

Poetry from the U.S.

Light hearted William twirled
his November moustaches . . .
High-ya! sighed he gaily.

WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS.
American poet, novelist and pediatrician, and author of "Light Hearted William," published his first book of poetry in 1909, a year before he established his medical practice at Rutherford, New Jersey. Since then he has successfully lived a dual life, delivering babies with one hand and writing poems with the other. He is the first of six contemporary American poets who read from their own works in two programmes to be heard from NZBS stations. The others are John Crowe Ransom, E. E. Cummings, Karl Shapiro, W. H. Auden and Merrill Moore. The recordings were made at the Library of Congress.



MERRILL MOORE
Psychiatrist and sonneteer

Merrill Moore, who will be heard in the second programme (to be broadcast from 2YC at 8.30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10), is also, like Williams, a physician, though his specialty is psychiatry. His work should be of special interest to New Zealand listeners, as he spent some time here during the war, first at Silverstream Hospital, and later at Cornwall Park Hospital in Auckland. He wrote a book of poems about his stay here, which was published in 1945 by the Progressive Publishing Society, with the title *Some Poems for New Zealand*. He is best known in America as a sonneteer, and for this reading he has chosen pieces from two recent books, *Clinical Sonnets* and *Illegitimate Sonnets*. His intensive development of this form over many years has led some critics to consider him a pioneer in a new use of the sonnet comparable to the work of the earliest sonnet writers in Italy.

The other poets represented are well enough known in this country. Karl Shapiro, editor of *Poetry* magazine, also served in the Pacific war, and he has chosen a poem from this period of his work, the magnificent "Elegy for a Dead Soldier." W. H. Auden, who became an American citizen in 1946, reads "Alonso to Ferdinand," "Musée des Beaux Arts," and "Refugee Blues."

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