The poetrytex package

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March 2, 2016
v3.0.1

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Introduction

The \texttt{poetrytex} package is designed to aid in the formatting and typesetting of anthologies of poetry.

History

The package started out as a collection of macros for automating simple tasks that I often had to perform while working on a collection of poetry and prose. After a time, I decided to turn it into an \texttt{STY} file which would be geared more towards the idea of an anthology or a collection of works and less about typesetting the verse itself (for which there were already several good packages on CTAN). While the file was small this worked well—Learning to use the package was easily accomplished by reading the annotated source code (generated via a modified version of Jeremy Ashkenas’ literate programming tool ‘docco’). However, as the source and scope of the project grew I decided to move away from docco and start working on a proper package that would use more traditional \TeX-style docs. As of version 2.0.0, I began using semantic versioning to track releases.

License / about the source

This project may be distributed and/or modified under the conditions of the \LaTeX Project Public License, either version 1.3c of this license or (at your option) any later version. The latest version of this license is in:

\url{http://www.latex-project.org/lppl.txt}

and version 1.3c or later is part of all distributions of \LaTeX version 2008/05/04 or later.

Contributions are welcome, and the latest development version of the project can always be found at \url{https://bitbucket.org/SamWhited/poetrytex}.

Acknowledgements

A special thanks is in order for Brittany Taylor. Though she probably has no idea what \TeX is, or that this project even exists, it is due mostly to her influence that it ever got off the ground. Secondly: to Sarah Snyder, who helped me to start writing again after many wasted years, and is always obliging when I want to lose at Scrabble.

Package building and loading

1 \texttt{(*poetrytex)}
Building  Before building poetrytex you should verify that the following dependencies are installed (note that you do not need to include these lines in your project; just install the packages mentioned):

\RequirePackage{expl3}
\RequirePackage{tocloft}

Once you have all the required packages, building poetrytex from source can be accomplished in multiple ways. If the Makefile is present running `make help` will tell you everything you need to know. To manually extract the files and generate the documentation simply run `pdflatex` or `XeLaTeX` against `poetrytex.dtx`:

```
make
```

You can also use the `--shell-escape` option to generate documentation which includes the current git commit short-hash in the version number:

```
pdflatex --shell-escape poetrytex.dtx
```

It should be noted that this option is extremely unsafe and you should only use it if you understand the risks.

Loading  Using poetrytex in your project works exactly as you’d expect:

```
\usepackage{poetrytex}
```

The package can also be loaded with any of the following options. If you’re unsure what an option does, check the documentation for the macro that is associated with it in the code below:

```
\DeclareOption{poemsintoc}{\listpoemsintoc}
\DeclareOption{numbertop}{\numbertop}
\DeclareOption{numbertoc}{\numbertoc}
\DeclareOption{numberpoems}{\numberpoems}
\DeclareOption{usedefaulttitles}{\usedefaulttitles}
\DeclareOption{useincipits}{\useincipits}
\DeclareOption{clearpageafterpoem}{\clearpageafterpoem}
\DeclareOption{clearpageafterannotation}{\clearpageafterannotation}
```

For instance:

```
\usepackage[numberpoems,clearpageafterpoem]{poetrytex}
```

Document setup and structure

The poetrytex package is fairly simple as far as \TeX\ packages go, so it’s worth taking a look at how it works internally.
Environment setup and defaults

First we setup our environment, define some useful properties, and choose some default values for those properties.

Title page

We’ll start with the title page:

\title{\beforetitle\pttitle\aftertitle}
\ifx\ptsubtitle\@ptundefined%
    \relax%
\else%
    \*\beforesubtitle\ptsubtitle\aftersubtitle%
\fi%
\author{\beforeauthor\ptauthor\afterauthor}
\date{\beforedate\ptdate\afterdate}

Since \maketitle clears the internal title, author, and date we use the \pt equivalents so that we can refer to them again later, or redefine them throughout the document—in anthologies with works by multiple authors, for instance.

Poem config

Each time you create a poem in your document we automatically assign it a special label that can be used to link to it later. This label is prefixed with \@ptpoemlabeltext to prevent it from conflicting with user defined labels, or labels defined in other packages.

