

(Harcourt Brace Jovanovich) **

Richard Wilbur's New and Collected Poems presents the elegantly articulated and crafted work that this distinguished author has forged during the past four decades and more. These poems tease us into sympathetic thought and beyond into wonderment; we are instructed and delighted but by no means satiated by Wilbur's art and artifice; we marvel at his precise geography of the world's body and his probing insight into the human circumstance; we are astonished that a contemporary poet can give us the welter of humankind's velleities and aspirations in the Popeian measures of rhyme and meter.

This is no outer dark
But a small province haunted by the good,
Where something may be understood
And where, within the sun's coronal arc,
We keep our proper range,
Aspiring, with this lesser globe of sight,
To gather tokens of the light
Not in the bullion, but in the loose change.
--"Icarium Mare"

** Richard Wilbur won the 1957 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry.