

8 | 1

---

# the iowa review

---

Winter, 1977

**Fiction:**

A Special Feature:  
Eugene K. Garber  
Russell Banks

**Poetry:**

Louis Simpson  
Stanley Plumly  
Charles Wright  
Russell Edson  
Kathryn Stripling  
Robert Morgan  
Andrew Glaze  
Jon Silkin  
Peter Wild  
Judith Moffett  
Brian Swann  
Michael Hogan  
A. R. Ammons

**Criticism:**

Frederick Buell on the  
Poetry of A. R. Ammons  
M. D. Uroff on Sylvia Plath  
and Confessional Poetry  
Jeffrey L. Duncan on the  
Problem of Language in  
*Miss Lonelyhearts*  
Roger Bowen on Philip  
Larkin's *XX Poems*

# Houghton Mifflin's New Poetry Series

## DAVID ST. JOHN **HUSH**

"This is a remarkable first book; for beauty and poise it ranks with James Wright's *The Green Wall*; for originality it ranks with Ashbery's *Some Trees*; and for amplitude of feeling it stands alone, beyond any first book I can think of."

—MARK STRAND

"How rare to find a young poet — any poet, for that matter — fully capable of his commitments. Imaginative risk and emotional resonance have often enough been incompatible. But David St. John's imagination compels us precisely because the emotion has so moved us. His poems have the care of their convictions. They remind us, again and again, of the power in poetry when the skill is equal to its sources."

—STANLEY PLUMLY

\$6.95 cloth, \$3.95 paperback

Now at your bookstore



**Houghton Mifflin Company**

Publisher of the American Heritage Dictionary

Contents

---

FICTION

A Special Feature: Eugene K. Garber and Russell Banks

Eugene K. Garber	<i>Metaphysical Tales</i>	1
	<i>Homage To Poe, Kafka,</i>	
	<i>Dinesen, and Borges</i>	4
	<i>The Melon-eaters</i>	18
	<i>Circle</i>	19
	<i>Line</i>	26
	<i>Selections from the Assassin's Memoirs,</i>	
	<i>or a Shard of the History of the</i>	
	<i>World Since World War II</i>	19
	<i>Void</i>	25
	<i>White Monkey Man</i>	26
Russell Banks	<i>Escaping Christmas</i>	47

---

POETRY

Louis Simpson	<i>Peter</i>	37
Stanley Plumly	<i>The Tree</i>	38
Charles Wright	<i>Reply to Lapo Gianni</i>	39
Russell Edson	<i>The Closet Dwarf</i>	39
Kathryn Stripling	<i>Daughter</i>	40
Robert Morgan	<i>Soreshin</i>	41
	<i>Bartram's Axia</i>	43
	<i>Urn</i>	43
	<i>Canning Time</i>	44
	<i>Woodsburn</i>	45
Andrew Glaze	<i>Banquet</i>	56
	<i>A Child</i>	57
Jon Silkin	<i>Shades</i>	58
	<i>Entropy at Hartburn</i>	59
	<i>The Holy Island of St. Aidan</i>	60
	<i>At Nightfall</i>	61
	<i>Shadowing</i>	61
Peter Wild	<i>Painting</i>	62
	<i>Barn Fires</i>	63
Judith Moffett	<i>For Willa Cather</i>	64
Brian Swann	<i>Magic</i>	65
Michael Hogan	<i>A Green Pass</i>	66

---

FIELDS OF ACTION / CRITICISM AND POETRY

Frederick Buell	<i>"To Be Quiet in the Hands of the Marvelous": The Poetry of A. R. Ammons</i>	67
A. R. Ammons	<i>When I Was Young the Silk My Father, I Hollow for You</i>	85 86
Roger Bowen	<i>Poet in Transition: Philip Larkin's XX Poems</i>	87
M. D. Uroff	<i>Sylvia Plath and Confessional Poetry: A Reconsideration</i>	104
Jeffrey L. Duncan	<i>The Problem of Language in Miss Lonelyhearts</i>	116

---

	Notes on Contributors	128
--	-----------------------	-----

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 printed by the University of Iowa Printing Service.

Copyright © 1977, by The University of Iowa.

Send subscriptions to *The Iowa Review*, Publications Order Department, The University of Iowa, 17 West College Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52242. Early and current volumes available on microfilm from University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106. Purchase of current volumes on film is restricted to subscribers.

Manuscripts should be sent, with a self-addressed, stamped envelope, to The Iowa Review, EPB 321 The University of Iowa Iowa City, Iowa 52242.  
Thomas R. Whitaker, *Editor*  
K. K. Merker, *Managing Editor*  
Robert Coover, *Fiction Editor*  
William Matthews, *Poetry Editor*  
T. Coraghessan Boyle, *Assistant Fiction Editor*  
Michael Sofranko, *Assistant Poetry Editor*  
Catherine Gammon, *Editorial Assistant*  
Mary Stearns-Sgarioto, *Editorial Assistant*

“Material from the working papers of William Carlos Williams’s *Poetry as a Field of Action* published in *The Iowa Review* (7/4) courtesy of the Poetry Collection, Lockwood Memorial Library, State University of New York at Buffalo.”