\@ptpoemlabeltext

Chances are you’ll never need to touch this.
The `poemnum` and `absolutepoemnum` counters will be incremented every time we include a poem in our document and can be used later to number the poems. The `absolutepoemnum` counter will never be reset by `poetrytex` while `poemnum` will be be reset to 0 at the beginning of a new `poemgroup`. The `untitledpoemnum` and `absoluteuntitledpoemnum` are similar except that they are only incremented when the poem does not have a title.

\begin{enumerate}
\item \texttt{\newcounter{poemnum}}
\item \texttt{\newcounter{absolutepoemnum}}
\item \texttt{\newcounter{untitledpoemnum}}
\item \texttt{\newcounter{absoluteuntitledpoemnum}}
\item \texttt{\newcounter{titledpoemnum}}
\item \texttt{\newcounter{absolutetitledpoemnum}}
\item \texttt{\newcounter{poemgroupnum}}
\end{enumerate}

\texttt{\poemvspace}

Sometimes you might want to insert a certain amount of vertical space before every poem. For instance, maybe you have several poems without titles and you need a visual cue to let your readers know that a new poem is starting. This can be accomplished by setting \texttt{\poemvspace}:

\begin{enumerate}
\item \texttt{\newlength{\poemvspace}}
\item \texttt{\setlength{\poemvspace}{0em}}
\end{enumerate}

\texttt{\pttitleleftspace} \texttt{\pttitlerightspace} \texttt{\ptsubtitleleftspace} \texttt{\ptsubtitlerightspace}

To indent the poems title or subtitle to the left or the right, set the length of \texttt{\pttitleleftspace} and \texttt{\pttitlerightspace}.

\begin{enumerate}
\item \texttt{\newlength{\pttitleleftspace}}
\item \texttt{\setlength{\pttitleleftspace}{0em}}
\item \texttt{\newlength{\pttitlerightspace}}
\item \texttt{\setlength{\pttitlerightspace}{0em}}
\item \texttt{\newlength{\ptsubtitleleftspace}}
\item \texttt{\setlength{\ptsubtitleleftspace}{0em}}
\item \texttt{\newlength{\ptsubtitlerightspace}}
\item \texttt{\setlength{\ptsubtitlerightspace}{0em}}
\end{enumerate}

\texttt{\usedefaulttitles} \texttt{\nousedefaulttitles} \texttt{\ptdefaulttitle} \texttt{\useincipits} \texttt{\nouseincipits}

The default title for poems that don’t include one. If \texttt{\usedefaulttitles} is called the default title will be displayed above the poem itself as well as in the table of contents. Otherwise the title is left blank. We can also use incipits in the ToP by calling \texttt{\useincipits}. This will override the default title in the ToP, but will not be displayed atop the poem itself.

\begin{enumerate}
\item \texttt{\newcommand*{\usedefaulttitles}{\newcommand*{\@ptusedefaulttitles}{}}}
\item \texttt{\newcommand*{\nousedefaulttitles}{\let\@ptusedefaulttitles\@ptundefined}}
\item \texttt{\newcommand*{\ptdefaulttitle}{}}
\item \texttt{\newcommand*{\ptdefaulttitle}{\texttt{\arabic{absoluteuntitledpoemnum}}}}
\item \texttt{\newcommand*{\useincipits}{\newcommand*{\@ptuseincipits}{}}}
\item \texttt{\newcommand*{\nouseincipits}{\let\@ptuseincipits\@ptundefined}}
\end{enumerate}

\texttt{\ptdefaultenv} \texttt{\pttitleenv}

These macros contain the names of the default environments in which we should wrap poems and poem titles.

\begin{enumerate}
\item \texttt{\newcommand*{\ptdefaultenv}{verse}}
\item \texttt{\newcommand*{\pttitleenv}{verse}}
\end{enumerate}
The following macros can be used to configure how the poem group page looks.

