



The Sound of Public Humanities & its Oscillatory Accessibility

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MITH Digital Dialogue
1 October 2019

Outline

1. Digital Frost Project
 2. The Sound of Public Humanities
 3. Editorial Rationale
-

1. Digital Frost Project

PROGRAM ARCHIVE

Viewing convention Program information from 2014

Session Details



618. FrostBytes: Archival Scholarship in the Digital Age

Saturday, 11 January, 3:30–4:45 p.m., Grace, Chicago Marriott

Program arranged by the Robert Frost Society

Presiding: Mark Steed Richardson, Doshisha Univ.; Donald Sheehy, Edinboro Univ. of Pennsylvania

Session Description:

The workshop will share information about Frost collections and about the status of digitization and electronic cataloging at major collections. Tools and procedures for locating and acquiring materials will be discussed. Our purpose is to plan the creation, development, and maintenance of a comprehensive digital resource—under the aegis of the Frost Society—for Frost scholarship.



continuous reformatting of audio recordings & sound migration...

1957
RF speaking in Johnson Chapel, with view of Bus. Col and some of audience.

PH2: 143

Robert Frost Collection



47
Frost speaking in Johnson Chapel, Amherst College (1957)

RF Talks-07.15.18.xlsx

Search in Sheet

Home Layout Tables Charts SmartArt Formulas Data Review

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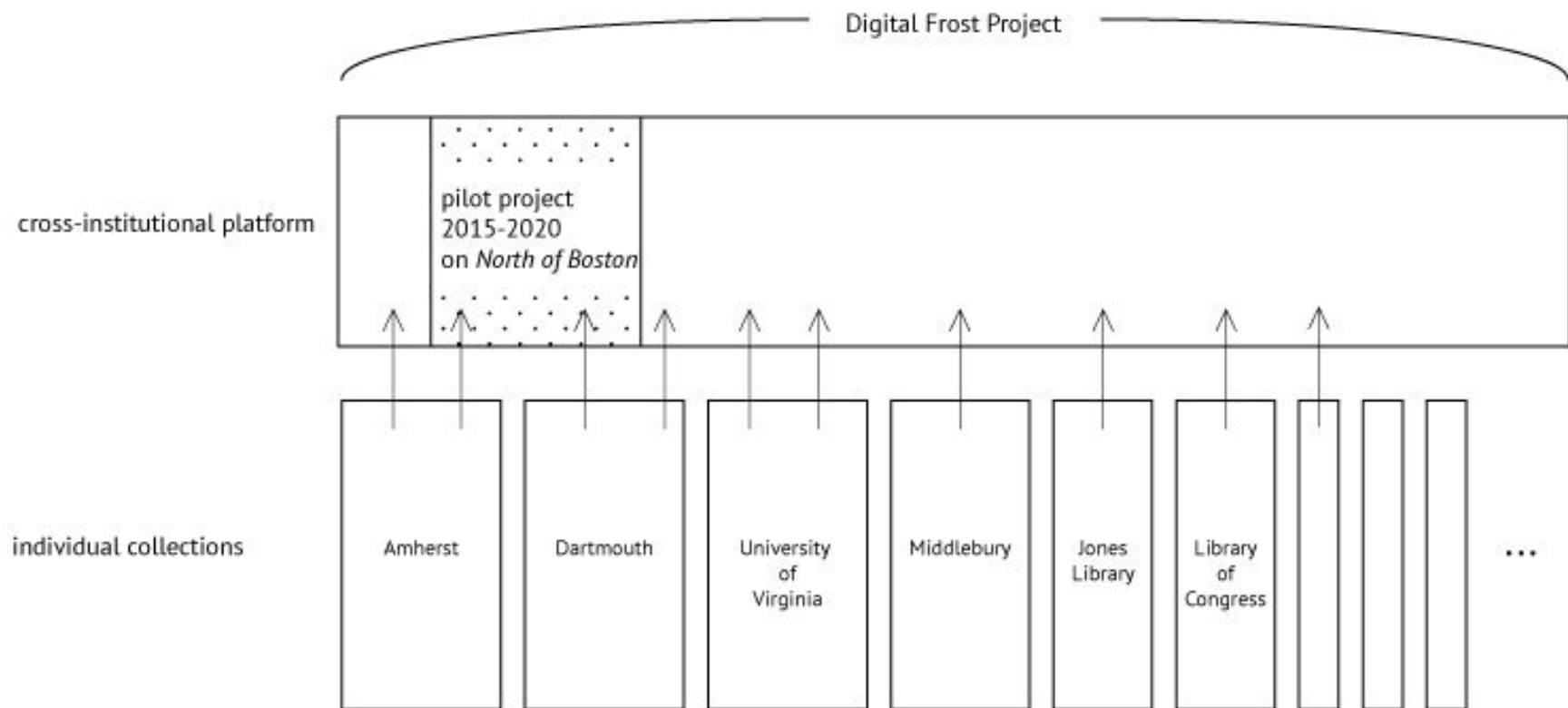
