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| Crane, Harold Hart (1899–1932) |
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| Generally considered one America’s major modernist poets, Hart Crane is renowned for creating some of the twentieth century’s most intensely visionary and impossibly obscure verse during his short, nomadic life.  Born June 24, 1899, Hart Crane grew up in a bourgeois household in Garrettsville, Ohio. His mother and father fought often, divorced, and reconciled, a relationship which often cast the Crane’s only child on an opposing side. June Hart, a noted beauty, was controlling and hypochondriac, often calling her son home from his travels in order for him to lavish attention on his nervous, ailing mother. Crane’s attempts to win his father’s love were tempered usually with a desire for acceptance and financial support. Amid a chaotic upbringing, Crane on occasion spent time with his grandmother, who was the first in the young poet’s life to acknowledge his poetic gift.  Although not published until 1926 by Horace Liveright, Crane’s first book of poems, *White Buildings*, exhibited in 1920-22 a penchant for densely symbolic verse. *White Buildings* concludes with a sequence of six erotic poems, penned from 1921 to 1926 and inspired by Crane’s love affair with the Danish sailor Emil Opffer; critics disagree, however, on the extent to which a queer approach grasps the opus. |
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| Further reading:  (Bloom)  (Crane, Hart Crane: Complete Poems and Selected Letters)  (Crane, O My Land, My Friends: The Selected Letters of Hart Crane)  (Mariani) |