\newcommand*{\ptdefaultgroupenv}{center}
\newcommand*{\grouppagestyle}{empty}
\newlength{\pregroupvspace}
\newlength{\postgroupvspace}
\setlength{\pregroupvspace}{\fill}
\setlength{\postgroupvspace}{\fill}

**Annotation config**

*annotationnum*  *absoluteannotationnum*

Like their poem counterparts, these counters are incremented each time an annotation is created and the non-absolute version may be reset when the poem group changes.

\newcounter{annotationnum}
\newcounter{absoluteannotationnum}

\ptannotationenv

This contains the name of the default environment in which we should wrap annotations.

\newcommand*{\ptannotationenv}{flushleft}

**Dedication**

After your title page you might want to add a dedication page.

\ptdedication  \makededication

As with the \pttitle and author commands you can simply redefine \ptdedication to change the dedication text.

To create a dedication page, the \makededication command can be called. By default, this command aligns everything to the right using the flushright environment, however, by adding an optional argument you can specify another environment to wrap the dedication in.

\newcommand*{\ptdedication}{Renew \textsf{\textbackslash ptdedication}}
\newcommand*{\makededication}[1][flushright]{%
\thispagestyle{empty}
\vspace*{\prededicationvspace}
\begin{#1}
\beforededication{\dedicationformat\ptdedication}\afterdedication
\end{#1}
\vspace*{\postdedicationvspace}}

For example, you might do something like the following:
Next we setup the table of contents and list of poems:

\listofpoems
\resetnumon
The \listofpoems command is nothing more than a convenient alias for \listofpoem as defined by the tocloft package. We can reset poem numbering at a given point by redefining the \resetnumon macro.

71 \newcommand*{\resetnumon}{}
72 \newlistof[\resetnumon]{poem}{top}{\topname}
73 \newcommand*{\listofpoems}{\listofpoem}

\topname
\topentrytype
\toptocentrytype
The value of \topname will be rendered atop the Table of Poems, and \topentrytype will set the default entry type for poems in the ToP. \toptocentrytype sets the default entry type for the ToP in the ToC.

74 \newcommand*{\topname}{List of Poems}
75 \newcommand*{\topentrytype}{subsection}
76 \newcommand*{\toptocentrytype}{section}

\listpoemsintoc
\nolistpoemsintoc
\tocentrytype
Using these commands you can cause poems to be listed in the ToC and set the entry type just like the ToP. By default, the ToC entry type is set to \topentrytype.

77 \newcommand*{\listpoemsintoc}{\newcommand*{\@ptlistpoemsintoc}{}}
78 \newcommand*{\nolistpoemsintoc}{\let\@ptlistpoemsintoc\@ptundefined}
79 \newcommand*{\tocentrytype}{\topentrytype}

We then set the secnumdepth and tocdepth counters to disable chapter, section, and subsection numbering, and to limit the maximum depth of entries in the ToC.

80 \setcounter{secnumdepth}{-1}
81 \setcounter{tocdepth}{2}
82 \renewcommand*{\listtablename}{\topname}

\maketoc
\maketop
\maketop*
Once you’ve configured the ToC and ToP you probably want to insert them into your document somewhere. While you could just use the \LaTeX command \tableofcontents for the ToC, we provide an alternative that adds a bit of formatting and clears the page. By default the ToP creates a listing for itself in the ToC—using the star modifier prevents this. An example table of poems can be found at the end of this document.

83 \newcommand*{\maketoc}{% 
84 \beforetoc
Hooks and formatting

A great many commands are provided to act as hooks into various parts of \texttt{poetrytex}. These commands don’t do anything initially, but can be redefined to customize the way \texttt{poetrytex} behaves.

Title page

These hooks get inserted before or after elements on the title page or dedication. If the element has formatting, they will be inserted outside of the formatted block, but inside of any enclosing environments.