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1	Serial No.	Source Name	Source Page No.	Talk Title	Talk Date	Talk Venue	Talk Location	Series?	Crowd Size	Talk Length	Admission Fee	Talk Payment	Notes	Was poetry read? (Yes =1, No=0)	Were multiple poems read? (Yes =1, No=0)	Which poem was read? 1	Which poem was read? 2	Which poem was read? 3	Which poem was read? 4	Which poem was read? 5	Which poem was read? 6	Which poem was read? 7	Which poem was read? 8	Which poem was read? 9	Which poem was read? 10	Which poem was read? 11	Which poem was read? 12	Which poem was read? 13	Which poem was read? 14
2	155	Smythe, RF Speaks	21	the Phi Beta Kappa poem reading	1915	Tufts College	Medford, Massachusetts																						
3	3	CPPP	689	The Imagining Ear	5/10/15	the Browne and Nichols School	Cambridge, Massachusetts	Browne and Nichols School Lecture																					
4	153	Barry, RF on Writing	142	Lecture to the Browne and Nichols School	5/10/15	the Browne and Nichols School	Cambridge, Massachusetts							1	1	The Pasture	Mending Wall												
5	198	Letters of RF Vol. 1	316	The Sound of Poetry	9/6/15	Woman's Club	St. Johnsbury, Vermont																						
6	4	CPPP	697	The Unmade Word	3/13/18	the Browne and Nichols School	Cambridge, Massachusetts	Browne and Nichols School Lecture						1		Birches													
7	154	Barry, RF on Writing	144	The Unmade Word, or Fetching and Far-fetching	3/13/18	the Browne and Nichols School	Cambridge, Massachusetts							1		Birches													
8	175	Richardson, Checklist	55		11/7/19	Amherst College	Amherst, Massachusetts																						
9	176	Richardson, The	56	Manumitter - 12/1/1876		Wesleyan	Middleton																						

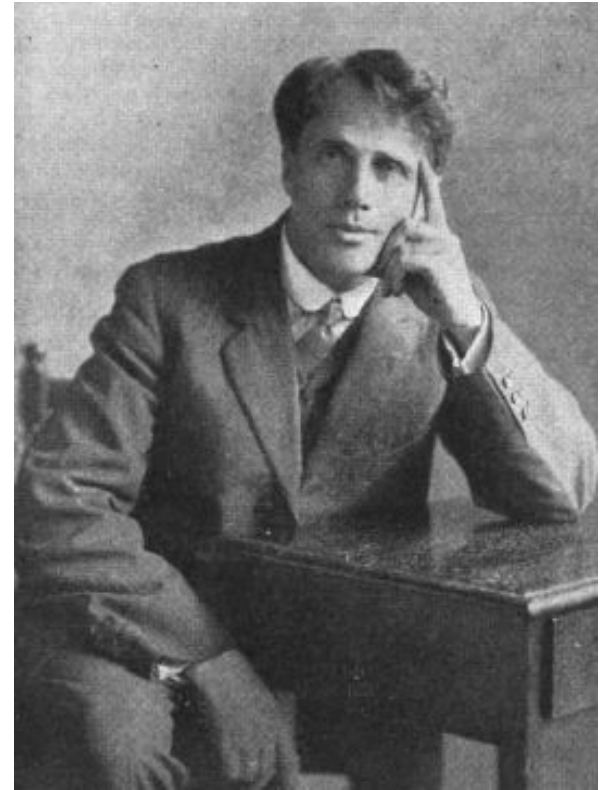
poetry collection titles Poems talks sortByDate(preCleanUp) publishedTalks(CIndData) keys + notes No8Reading(CIndData) SelectedPublishedTalk(CIndData) PublishedWorksSelectionAdjstmnt Amherst Digitization Request

identifying relevant audio recordings...



