

# *The* Iowa Review

VOLUME TWENTY-THREE

NUMBER ONE

1993



Elizabeth Spires, Jonathan Holden, Pattiann Rogers,  
Tony Whedon, Lynda Hull, Chana and Ariel Bloch,  
Stuart Dybek, Fred Setterberg, Alexander Thorburn,  
Vuyelwa Carlin, Stephen Wing, Katherine Soniat,  
Rolf Nelson, Jane Thurmond, John Lindgren, Jared  
Carter, Carl Lindner, Walter Pavlich, Brian Swann,  
Joanna Scott, John Briggs, Benjamin Anastas



*The Iowa Review* is a literary magazine published by the Department of English and the Graduate College of The University of Iowa.

---

David Hamilton, *Editor*

Mary Hussmann, *Associate Editor*

Kay Amert, *Designer*

Benjamin Anastas, Michael Fisch, Eachan Holloway, Philip Kobylarz, *Assistant Editors*

Scott Anderson, Julene Bair, Eileen Bartos, Clay Carlson, Peter Craig, Jennifer S. Epstein, Laura Harger, Kirsten Hoyte, Tucker Malarkey, Lee Montgomery, Tanya Pryputniewicz, Fred Redekop, Baron Reed, Kelly Ritter, Kate Roosevelt, Amy Scattergood, Merrie Snell, Craig Stein, *Editorial Assistants*  
David Baldus, Frank Conroy, Charles Kremenak, Judy Polumbaum, Leslie Sims, Thomas Walz, *Advisory Board*

---

Our cover image reproduces a Turkish nomadic flatweave called a *sofra*, or food cloth, from the central Anatolian region of Sivrihisar. Weavings of this nature are used as ground covers or as a spread for both daily life and special occasions. This unusually rich piece is highly animated and embellished with a number of expressive symbols. The cloth, which measures 47 by 53 inches, is made from goat hair and wool, and is from the collection of Keith Achepohl.

---

*The Iowa Review* is indexed in *Abstracts of English Studies*, *American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies*, *American Humanities Index*, *Annual Index to Poetry in Periodicals*, *Bibliography of English Language and Literature*, *Index of American Periodical Verse*, *Index to Book Reviews in the Humanities*, and *Modern Language Association Bibliography*.

Send subscriptions, manuscripts (with SASE), and any inquiries to *The Iowa Review*, 308 EPB, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242. We welcome manuscripts from September through April.

---

Copyright © 1993, by The University of Iowa. All rights reserved.

Winter 1993  
Volume 23, Number 1

*The*  
*Iowa Review*

<i>Chana &amp; Ariel Bloch</i>	1	Lyrics from the Song of Songs
<i>Jonathan Holden</i>	5	Quod Erat Demonstrandum
<i>Pattiann Rogers</i>	18	The Image in a World of Flux
	19	Trial and Error
<i>Katherine Soniat</i>	21	The Spring House
	22	Marks of Light
<i>Stuart Dybek</i>	25	A Minor Mood
<i>Joanna Scott</i>	33	X Number of Possibilities
<i>Stephen Wing</i>	44	Logoplexy
<i>Jared Carter</i>	57	Spirea
	62	Phosphorescence
<i>Vuyelwa Carlin</i>	63	Silver
	64	Demeter's Lament for Her Coré
<i>Jane Thurmond</i>	66	The Great Baptism
<i>Rolf Nelson</i>	78	Some Anecdotes for My Son
<i>Fred Setterberg</i>	89	Rising from Jack Kerouac's Couch
<i>Tony Whedon</i>	101	Post-American Style
<i>Elizabeth Spires</i>	120	The Bodies
	121	The Robed Heart
	122	Sake
<i>Lynda Hull</i>	123	Fortunate Traveller
	126	Amulets
<i>John Briggs</i>	129	The Crossing
<i>Walter Pavlich</i>	150	Mouthflowers
	151	Farmer's Market
<i>Brian Swann</i>	152	The Meteor and the Deer
<i>Carl Lindner</i>	153	Raining Fire
<i>John Lindgren</i>	155	The Place
<i>Alexander Thorburn</i>	156	The Canal
	158	The Soda Fountain
	159	The Library
<i>Benjamin Anastas</i>	161	Three Ways of Being Modern: the Lost Generation Trilogy by James R. Mellow
	175	End Notes
	182	Notes on Contributors
	185	Errata

## Notes on Contributors

BENJAMIN ANASTAS is an assistant editor of our magazine. His work has appeared in *Story* and *Denver Quarterly*.

CHANA BLOCH, a poet, critic, and translator, is Professor of English at Mills College. Her new book of poems is *The Past Keeps Changing* (Sheep Meadow Press, 1992). ARIEL BLOCH is Professor of Semitic Linguistics at the University of California at Berkeley. His most recent book is *Studies in Arabic Syntax and Semantics*. The Blochs' translation of the Song of Songs will be published by Random House in spring 1994 with their introduction and commentary, and a preface by Robert Alter.