\newcommand*{\beforetitle}{}
\newcommand*{\aftertitle}{}
\newcommand*{\beforesubtitle}{}
\newcommand*{\aftersubtitle}{}
\newcommand*{\beforeauthor}{}
\newcommand*{\afterauthor}{}
\newcommand*{\beforedate}{}
\newcommand*{\afterdate}{
Dedication

\dedicationformat
\prededicationvspace
\postdedicationvspace
\beforededication
\afterdedication

Redefine \dedicationformat to change how the dedication text is formatted. You can change the length of the vspace around the dedication by redefining \prededicationvspace and \postdedicationvspace or redefine the beforededication and afterdedication hooks to insert content around the dedication text.

\newcommand*{\beforeauthor}{}
\newcommand*{\afterauthor}{}
\newcommand*{\beforedate}{}
\newcommand*{\afterdate}{}

\newcommand*{\dedicationformat}{\normalfont\itshape}
\newlength{\prededicationvspace}
\newlength{\postdedicationvspace}
\settowidth{\prededicationvspace}{\fill}
\settowidth{\postdedicationvspace}{\fill}
\newcommand*{\beforededication}{}
\newcommand*{\afterdedication}{}

Tables and links

\beforetoc
\aftertoc
\beforetop
\aftertop

Several hooks are provided which allow you to insert content before or after the tables:

\newcommand{\beforetoc}{}
\newcommand{\aftertoc}{}
\newcommand{\beforetop}{}
\newcommand{\aftertop}{}

Poem group

\beforepoemgroup
\afterpoemgroup

The following hooks occur before and after a new poem group.

\newcommand*{\beforepoemgroup}{\cleardoublepage}
\newcommand*{\afterpoemgroup}{\clearpage}

Poems and annotations

Now that we’ve got all the boilerplate, configuration, titles, tables, and properties out of the way, it’s time to move on to the core functionality of poetrytex: displaying and organizing poems!
The poem environment

Inserting a poem or other writing into your anthology is accomplished by wrapping it in the `poem` environment. This environment takes in two arguments, the title and subtitle (or author, date, etc.) of the poem.

```
\newenvironment{poem}[3][\ptdefaultenv]{% \@ptwrapenvironment
```

By default `poem` re-wraps your text in the `verse` environment. However, this can be changed by passing in an optional argument with the name of another environment to wrap it in (e.g. `center`) or, for all poems, by redefining `ptdefaultenv`.

```
\newcommand*{\@ptwrapenvironment}{#1}
```

For example, a poem wrapped in the `center` environment might look like this:

```
\begin{poem}[center]{The Sea Bell}{J.R.R. Tolkien}
I walked by the sea, and there came to me,\-
\textbackslash as a star-beam on the wet sand,\-
\textbackslash a white shell like a sea-bell;\-
\textbackslash trembling it lay
\textbackslash in my wet hand.\-
\textbackslash In my fingers shaken
\textbackslash I heard waken\-
\textbackslash a ding within, by a harbour bar\-
\textbackslash a buoy swinging, a call ringing\-
\textbackslash over endless seas,\-
\textbackslash faint now and far\ldots
\end{poem}
```

```
\begin{poem}[center]{The Sea Bell}{J.R.R. Tolkien}
I walked by the sea, and there came to me, as a star-beam on the wet sand, a white shell like a sea-bell; trembling it lay in my wet hand. In my fingers shaken I heard waken a ding within, by a harbour bar a buoy swinging, a call ringing over endless seas, faint now and far\ldots
\end{poem}
```

An incipit can be declared within the poem environment using the `\incipit` command. This will reprint the first argument so you don’t have to write your first line twice. This is useful for untitled poems as you can put their incipit in the ToP in place of a default title. `\incipit*` will declare an incipit but will not reprint its argument, for cases where the incipit differs from the actual line.

```
\incipit
\incipit*
```

```
\begin{poem}[center]{The Sea Bell}{J.R.R. Tolkien}
I walked by the sea, and there came to me, as a star-beam on the wet sand, a white shell like a sea-bell; trembling it lay in my wet hand. In my fingers shaken I heard waken a ding within, by a harbour bar a buoy swinging, a call ringing over endless seas, faint now and far\ldots
\end{poem}
```

```
\begin{poem}[center]{The Sea Bell}{J.R.R. Tolkien}
I walked by the sea, and there came to me, as a star-beam on the wet sand, a white shell like a sea-bell; trembling it lay in my wet hand. In my fingers shaken I heard waken a ding within, by a harbour bar a buoy swinging, a call ringing over endless seas, faint now and far\ldots
\end{poem}
```
After an incipit has been declared, this will expand to the text of the incipit for the current poem.