overall architecture of the Digital Frost Project

2. The Sound of Public Humanities

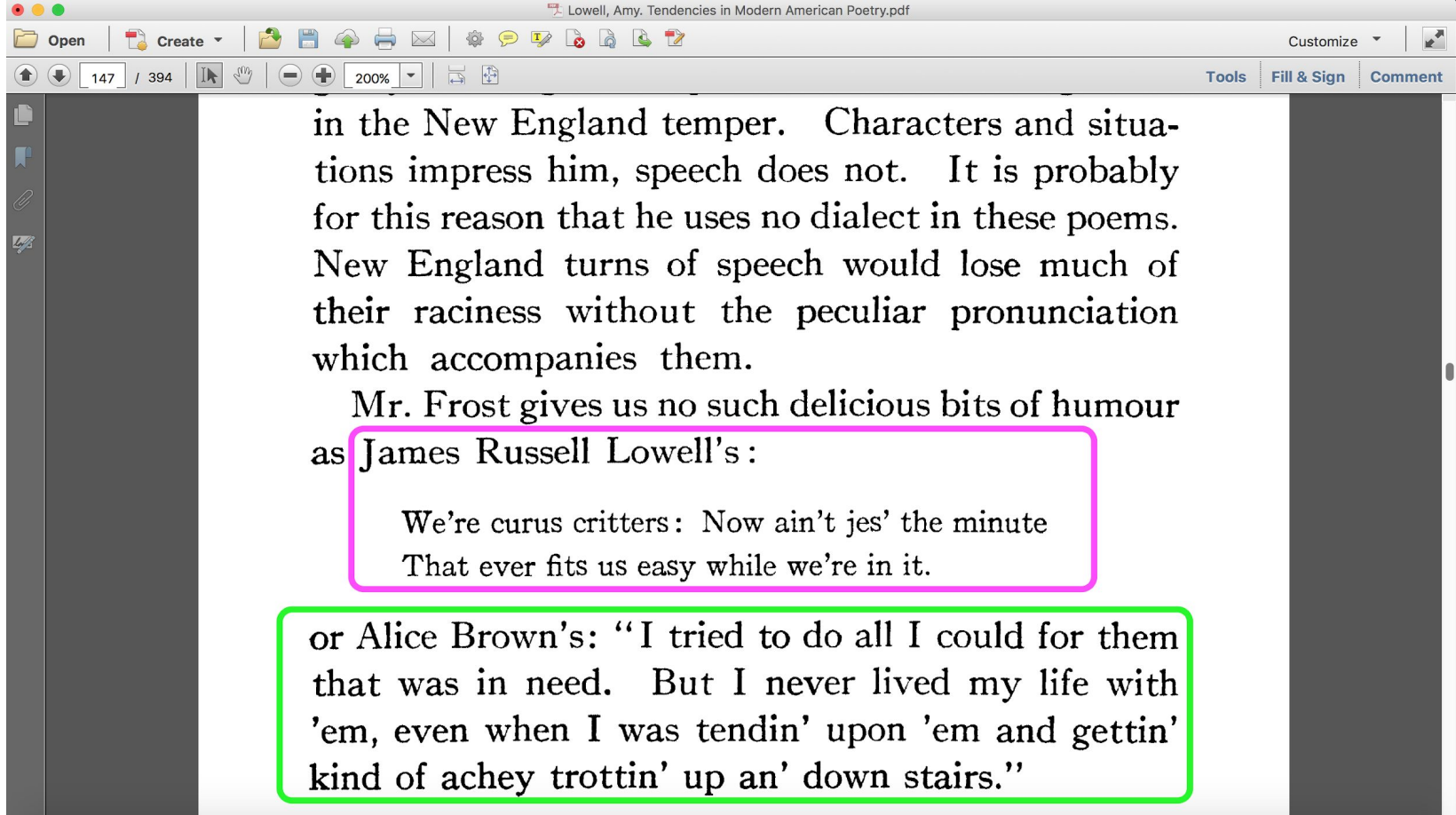


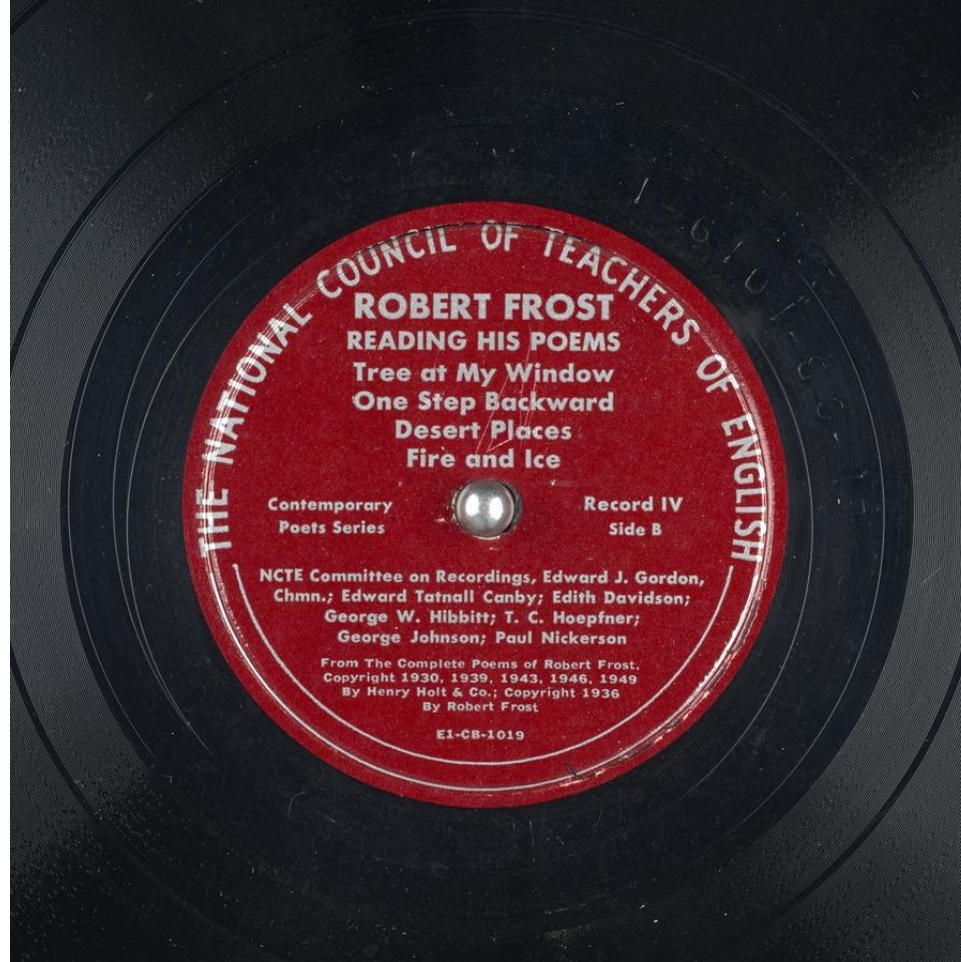
the Frost children at the Derry Farm (1907), Frost's author photo (1913-4)

“There is no denying that his insistent monosyllabic monotony is irritating, but it may be questioned whether any less drab monotony of rhythm would have been so successful in conveying the particular aspect of life presented.”

“[Frost’s] people are left-over of the old stock, morbid, pursued by phantoms, slowly sinking to insanity.”

[And of the corresponding meter used in the poems]:
“halting and maimed, like the life it portrays,
unyielding in substance, and broken in effect.”





