

# Introduction

Planning this issue of poems, after all-fiction and all-essay issues of the last two Septembers, we wished to include numerous poets who have not appeared before in *The Iowa Review*, poets whom we imagine that they imagine, or they imagine that we imagine, that we are not right for each other. So we began to think of this issue as a sampler of “Some Poetries of America,”—at least three poetries, roughly speaking. And so it is that Mary Hussmann and I sought the help of Cherry Muhanji and Dee Morris, whose histories of reading differ significantly from our own, to collaborate in soliciting writers. For each third of the issue we allotted the same number of pages. Consequently, when poets appear at different lengths here, that is because one of us invited more or fewer writers. Then as a last but crucial wrinkle, we decided to organize the issue alphabetically rather than by block or group. All along, our guiding desire has been to blur rather than to reinforce identifying suppositions. Since also we found ourselves expanding to our limits, we have economized by dropping the usual contributors notes. We hope that you will be surprised by at least a few of these poems and find many of them good reading. And we will add that the poems included were sent from the following cities and towns:

Eastport, Stockton Springs, Ft. Wayne, West Lafayette, Bloomington, Montreal, Toronto, Outremont, St. Paul, Santa Fe, Coimbra, Paoli, Pittsburgh, Swarthmore, Brooklyn, New Lebanon, New York, Atlanta, Shorewood, Waltham, Guilford, Missoula, San Francisco, San Diego, Kensington, Santa Cruz; Solana Beach, La Mesa, Berkeley, Fresno, Tampa, Dallas, Chevy Chase, Tucson, Willingboro, Providence, Charlottesville, Castle Rock, Coralville, Iowa City, and Chicago.

—D.H.