This poem has a (slightly modified) default title and an incipit in the ToP:

```
\usedefaulttitles
\useincipits
\renewcommand*{\ptdefaulttitle}{Untitled \textnumero\arabic{absoluteuntitledpoemnum}}
\begin{poem}{}{Traditional}
\incipit{Media vita in morte\sumus};\star
Quem qu\ae rimus adjutorem nisi te, Domine?\star
Qui pro peccatis nostris juste irasceris\star
Sancte Deus, Sancte fortis,\star
Sancte et misericors Salvator,\star
Amar\ae morti ne tradas nos.
\end{poem}
```

Now we render the page header, title, and the actual poem:
\relax
\else
\toppoemnum
\fi
\ifx\#2&
\ptuseincipits@ptundefined
\ptdefaulttitle
\else
{"incipittopformat \theincipit}\%
\fi
\else
#2
\fi
\fi
\ifx\@ptlistpoemsintoc@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\addcontentsline{toc}{\tocentrytype}{\ifx\@ptnumbertoc@ptundefined
\relax
\else\tocpoemnum\fi
\ifx\#2&
\ifx\@ptuseincipits\@ptundefined
\ptdefaulttitle
\else
{"incipittocformat \theincipit}\%
\fi
\else
#2
\fi
\fi
\fi
\hypertarget{\@ptpoemlabeltext\arabic{absolutepoemnum}}{}
\fi
\fi
}{\poemtitleformat
\ifx\@ptnumberpoems@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}\ptdefaulttitle
\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}#2\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\fi
\hypertarget{\@ptpoemlabeltext\arabic{absolutepoemnum}}{}
\ifx\@ptuseincipits\@ptundefined
\ptdefaulttitle
\else
{"incipittocformat \theincipit}\%
\fi
\else
#2
\fi
\fi
\ifx\hypertarget@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hypertarget{\@ptpoemlabeltext\arabic{absolutepoemnum}}{}
\fi
\fi
}{\poemtitleformat
\ifx\@ptnumberpoems@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}\ptdefaulttitle
\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}#2\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\fi
\ifx\hypertarget@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hypertarget{\@ptpoemlabeltext\arabic{absolutepoemnum}}{}
\fi
\fi
}{\poemtitleformat
\ifx\@ptnumberpoems@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}\ptdefaulttitle
\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}#2\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\fi
\ifx\hypertarget@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hypertarget{\@ptpoemlabeltext\arabic{absolutepoemnum}}{}
\fi
\fi
}{\poemtitleformat
\ifx\@ptnumberpoems@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}\ptdefaulttitle
\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}#2\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\fi
\ifx\hypertarget@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hypertarget{\@ptpoemlabeltext\arabic{absolutepoemnum}}{}
\fi
\fi
}{\poemtitleformat
\ifx\@ptnumberpoems@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}\ptdefaulttitle
\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}#2\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\fi
\ifx\hypertarget@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hypertarget{\@ptpoemlabeltext\arabic{absolutepoemnum}}{}
\fi
\fi
}{\poemtitleformat
\ifx\@ptnumberpoems@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}\ptdefaulttitle
\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}#2\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\fi
\ifx\hypertarget@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hypertarget{\@ptpoemlabeltext\arabic{absolutepoemnum}}{}
\fi
\fi
}{\poemtitleformat
\ifx\@ptnumberpoems@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}\ptdefaulttitle
\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}#2\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\fi
\ifx\hypertarget@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hypertarget{\@ptpoemlabeltext\arabic{absolutepoemnum}}{}
\fi
\fi
}{\poemtitleformat
\ifx\@ptnumberpoems@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}\ptdefaulttitle
\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}#2\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\fi
\ifx\hypertarget@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hypertarget{\@ptpoemlabeltext\arabic{absolutepoemnum}}{}
\fi
\fi
}{\poemtitleformat
\ifx\@ptnumberpoems@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}\ptdefaulttitle
\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}#2\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\fi
\ifx\hypertarget@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hypertarget{\@ptpoemlabeltext\arabic{absolutepoemnum}}{}
\fi
\fi
}{\poemtitleformat
\ifx\@ptnumberpoems@ptundefined
\relax
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}\ptdefaulttitle
\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\else
\hspace*{\pttitleleftspace}#2\hspace*{\pttitlerightspace}\*
\fi
\fi
Formatting poems

