Resurrection
The Role of Poets
“There is no doubt which art is the most practically important for our survival and our salvation, and that is literature. Words constitute the ultimate texture and stuff of our moral being, since they are the most refined and delicate and detailed, as well as the most universally used and understood, of the symbolisms whereby we express ourselves into existence. We became spiritual animals when we became verbal animals. The fundamental distinctions can only be made in words. Words are spirit.”

Iris Murdoch
"The world of Wessex was a thing of language, and it wasn’t borne on air or planted with trees but fully figured by the mind of the writer, in words and images. In some sense, great poets are the landscape they magic into being. The place isn’t quite there – not imaginatively – without them."

– Andrew O’Hagan
“We must learn to see more, hear more, feel more…to show not what it means, but that it is what it is and how it is what it is. […] In place of a hermeneutics, we need an erotics of art.”

– Susan Sontag
“Works of art are of an infinite loneliness and with nothing so little to be reached as with criticism. Only love can grasp and hold and be just toward them.”

– Rainer Maria Rilke
AVGVSTIN\nSITADNOES\n
GINAQUE\nOMIBUS IN\n
HOASEXV\nPOSITIS\nPRESTAS\n
ELIGANTIA\n
EGO SERVIS TUIS NOLIVITIN\nTUE DIGNA FACTIS MEIS\nEXHIBERE NEQUEO: QUOS\NPACTE VERBUS SALEM ILLA.
“The past is never dead. It’s not even past.”

– William Faulkner
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3a. R.S Thomas. Photo: unknown. Fair use (Wiki Commons)
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8c. Incantation bowl with Arameic writing. C5 AD. CC0 (Wiki Commons)
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12b. Manuscript of Pausanias’s description of Greece. Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana. Public domain (Wiki Commons)
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