“Robert Frost Reading His Poems,” the National Council of Teachers of English (1951)

May Dec. 1953

May 6- Leave Northampton 1:04 pm
 arrive White River 3:40 pm
 Leave 4:20 pm
 Arrive Essex Jct. 6:47 pm
 Burlington 8:30 p.m. -
 party afterwards

May 7- Return to Amherst
 Pierre Hotel 8 p.m.

May 11- Leave for New York dinner -
 R. will let you know where stay -
~~Pierre~~

May 12- Yalc-
 lunch- Arnold Wolfers-
 426 Prospect St.
 New Haven
 Pierson College - 8 evening -
 Rev. Sydney Lovett new head

May 13 Back to Amherst quick

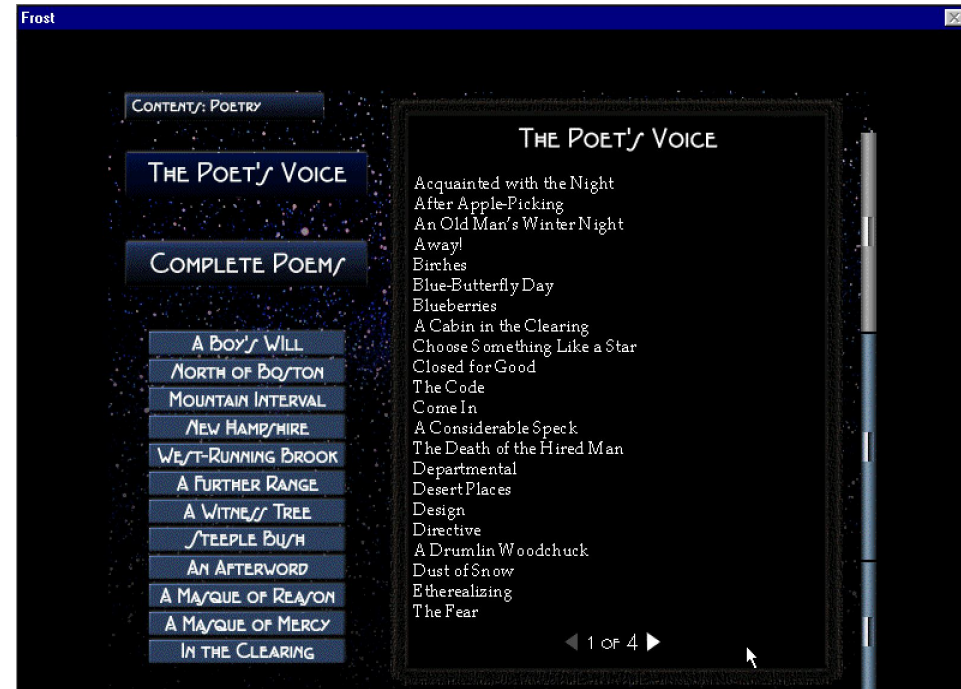
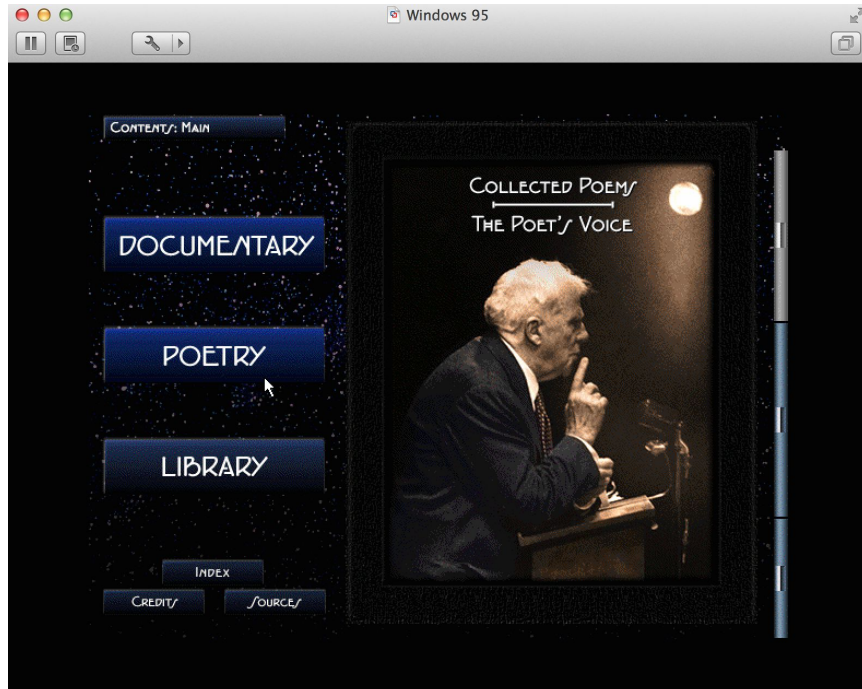
Baird Whitlock
 913 University Heights
 Burlington Vt.

