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Poems

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Two poems by Léon-Paul Fargue

by [Louis Simpson](#)

Translated by and with an introduction from Louis Simpson

Léon-Paul Fargue (1876–1947) was born in Paris near Les Halles, the illegitimate son of a chemical engineer and a dressmaker. In school, he had some extraordinary teachers: Stéphane Mallarmé at Condorcet and, in the Ecole Normale Henri IV, the philosopher Henri Bergson. (Bergson advised him to drop out of school.) Alfred Jarry, the future author of *Ubu Roi*, was a schoolmate.

In 1894 Fargue collaborated with Jarry in publishing *l'Art littéraire*. Henri Régnier brought him to one of Mallarmé's Tuesday gatherings, and Fargue was accepted by this inmost circle of the avant-garde. He began publishing at an early age with *Tancredi* (1895), a small collection of narratives in prose followed by poems. The next year, the *Mercur de France* published most of the poems he would gather in 1914 under the title *Pour l ...* **Louis Simpson** is working on a new book of poems. He lives in Stony Brook, New York.

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