The `poem` environment provides some reasonable defaults for formatting your work but chances are you want a little more control.

**Headings**

By redefining \poetryheadings you can change how your headings look, use packages like fancihdr, or remove headers from poem pages altogether.

\begin{itemize}
  \item \newcommand*{\poetryheadings}{0}{% 
  \pagestyle{myheadings} 
  \markboth{\textsc{\pttitle}\hfill}{\hfill\textsc{\ptgroup}\hfill} 
  \textsc{\pttitle}\textsc{\ptgroup} \hfill } 
\end{itemize}

**Numbering**

\begin{itemize}
  \item \newcommand*{\numberpoems}{\newcommand*{\ptnumberpoems}{}} 
  \newcommand*{\nonumberpoems}{\let\ptnumberpoems\@ptundefined} 
\end{itemize}

Using \numberpoems results in:
The Highwayman
Alfred Noyes

The wind was a torrent of darkness among the gusty trees,
The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas,
The road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor...

The Lady of Shalott
Alfred Tennyson (1842)

On either side the river lie Long fields of barley and of rye, That clothe the wold and meet the sky; And through the field the road runs by To many-towered Camelot; And up and down the people go, Gazing where the lilies blow Round an island there below, The island of Shalott—
Spacing and indentation

\stanzaparskip This length is used to change the \texttt{parskip} within a poem environment.

\newlength{\stanzaparskip}
\setlength{\stanzaparskip}{0.7em}
\cleardoublepageafterpoem and \cleardoublepageafterannotation cause the page to be cleared after every poem environment or annotation environment respectively.

\newcommand*{\clearpageafterpoem}{\newcommand*{\@ptclearpageafterpoem}{}}
\newcommand*{\clearpageafterannotation}{\newcommand*{\@ptclearpageafterannotation}{}}
\newcommand*{\noclearpageafterpoem}{\let\@ptclearpageafterpoem\@ptundefined}
\newcommand*{\noclearpageafterannotation}{\let\@ptclearpageafterannotation\@ptundefined}

\ptgap \ptind \ptind* The \texttt{ptgap} length and \texttt{ptind} command are two of those places where \texttt{poetrytext} strays a bit into the realm of poetry typesetting. They overlap with the \texttt{verse} package's \texttt{vgap} and \texttt{vin} commands and insert indentation at the beginning of a line. This is useful for typesetting poems consistently when the \texttt{verse} package is not loaded. Redefine \texttt{ptgap} to change the length that \texttt{ptind} indents by. The starred version of \texttt{ptind} uses \texttt{hspace*}.

\newlength{\ptgap}
\setlength{\ptgap}{2em}
\newcommand*{\ptind}{%\@ifstar{\@ptindStar}{\@ptindNoStar}}
\newcommand*{\@ptindStar}{\hspace*{\ptgap}}
\newcommand*{\@ptindNoStar}{\hspace{\ptgap}}

Using it works something like this:

\setlength{\ptgap}{2em}
\begin{poem}[flushleft]{PoETeX}
{An \texttt{/l\textae:m\textae:p\textae/o/} poem}
There once was a poem called% PoETeX\end{poem}
That's name sounded somewhat% \texttt{/p\textae:tk\textae/}.
It was really quite% sad,\texttt{/l\textae:m(e)\textae:r\textae/k/}!
And to read such a terrible% \texttt{\lme(a)r\textae:k/}!

