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Body My House

Paul Crumbley, Patricia M Gantt

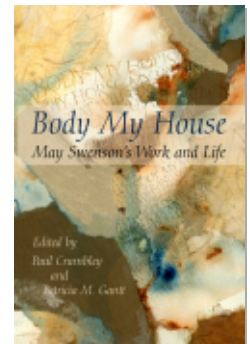
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MAY SWENSON CHRONOLOGY

Paul Crumbley and Patricia M. Gantt

- May 28, 1913:** Anna Thilda May Swenson, daughter of Dan Arthur and Margaret Hellberg Swenson, is born at 2:30 AM Wednesday at a house rented on North Seventh Street in Logan, Utah. May will be the oldest of ten children.
- 1922:** May's family moves to a house her father built at 669 East 500 North in Logan. The grounds behind the house will become the setting for the poem "The Centaur." The house is situated at the foot of Old Main Hill, where the main buildings of Utah State Agricultural College are located; there, May's father is a faculty member in the Department of Mechanical Arts.
- 1929:** Swenson wins the Vernon Short Story Medal and twenty-five dollars for her writing at Logan High School and publishes her first literary work, "Christmas Day," in *The Grizzly*, the school newspaper.
- 1930–34:** Swenson attends Utah State Agricultural College, where she publishes her first poem in *The Scribble*, the campus literary magazine. She also writes for the campus newspaper, *Student Life*. She graduates as an English major with a minor in art.
- 1936:** Swenson leaves Utah to join the New York literary scene.
- 1938–39:** Swenson works as an interviewer for the Living Lore Unit of the WPA Federal Writers' Project.
- 1949:** Swenson's poem "Haymaking" is accepted for publication in *The Saturday Review of Literature*, providing entry into prestigious journals and magazines.
- 1950:** Swenson meets Elizabeth Bishop at Yaddo, which marks the beginning of their friendship and years of correspondence regarding poetics.
- 1953:** Howard Moss accepts Swenson's poem "By Morning" for publication in the *New Yorker*, changing the title to "Snow by Morning" and paying Swenson forty-nine dollars. Swenson will go on to publish fifty-nine poems in the *New Yorker*.
- 1953:** Swenson is awarded the Introduction Prize of the Poetry Center of the New York City YM/YWCA.

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- 1954: Swenson publishes her first book, *Another Animal: Poems*, with Charles Scribner's Sons.
- 1955: Swenson wins a Rockefeller Writing Fellowship.
- 1958: Swenson publishes *A Cage of Spines* with Rinehart. She wins the William Rose Benet Poetry Prize of the Poetry Society of America.
- 1959: Swenson is awarded the Longview Foundation Prize and a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Grant.
- 1960: Swenson is awarded an Amy Lowell Traveling Scholarship and a National Institute of Arts and Letters Grant.
- 1963: Swenson publishes *To Mix With Time: New and Selected Poems* with Scribner's.
- 1964: Swenson is awarded the Ford Foundation Grant for Poets and Writers Combined with Theater Group, enabling her to write *The Floor*, a one-act play presented at the American Place Theatre in 1965–66 and published in the summer of 1967 in *First Stage*.
- 1966: Swenson publishes *Poems to Solve* with Scribner's.
- 1967: Swenson publishes *Half Sun Half Sleep* with Scribner's. She is awarded a Utah State University Distinguished Service Gold Medal, a Rockefeller Foundation Grant, and a Brandeis University Creative Arts Award.
- 1968: Swenson wins the Shelley Memorial Award of the Poetry Society of America.
- 1969: Swenson receives an Academy of American Poets Fellowship.
- 1970: Swenson publishes *Iconographs: Poems* with Scribner's. *Iconographs* is listed as one of the "50 Books of the Year" distinguished by the American Institute of Graphic Arts.
- 1971: Swenson publishes *More Poems to Solve* with Scribner's.
- 1972: Swenson publishes *Windows & Stones: Selected Poems of Tomas Tranströmer*, translated from his works in Swedish, with the University of Pittsburgh Press. She wins the International Poetry Forum Medal.
- 1974: Swenson wins a National Endowments for the Arts Award.
- 1976: Swenson publishes *The Guess & Spell Coloring Book* with Scribner's.
- 1978: Swenson publishes *New & Selected Things Taking Place* with Little, Brown.
- 1981: Swenson receives the Bollingen Award (shared with Howard Nemerov).
- 1980: Swenson is appointed chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. She will hold this post until her death in 1989.
- 1983: Swenson receives the Golden Rose of the New England Poetry Club.
- 1987: Swenson publishes *In Other Words: New Poems* with Alfred Knopf. She receives an honorary Ph.D. in literature from Utah State University, Utah State University's Centennial Award, and a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in the amount of \$380,000.
- 1988: Swenson is named a "Literary Lion" of the New York Public Library.

- 1989: Swenson dies of a heart attack on Saturday, December 4, in Ocean View, Delaware. Services are held in the Logan, Utah, at the 18th Ward Chapel on December 9 at noon.
- 1991: *The Love Poems* is published posthumously by Houghton Mifflin.
- 1993: *The Complete Poems to Solve* is published by Macmillan Publishing Company.
- 1994: *Nature: Poems Old and New* is published by Houghton Mifflin.
- 1996: *May Out West* is published by Utah State University Press.
- 1998: *Made with Words*, a collection of interview transcripts and writing by Swenson, edited by Gardner McFall, is published by the University of Michigan Press.
- 2001: *Dear Elizabeth: Five Poems & Three Letters to Elizabeth Bishop* is published by Utah State University Press.
- 2003: *The Complete Love Poems of May Swenson*, a revised version of *The Love Poems*, is published with a foreword by Maxine Kumin.
- 2005: The Beauford Delaney portrait of Swenson is acquired for display in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.