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A major's minor: Ezra Pound's poetry

by [Donald Lyons](#)

The Pound that matters is early Pound, essentially the Pound of the London years. He arrived in London to stay (he had visited earlier) on August 14, 1908 and within a decade or so of that date had composed most of what is permanently valuable in his enormous oeuvre.

Pound had been a bright and prolific young poet before settling in London. He was born in Hailey, Idaho in 1885 and educated at Hamilton and Penn; Humphrey Carpenter, in his excellent biography, tells of how, back at Penn in 1906 to write a doctoral thesis on the *gracioso* in Spanish drama, Pound

put his name down for classes in Provençal, Sicilian poetry, the *Chanson de Roland*, Boccaccio, Dante ... and plays by Lope de Vega and his contemporaries ... he abandoned it all almost at once, scarcely turning up for anything.

It's an anecdote prophetic both of Pound's slapdash ways wi ...

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