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## TYPES OF POETRY

1. LYRIC = a song, usually of one distinct theme or tone.

*It may be said that the lyrical poet is undisputed master of all the extremes that can be expressed in terms of time or speed or tempo. No pen but his can hold excessive velocity or excessive slowness, A swift lyrical line is as quick as lightning; a slow one can be slower than a snail; and it is only in these difficult regions, distant regions, that the poet can work with ease and certainty." - James Stephens*

2. ODE = "A lyric that is exalted or enthusiastic in tone and, whether regular or not, elaborately designed" - hence an extension of the lyric mode.

3. PASTORAL = a poem whose chief subject is rural life, also sometimes known as an "idyl".

4. ELEGY = a poem of mourning or loss, a lament. ADONAIS, LYCIDAS, KADDISH, IN MEMORY OF W. B. YEATS.

5. EPIC = a heroic narrative, of great nobility. THE ILIAD, THE ODYSSEY, PARADISE LOST, THE CANTOS. Invariably about one stated theme, hence an extension of the lyric/ode.

6. EPITHALAMION = a poem of marriage, celebrating a wedding.

7. EPIGRAM = a short gnomic verse:

*Here lies New Critic who would fox us  
With his poetic paradoxes.  
Though he lies here rigid and quiet,  
If he could speak he would deny it.*

- J. V. Cunningham

8. OCCASIONAL POETRY = verses written for a specific event. A REFUSAL TO MOURN THE DEATH, BY FIRE, OF A CHILD IN LONDON.

9. BALLAD = a simple narrative poem, "the ballad presents a romantic theme, impersonally treated" (Babette Deutsch); usually with refrain or repeated motif.

10. EPISTLE = a letter in verse. NEW YEAR'S LETTER.

11. ITE = "go" - salutation to one's own poetry or book, a sending forth.

12. LIMERICK = strong dactyl a-a-b-b-a; 3 feet to 1/2/5, 2 feet to 3/4.

*W. T. Hubbard*