

REGIONALISM

Descended from the “local color” realists of the 19th century, this broad category describes contemporary poets who specialize in a particular geographical region, usually outside of major urban centers of culture. The American South, for example, is a region that has spawned many rural poets celebrating or bemoaning the **landscape and culture** of the South. Rodney Jones fits this category. Midwesterner Ted Kooser is a former insurance executive from Lincoln, Nebraska. The Northwest has spawned many great poets, among them William Stafford of Oregon and Richard Hugo of Montana. Yankee poets Jane Kenyon and Maxine Kumin write about farm life in New Hampshire. Even Beat poet Gary Snyder, who writes so eloquently about life in the Sierra foothills, has been lumped in with this diverse group.

Primary Practitioners: Hayden Carruth, James Dickey, Richard Hugo, Rodney Jones, James Wright, Miller Williams, Ted Kooser, Maxine Kumin, B. H. Fairchild.

Geographical Locales: Mostly rural areas in the American South, New England, Midwest, Northwest, California, Southwest.

Years of Prominence: Once a mostly rural nation, American “local color” artists of all kinds were the norm before World War I. In the post-war era, flowerings of regionalists have bloomed at all times, but especially at the current moment.

For further study:

http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/content/BPL_Images/Content_store/Sample_chapter/9780631226314/Crow-001.pdf

<https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=American%20literary%20regionalism>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_literary_regionalism

<http://tedkooser.net/>