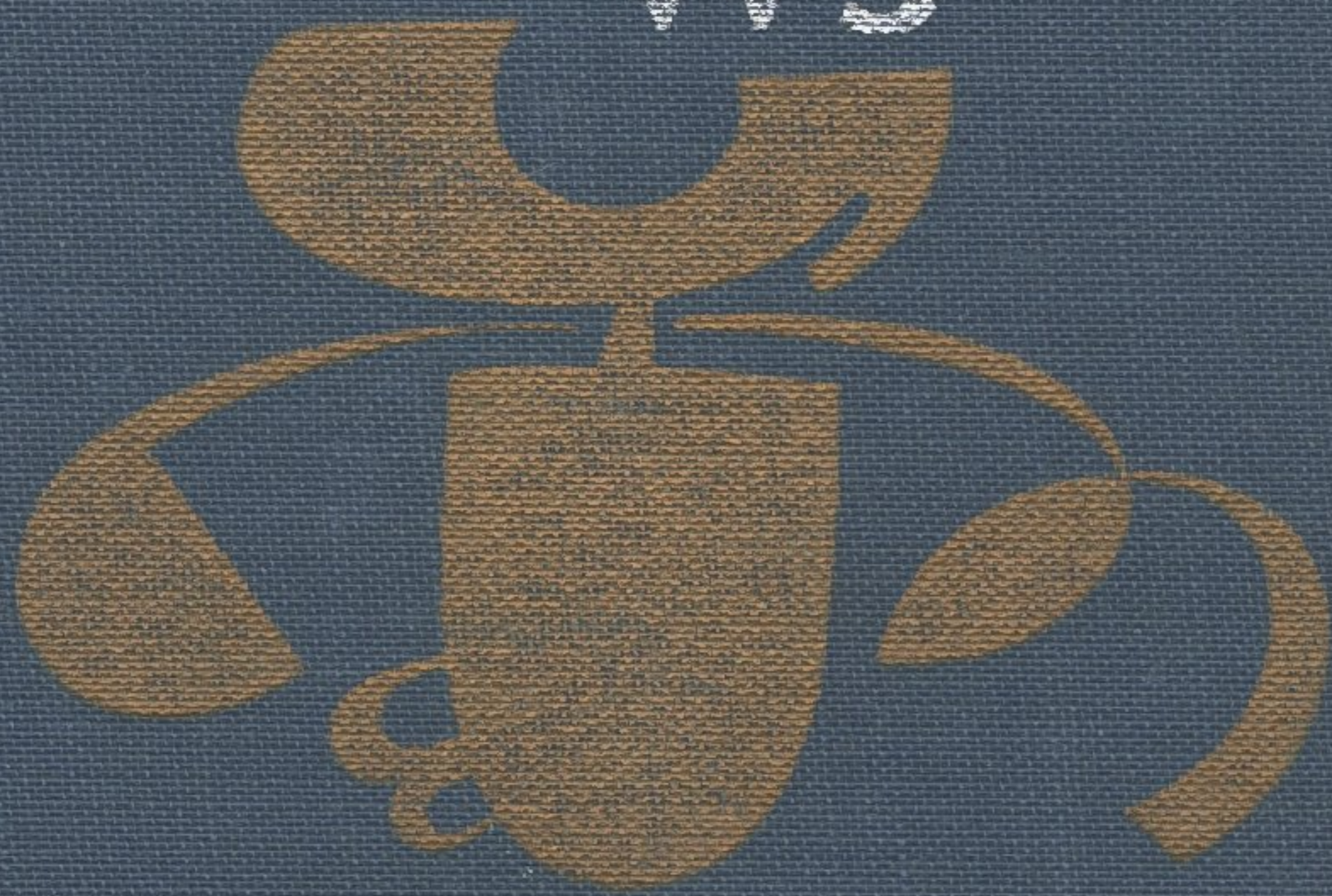


WS



A. R. Ammons

PRINCETON  
ENCYCLOPEDIA  
OF POETRY AND POETICS

sculpture is made out of something, marble  
or ~~steel~~ steel plate or rod; painting is made out  
of paint and architecture, of stones or bricks or  
sheets. but poetry is made of immaterial words —  
because the words are immaterial and uninterfering  
they can be the hinge by which poetry's books  
are made out of books, poetry's words are  
words; that is, poetry's real material is the  
storehouse of perception already available in  
every head which the words refer to and alert  
or find and illuminate 6-7-76  
~~or make there~~

or guide discrete materials  
into new makings there

every least little thing

# Feating

poets are those who sit <sup>come to a</sup>  
down at a table of <sup>burgers & feet</sup>

down at starvelings' table & feet

My birthday present from Phyllis

## The Press

A man writes to  
become wise but  
stops writing on  
wisdom's first inkling  
6-29-80

on  
at wisdom's first  
inkling stops

dub diction is too dandy

when I was  
young I used  
to think there

was a time  
ahead when things  
would ~~trayple~~ <sup>trayple</sup> out.

there is: when  
they flatter you  
out on the slab

When I was lean young long ago  
it happened that the pressures  
rising within met pressures closing  
in from without and he staggering  
waving fire-line where these two  
motions met was the intolerable  
house, to fall to one ~~and~~ room  
frozen with the ghastly terrors and  
quills and to another I leap  
afire in the most comical of  
dreadful dances, oh: a mind  
collected heaving as best it could  
into a middling region and  
pressing down withdrew: upward:  
upward, oh: there the equations,  
interpenetrated cooled and distances  
and times so far fore and aft  
opened into wide dwelling: the  
mind fed on the arc of the widest  
sky and trembled distantly  
to the worst loud storm: but  
the body, I could not forget  
it - it went on burning and freezing  
where burning or freezing were irrelevant:  
in this widened capacity, broad  
slight stability I matured, performing

minor tests and feats that shook  
others (sometimes loose) as if they occurred  
as trivial incidents in a round time:  
the joy that hunting free brought  
unforgettably changed me confident:  
This will seem to me trapped in the  
hour of his day the great happiness

