

[Home](#) > [Vincent Buckley Special Issue \(2010\)](#) > [Masel](#)

## Wandering the Dream City: Memory, Self and the World in *Golden Builders*

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### Abstract

This essay begins by examining the relationship between self, place and memory in Vincent Buckley's *Golden Builders* sequence and proceeds to make connections with his oeuvre as a whole. In response to the unpredictability of the city, the self cultivates both Keatsian 'Negative Capability' and self-discipline. These paired qualities make for a focused attentiveness to the city, to its inhabitants and to the speaker's own place in the scheme of things as a city-dweller and a poet. Concurring with the location of Buckley's poetry in the Romantic tradition's dialogue of self and world, this essay seeks to extend the terms of the discussion by including a consideration of one poem from the sequence in terms of its resemblance to a common Romantic lyric type. It concludes with an assessment of the contribution of personal pronouns to the subject's self-management, focussing on the use of the second person pronoun.

Full Text: [PDF](#)

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

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#### Wandering the Dre...

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[Review policy](#)  
[About the author](#)  
[How to cite item](#)  
[Indexing metadata](#)  
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