

JAMES MERRILL AND W.H. AUDEN

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Homosexuality and Poetic
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History is not always a true record and literature is not always invention.

—Gore Vidal, *The Golden Age*

The dead depend upon the living to preserve their authority, heed their concerns, and keep them going in their afterlives. In return, they help us to know ourselves, give form to our lives, organize our social relations, and restrain our destructive impulses.

—Robert Pogue Harrison, *The Dominion of the Dead*

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CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	ix
Introduction	1
1 Limits of Reticence: Auden, Merrill, and the Subject of Homosexuality	29
2 Wrestling with the Canon: Authority in <i>The Changing Light at Sandover</i>	57
3 Disincarnate Spirit: Auden in Afterlife	85
4 Possession: Metamorphosis Complete	117
Afterword	147
<i>Notes</i>	155
<i>Bibliography</i>	185
<i>Index</i>	197

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