PoETeX An /g\textae:mp\textae:pol/ poem
There once was a poem called PoETeX
That's name sounded somewhat
/p\textae:tk\textae/.
It was really quite sad,
to see pronunciation so bad,
And to read such a terrible
/\lme(a)r\textae:k/!
**Style**

\poemtitleformat  By redefining \poemtitleformat we can change how the poem title is rendered.

\newcommand*{\poemtitleformat}{\normalfont\bfseries\large}

This can be used for everything from changing the font size to adding interesting effects:

\renewcommand*{\poemtitleformat}{\normalfont\bfseries\rule{5em}{0.2em}\\*}

\begin{poem}{Excelsior}
{Henry Wadsworth Longfellow\* 1841}
The shades of night were falling fast, As through an Alpine village passed\*
A youth, who bore, ‘mid snow and ice,\*
A banner with the strange device,\*
Excelsior!
\end{poem}

\incipittopformat \incipittocformat  Similarly we can change how the incipit is rendered in the Table of Poems or Table of Contents:

\newcommand*{\incipittopformat}{\itshape}
\newcommand*{\incipittocformat}{\incipittopformat}

If you want a stylistic marker between two poems, or between sections or stanzas within a poem, the following commands are your friend.

\ptspacergap \ptspacerchar \ptspacernum  The \ptspacergap length is the indentation of the spacer, and \ptspacerchar is the actual character that will be printed \ptspacernum times.

\newlength{\ptspacergap} \setlength{\ptspacergap}{4em} \newcommand*{\ptspacerchar}{\S} \newcounter{ptspacernum}

\ptspacer \ptspacer*  The starred version of the \ptspacer command uses \hspace* for indentation.

\newcommand*{\ptspacer}{\@ifstar{\@ptspacestar}{\@ptspacernostar}}
\newcommand*{\@ptspacestar}{\hspace*{\ptspacergap}}
\newcommand*{\@ptspacernostar}{\@ifstar{\@ptspacestar}{\@ptspacernostar}}

The shades of night were falling fast,
As through an Alpine village passed
A youth, who bore, ‘mid snow and ice,
A banner with the strange device,
Excelsior!
The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock
T.S. Eliot

...I should have been a pair of ragged claws
Scuttling across the floors of silent seas.

And the afternoon, the evening, sleeps so peacefully!
Smoothed by long fingers,
Asleep... tired... or it malingers,
Stretched on the floor, here beside you and me...

Groups and linking

When putting together a large collection of poetry and prose you most likely need a way to organize your works and find them quickly. While the table of poems helps we might also want to link directly to poems, or further subdivide the collection into groups of related works (by year written, or subject matter for instance).

We can link to poems easily enough by providing \linktopoem with the text for the link and, optionally, the number of the poem to link to. If only one argument is given it is used as both the link destination and text. This macro only works if the hyperref package is loaded; otherwise, text is just passed through.

\linktopoem
Dividing poems up into groups can be accomplished with the \poemgroup command. The command creates a title-page for the group at the current location and adds entries to the ToP and ToC unless the starred version of the command is used. The \ptgroup command will always contain a reference to the current group in case you need to refer to it later. If you want to change the group, but don’t want to create a title page, use the \setpoemgroup command. The starred version also doesn’t add an entry in the ToP and ToC.
The annotation environment

Annotations allow you to insert prose that relates to a specific poem into your document. It uses \annotationheadings (see below), clears the page twice, and adds itself to the ToC (but not the ToP). The page is also cleared again after the annotation.

Like the poetry environment, an optional first argument can be used to specify the environment in which the annotation will be wrapped. The default is flushleft and can be changed by redefining \ptannotationenv.

Formatting annotations

Headings

The \annotationheadings macro is automatically called every time a new annotation environment is created. By default, it simply calls \poetryheadings, but it can be redefined to give your annotation pages a different heading style than your poem pages.
Now that everything is defined we can process any options that were passed in by the user:

\ProcessOptions\relax
\(/\text{poetrytex}\)
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Numbers written in italic refer to the page where the corresponding entry is described; numbers underlined refer to the code line of the definition; numbers in roman refer to the code lines where the entry is used.

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