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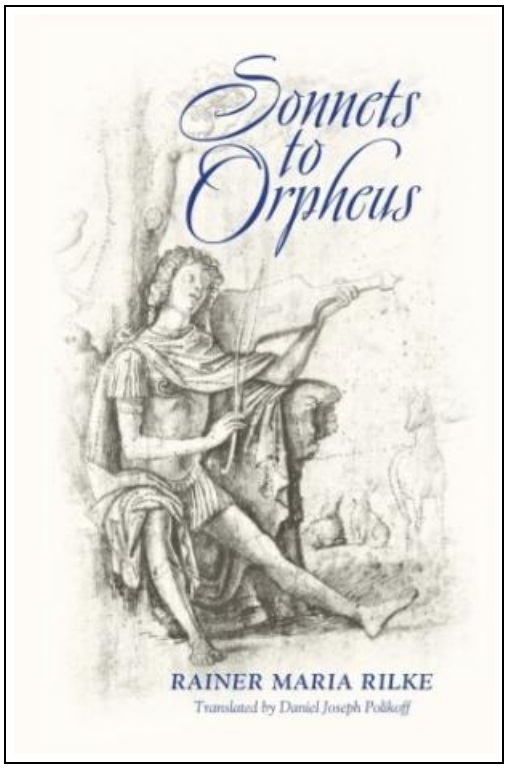

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SONNETS TO ORPHEUS (BILINGUAL EDITION) (PAPERBACK)

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Angelico Press, United States, 2015. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.COMPOSED IN A BURST of inspiration near the end of the poet s life, Rilke s Sonnets to Orpheus represents the consummation of the writer s career, distilling the essence of his poetic wisdom in a gem-like sequence. This new translation--with the original German on facing pages--offers a clear window into the world of this endlessly scintillating cycle of poems. Daniel Polikoff s English version of Rilke s last sonnet sequence, perhaps his greatest work, is wholly admirable. Rilke s late work is extremely difficult to penetrate. Both its conceptual nature and Rilke s unique use of the German language tend to resist interpretation. Astonishingly, Polikoff has found ways of rendering Rilke s complexities into English and also preserving his metrical and rhyme schemes. Such an accomplishment is possible only with a deep understanding of Rilke s vision and a knowledge of the root structure of German. Daniel Polikoff gives us Rilke in word and spirit in these splendid Sonnets. --LISEL MUELLER, National Book Award for Poetry (1981) for The Need to Hold Still; Pulitzer Prize for Poetry (1997) for Alive Together: New Selected Poems Daniel Polikoff is the first to achieve the unimaginable: an English translation which brings the form and content of these Sonnets together into an organic confluence. These new translations lift our understanding of Rilke s spiritual and aesthetic inspiration up to a whole different level, one accessible for the first time to the English reader. As a professor of German literature who has taught these sonnets for over thirty years, I can only thank Daniel Polikoff for this phenomenal accomplishment. His version should serve as the new standard for Rilke translations and belongs on the bookshelves of...

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