JOHN BRIGGS is writing a book describing his experiences as a visiting professor at Shanghai's Tangji University. An excerpt from that book, "Shanghai Love," appeared in the Fall/Winter (1993) issue of *The University of Windsor Review*. His essays and stories have appeared in *Chicago Review* and *Cimarron Review*, among others.

VUYELWA CARLIN is a white African who was born in Uganda and has lived in England for the past twenty years. Her work has appeared in *New Women Poets* (Bloodaxe Books), and *Seren Poets 2* (Seren Books). Her first collection of poetry, *Midas' Daughter*, was published in 1991 by Seren Books.

JARED CARTER has published two books of poetry, *After the Rain* and *Work, for the Night Is Coming*.

STUART DYBEK's most recent collection of stories is *The Coast of Chicago* (Vintage).

JONATHAN HOLDEN is a University Distinguished Professor and Poet-in-Residence at Kansas State University. His most recent book is a novel, *Brilliant Kids*, published by the University of Utah Press.

LYNDA HULL lives in Chicago and teaches in the Vermont College MFA program. She has recent work in *Pequod*, *New England Review*, and *Ploughshares*. Her latest collection, *Star Ledger*, (The University of Iowa Press, 1991), won an Edwin Ford Piper Award.

JOHN LINDGREN has poems forthcoming in *Chelsea*, *The Literary Review*, *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, and *The Sewanee Review*, and has published widely in other magazines and journals.

CARL M. LINDNER's poetry has appeared in *Poetry*, *Slant*, *The Literary Review*, *Southern Poetry Review*, and *The Greensboro Review*. He has published two chapbooks and a full-length collection, *Shooting Baskets in a Dark Gymnasium*.

ROLF NELSON graduated from the writing program at Indiana University and now lives in San Francisco. His stories have appeared in *The Quarterly* and *The Madison Review*.

WALTER PAVLICH's latest book, *Running Near the End of the World*, won the Edwin Ford Piper Poetry Award and was published by The University of Iowa Press in 1992. Other work has appeared in recent issues of *The Atlantic*, *American Poetry Review*, *The Yale Review*, *Poetry*, and *Mánoa*.

PATTIANN ROGERS is a Visiting Writer at the University of Arkansas for the spring 1993 semester. Her fifth book, *Geocentric*, is forthcoming this spring from Gibbs Smith, and new work will appear in *The Hudson Review*, *Triquarterly*, *The Georgia Review*, *The Paris Review*, and others.

JOANNA SCOTT is the author of three novels, most recently, *Arrogance*. She teaches at the University of Rochester and is a 1992 MacArthur Fellow.

This story, as with each piece in her forthcoming collection, *Various Antidotes*, (due out next fall from Holt), draws from the history of medicine.

FRED SETTERBERG's essay in our pages, "Rising from Jack Kerouac's Couch," is taken from his new book, *The Roads Taken: Travels Through America's Literary Landscapes* (The University of Georgia Press). This book won the 1992 Associated Writing Program's award in creative nonfiction.

ELIZABETH SPIRES is currently completing a fourth collection of poems. She recently received a Guggenheim Fellowship and will be spending part of the year in the Caribbean with her husband, Madison Smartt Bell, and their daughter, Celia. *Annonciade*, her third collection, received the Sara Teasdale Poetry Award from Wellesley College.

KATHERINE SONIAT's poems in this issue are from the manuscript, "A Shared Life," which won a 1992 Edwin Ford Piper Poetry Award and a Virginia Prize for Poetry in 1989. The University of Iowa Press will publish the collection in September 1993. A collection, *Cracking Eggs*, was published by The University Press of Florida in 1990, and recent work has appeared in *Shenandoah*, *Yankee*, *The Minnesota Review*, and *The Georgia Review*.

BRIAN SWANN teaches at The Cooper Union in New York City. He is the author of five books of poetry, five books of short fiction, translator of

sixteen volumes of poetry, and editor of four volumes of Native American literature, the latest of which is *On the Translation of Native American Literature*, (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992).

ALEXANDER THORBURN is a student at the University of Utah. His poems have appeared in *The Nation*, *The New Yorker*, and elsewhere.

JANE THURMOND lives in Austin, Texas, where she is a graphic designer, and is also at work on a collection of short stories. Recent work has appeared in *Snake Nation Review* and *Indivisible* (NAL/Plume).

TONY WHEDON's essays have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Crazy Horse*, *Hollins Critic*, *Obsidian*, *Salmagundi*, *Cream City Review*, and *The Threepenny Review*. He co-edits *The Green Mountains Review* at Johnson State College in Vermont.

STEPHEN WING works in Spokane, Washington, as a researcher and technical writer for a small environmental engineering and consulting firm. He studied at the University of Montana with Richard Hugo and Rick DeMarinis, and has published work in *The Montana Standard*, *The Seattle Weekly*, *Image*, and *The Written Arts*.