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Schedule and Calendar

Box 103
 May 8

3. Editorial Rationale



Robert Frost: Poems, Life, Legacy. Edited by Donald Sheehy, created by Joe Matazzoni, and narrated by Richard Wilbur, Henry Holt, 1997. (CD-ROM edition)

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PennSound Manifesto

1. It must be free and downloadable.

Ideally, all the sound material we put on the web should be cleared for copyright to be distributed free for noncommercial and educational purposes. Users of the site will be able to download the MP3s to their own computers or players or play them in a streaming fashion. Teachers could make course CDs or add the MP3s to their on-line syllabi. Other web sites and libraries could recollect the material. Credits for digitalization and copyright release would also be embedded into each file. One of the advantages of working with poetry sound files is that we don't anticipate a problem with rights. At present and in the conceivable future, there is no profit to be gained by the sale of recorded poetry. There is, however, considerable expense involved in preserving, cataloging, and distributing such material.

2. It must be MP3 or better.

RealAudio is a proprietary format with sound quality that will not stand the test of time. We need to use open formats that reproduce reasonably high quality sound, for a listenership that is used to astoundingly good sound quality from commercial sources.

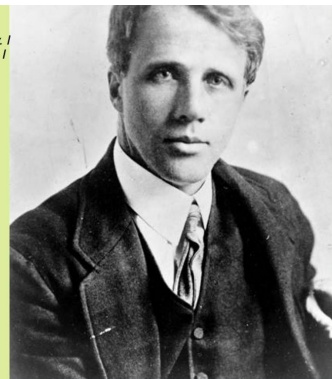
3. It must be singles.

At present, the vast majority of poetry recordings are for entire readings, typically thirty or more minutes, with no tracking of individual cuts or poems. While these full readings have great literary and archival value taken as a whole, few but the most devoted listen to full recordings of readings or, if they do, fewer still listen more than once. The more useful format is to break readings up into individual poems and to make MP3s of each poem available. MP3s of song-length poems could become a very appealing format for poetry. The implications for audience, listenership, critical thinking, poetics, and poetic production are great.

4. It must be named.

Presently, downloaded poetry sound files tend not to have informative names. Looking at a directory of such files, it is impossible to determine what the file contains from the visual information available. File sharing for music employs a simple system of the name of the singer and the song, but the p2p system is not compatible with FTP, especially in terms of blank spaces between words, which

they were subsequently dubbed to reel-to-reel
reels, which are stored at Columbia University. I
bered the aluminum platters, except for where I
numbers, as well as record numbers, are



LIVE at the Writers House

PoemTalk

Writers House webcasts

PEPC Library

Live at the Ear

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12. [Birches](#) (3:07)

Recordings made on October 24, 1934

1. [The Grindstone](#) (4:34)
2. [The Runaway](#) (1:09)
3. [An Old Man's Winter Night](#) (1:43)
4. [The Road Not Taken](#) (1:07)
5. [Mending Wall](#) (2:30)
6. [Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening](#) (0:57)
7. [Dust of Snow](#) (0:21)
8. [Birches](#) (3:15)
9. [Mowing](#) (1:01)

Speech at 1937 Pulitzer Prize Dinner - recorded from the radio by W. Cabell Greet

[On the Heart's Beginning to Cloud the Mind](#) (4:13)

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talks

NOT lectures

saying poems

NOT reading poems