THE SIREN AND THE SEASHELL

THE TEXAS PAN AMERICAN SERIES

OCTAVIO PAZ

The Siren & the Seashell

AND OTHER ESSAYS ON POETS AND POETRY

TRANSLATED BY LYSANDER KEMP

AND MARGARET SAYERS PEDEN

ILLUSTRATED BY BARRY MOSER

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PRESS

AUSTIN

The Texas Pan American Series is published with the assistance of a revolving publication fund established by the Pan American Sulphur Company. Publication of this book was also assisted by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation through the Latin American translation program of the Association of American University Presses.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Paz, Octavio, 1914-

"The siren and the seashell" and other essays on poets and poetry.

(The Texas pan American series)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

1. Poetry—History and criticism—Collected works.

I. Title.

PN1136.P3 809.1 75-40298 ISBN 0-292-77652-7 pbk.

Translation copyright © 1976 by Octavio Paz

All rights reserved

Printed in the United States of America

First Paperback Edition, 1991

Requests for permission to reproduce material from this work should be sent to Permissions, University of Texas Press, Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819.

⊗ The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences—Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI z39.48-1984.