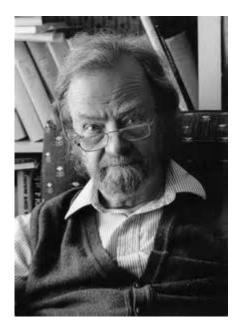
## **HUMOR**



Donald Hall (1928-)

## The Impossible Marriage (1986)

The bride disappears. After twenty minutes of searching we discover her in the cellar, vanishing against a pillar in her white gown and her skin's original pallor. When we guide her back to the altar, we find the groom in his slouch hat, open shirt, and untended beard withdrawn to the belltower with the healthy young sexton from whose comradeship we detach him with difficulty. O never in all the meetinghouses and academies of compulsory Democracy and free-thinking Calvinism will these poets marry! -- O pale, passionate anchoret of Amherst! O reticent kosmos of Brooklyn!