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| Brennan, Christopher (1870–1932) |
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| Christopher Brennan was a poet of Sydney, Australia. Apart from two years as a postgraduate student in Berlin, he lived there all his life, from his birth in 1870 until his death in 1932. The son of a brewer, he was educated by Jesuits at Saint Ignatius’ College Riverview and subsequently at Sydney University. Returning from Berlin without completing the PhD studies he had undertaken, he found work at the New South Wales Public Library as a cataloguer until he was appointed as a lecturer in modern literature at the University of Sydney in 1909, focusing on German and French. In 1920 he was promoted to an associate professorship in German and comparative literature, becoming the first professor of comparative literature in Australia. In addition to his expertise in English, French and German literature, he had published an article in the field of textual studies in classical Greek at the age of 18. His most important work was simply entitled *Poems*, published in 1914. Many of the poems it contains were written much earlier, in the 1890s.  Brennan’s literary interests, and the literary influences on his poetry, were formed during his time in Berlin, where he discovered the French Symbolist poet Stéphane Mallarmé. |
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| Further reading:  (Barnes)  (Barnes, "With a Smile Barely Wrinkling the Surface": Christopher Brennan's Large Musicopoematographoscope and Mallarmé's <i>Un Coup de dés</i>)  (Clark)  (Farrell)  (Hawke)  (Kirkpatrick) |