY COLLECTION

HOLIDAY BROADSIDE

Featuring Dylan Thomas and Gordon Thomas Stuart

THE FORCE THAT THROUGH THE GREEN FUSE
DRIVES THE FLOWER

The force that through the green fuse drives the flower
Drives my green age; that blasts the roots of trees
Is my destroyer.
And I am dumb to tell the crooked rose
My youth is bent by the same wintry fever.

The force that drives the water through the rocks
Drives my red blood; that dries the mouthing streams
Turns mine to wax.
And I am dumb to mouth unto my veins
How at the mountain spring the same mouth sucks.

The hand that whirls the water in the pool
Stirs the quicksand; that ropes the blowing wind
Hauls my shroud sail.
And I am dumb to tell the hanging man
How of my clay is made the hangman's lime.

The lips of time leech to the fountain head;
Love drips and gathers, but the fallen blood
Shall calm her sores.
And I am dumb to tell a weather's wind
How time has ticked a heaven round the stars.

And I am dumb to tell the lover's tomb
How at my sheet goes the same crooked worm.

To E.P.

Twenty Three.

The force that through the green fuse drives the flower
Drives my green age; that blasts the roots of trees
Is my destroyer.

And I am dumb to tell the caterpillar
How at my sheet goes the same crooked worm,
And dumb to holla thunder to the skies
How at my cloth flies the same central
star.

The force that through the green fuse drives the flower
Drives my green age, that blasts the roots of trees
Is my destroyer.

And I am dumb to tell the crooked rose
My youth is bent by the same wintry fever.

The force that drives the water through the rocks
Drives my red blood; that dries the mauling
stream
Turns mine to wax.

The first page of a draft of "The force that through the green fuse drives the flower" from Dylan Thomas's 1934 notebook



Dylan Thomas in New York, 1953. Photographer unknown. This photograph and others are available as a digital collection and through the UB Libraries store: library.buffalo.edu/dylanthomas.

The Poetry Collection's 2014 Holiday Broadside celebrates the centennial anniversary of Dylan Thomas's birth. Born in Swansea, Wales, Thomas (1914-1953) was one of the most influential poets of the twentieth century and also the author of numerous short stories, radio scripts and plays. His publications include *18 Poems* (1934), *Twenty-Five Poems* (1936), *The Map of Love* (1939), *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Dog* (1940), *Deaths and Entrances* (1946), *Collected Poems, 1934-1952* (1952), *The Doctor and the Devils* (1953) and *Under Milk Wood* (1954). For the Thomas centenary the Poetry Collection loaned notebooks, manuscripts, correspondence and photographs from its Dylan Thomas Collection to joint exhibitions at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, and the Dylan Thomas Centre, Swansea.

The Dylan Thomas Collection contains four early poetry notebooks (1930-1934), written while Thomas was still a teenager and including poems like "The force that through the green fuse drives the flower," which served as the basis for his first books of po-

etry; a prose notebook featuring ten short stories (1933-1934); a later poetry notebook (1949-1951); holograph and typed manuscripts, many with corrections, for such works as *The Doctor and the Devils*; a film script of *Life in a Girl's Reform School*; corrected or fragmentary versions of over a dozen individual poems including "Do not go gentle into that good night," "Ballad of the Long-Legged Bait" and "Fern Hill"; Thomas's letters to Henry Treece, Trevor Hughes, Donald Taylor and Pamela Hansford Johnson; and three diaries of Pamela Hansford Johnson (1933-1935).

The collection also includes two portraits of Thomas—one of which appears on the cover—painted by Gordon Thomas Stuart. The paintings were made in October 1953 just weeks before the poet's death in New York on November 9, and are currently being restored by Buffalo State's Art Conservation Department. This version of the holiday broadside is published in an edition of 1,200. There is also a limited letterpress edition of 200.

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