

# *The* Iowa Review

VOLUME NINE NUMBER FOUR FALL 1978



*A Multinational Miscellany*  
including Brodsky • Berg • Butor

*The Iowa Review* is a literary quarterly sponsored and published by the School of Letters and the Graduate College of The University of Iowa and supported also by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Copyright © 1979, by The University of Iowa.  
All rights reserved.  
Printed in the United States of America.

Send subscriptions, manuscripts (with a self-addressed, stamped envelope), and any inquiries to *The Iowa Review*, 308 EPB, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242.

David Hamilton and Fredrick Woodard, *Editors*  
K. K. Merker, *Associate Editor*  
Norman Sage, *Managing Editor*  
Irene Wanner and James Heckmann, *Fiction Editors*  
Kay Amert, *Designer*  
Irene Moskin, *Assistant Poetry Editor*  
Jim Perlman, *Assistant Poetry Editor*  
Michael Cunningham, *Assistant Fiction Editor*  
Lee White, *Assistant Fiction Editor*

*The cover illustration is the reproduction of an etching by Linda King.*

**In our next issue . . .**

Fiction by John Hawkes, Cathy Coats, and Katherine Andres; essays by Paul Baender, David Shapiro, and Douglas Wilson. Henry Carlile will be our guest editor for poetry and his choices include poems by John Engels, David Shapiro, Maxine Kumin, David Wagoner, and Galway Kinnell.

Fall, 1978  
Volume 9, Number 4

# The Iowa Review

*Michel Butor*

*Nicholas Delbanco*

*Richard Elman*

*Barbara L. Greenberg*

*Elizabeth Roget*

*Gordon Weaver*

*Stephen Berg*

*Joseph Brodsky*

*Igor Calvo*

*Stephen Dobyns*

*Juan Gelman*

*Mark Halperin*

*Katherine Kane*

*Nancy Roxbury Knutson*

*Charlotte Mandel*

*Judith Moffett*

*Sherod Santos*

*Dennis Schmitz*

*Michael C. Smith*

*Ross Talarico*

*Mary Jane White*

*Alfred Yuson*

*Ernest Gallo*

## FICTION

86 Selections from "Exploded Meditations"  
translated by Lee Fahnestock

89 The Executor

63 Irwin

67 Managua: 4:30 P.M.

28 Important Things

16 The Upper Floor

43 Macklin's Epigraphic Loss

## POETRY

84 A Free Variation of Anna Akhmatova's *Lines*

85 A Free Variation of Anna Akhmatova's  
*Bezhetsk*

1 The Rustle of Acacias

2 Autumn in Norenskaya

translated by Daniel Weissbort

76 A Fable

translated by Roberto Márquez

29 Song of the Wrong Response

30 Fragments

77 The Heartache and Thousand Natural  
Shocks, translated by Roberto Márquez

40 Kittitas Horses

42 Two Lines from Paul Celan

32 Attics

31 La Vieja in the Sandia Mts.

33 At the Home

81 Walk with the River

82 Propertius 3.21,  
translated by Michael West

78 W.C.W.'s Moment of Suspense

73 In Bosch's World

75 Homing

38 The Neighbor Lady's Testimony

39 Our Christmas Carol

79 To the Girl I Loved

34 To Jeannie, On Losing the Farm: 1929

36 Father

37 Midlandfall

## ESSAY

10 Letter and Spirit

## INTERVIEWS

4 Questions and Answers after Brodsky's  
Reading, 21 February 1978

97 Peter Nazareth with Edwin Thumboo

118 Loose Bottoms on Her Blouse

119 Notes on Contributors