

From: As I Walked Out One Evening, W.H. Auden

As I walked out one evening,
Walking down Bristol Street,
The crowds upon the pavement
Were fields of harvest wheat.

And down by the brimming river
I heard a lover sing
Under an arch of the railway:
'Love has no ending.

'I'll love you, dear, I'll love you
Till China and Africa meet,
And the river jumps over the mountain
And the salmon sing in the street,

'I'll love you till the ocean
Is folded and hung up to dry
And the seven stars go squawking
Like geese about the sky.



W. H. Auden

Wystan Hugh Auden was born in York, England, in 1907. He moved to Birmingham during childhood and was educated at Oxford University. At Oxford his ability as a poet was immediately apparent, and he formed lifelong friendships with other writers.

His collection *Poems*, published in 1930, established him as the leading voice of a new generation. Ever since, he has been admired for his extraordinary poetic technique, ability to write poems in nearly every imaginable verse form and also for the range of his intellect.

He visited Germany, Iceland, and China, served in the Spanish Civil war, and in 1939 moved to the United States and became an American citizen. His own beliefs changed greatly between his youthful career in England, when he was a believer in socialism and the psychology of Freud, and his later phase in America. Auden was also a noted playwright, editor, and essayist. Considered by many to be the greatest English poet of the twentieth century, his work has been a major influence on later generations of poets.

He died in 1973.