

1984

## Upon the Occasion of Reading, 236 Sonnets at One Sitting

Jeff Masten  
*Denison University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/exile>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Masten, Jeff (1984) "Upon the Occasion of Reading, 236 Sonnets at One Sitting," *Exile*: Vol. 31 : No. 1 , Article 8.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/exile/vol31/iss1/8>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the English at Denison Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Exile by an authorized editor of Denison Digital Commons.

## Upon the Occasion of Reading 236 Sonnets at One Sitting

There are, in sonnets, some things over-used,  
E.g. the face complected as a peach,  
The faithful love whose heart has been abused,  
Or waves of time — perhaps on Dover Beach.  
And, equally, in sonnets there is stuff  
Which, printed, might one's audience distress,  
To wit, a girl whose loathsome face is rough  
With pimpled pocks, or frogs with sex obsessed.  
(But I hate rules and so I must break these.)  
I will discard that Death which Donne and Shake-  
Speare thought so strong and likewise Wordsworth's trees.  
Instead, my poems of ugly stuff I'll make  
I'll weave my words of worms and noisome warts,  
In putrid fens with garbage of all sorts.