

# Collected Poems 1943-2004

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With a distinguished career spanning more than sixty years, Richard Wilbur stands as one of America's preeminent men of letters. *Collected Poems 1943-2004* is the comprehensive collection of Wilbur's astonishing, timeless work. It will serve as the most referenced trove of this beloved poet's best verses for many years to come.

#### In Trackless Woods

In trackless woods, it puzzled me to find  
Four great rock maples seemingly aligned,  
As if they had been set out in a row  
Before some house a century ago,  
To edge the property and lend some shade.  
I looked to see if ancient wheels had made  
Old ruts to which the trees ran parallel,  
But there were none, so far as I could tell-  
There'd been no roadway. Nor could I find the square  
Depression of a cellar anywhere,  
And so I tramped on further, to survey  
Amazing patterns in a hornbeam spray  
Or spirals in a pine cone, under trees  
Not subject to our stiff geometries.

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A New York Times Notable Book

"The indispensable Wilbur."--The New York Times Book Review

"The work in these 500 or so pages has been one of the saving graces of poetry in our time. Such a volume will see a reader through quiet evenings and noisy Metro commutes, indeed through one's whole life."--The Washington Post Book World

"Collected Poems may well contain the most distinguished body of work by any American poet writing in the second half of the 20th century." - The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

"[Wilbur] should be read in the company of Robert Frost and Wallace Stevens." -- Harold Bloom

Richard Wilbur, poet and translator, is one of the preeminent men of letters of our time. He has served as poet laureate of the United States and his many other honors include a National Book Award, two Pulitzer Prizes, and the Bollingen Translation Prize. Wilbur lives in Cummington, Massachusetts, and Key West, Florida.

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