

The BLOOMSBURY REVIEW

Mining Memory: Allegra Huston
A Profile & E-mail Conversation
by Victoria Amador

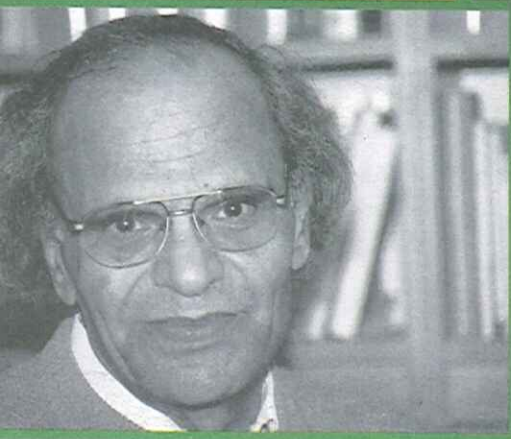
Reckoning at Eagle Creek
The Secret Legacy of Coal
in the Heartland
by Jeff Biggers
Reviewed by Thomas C. Wylie

Byron in Love
A Short Daring Life
by Edna O'Brien

Young Romantics
The Tangled Lives of English
Poetry's Greatest Generation
by Daisy Hay
Reviewed by Nancy J.D. Hazelton

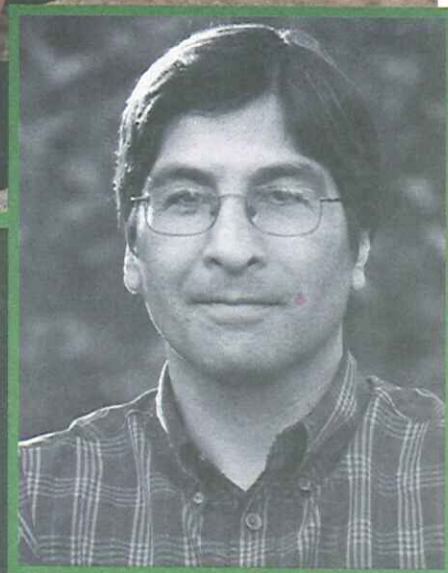
Beat Memories
The Photographs of
Allen Ginsberg
by Sarah Greenough
Reviewed by Gregory McNamee

Burning of the Three Fires
Poems
by Jeanne Marie Beaumont
Reviewed by Suzanne Cleary



Fadhil al-Azzawi: A Writer in Exile
An Essay/Interview/Review by James H. Dalglish

We're All Ethnic: A Talk With Stephen D. Gutierrez
About His New Book, *Live From Fresno y Los: Stories*
by Robert Burke



100 Notes on Violence

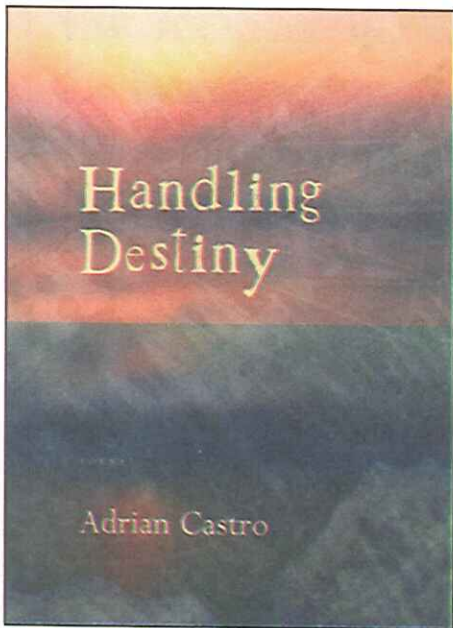
(Continued from page 15)

there is no choice but to follow the journey of fear into the light of potential redemption.

Sarah—Of *Fragments and Lines* is a more personal picture of mothers and daughters, pregnancy, and Alzheimer's. Metaphor dominates these poems, though their autobiographical origins are woven through the larger complex of birth and death. Epistolary poems, fragments, and restless forms reveal how a woman, a mother, and a daughter evolve through language into one voice.

These two books are monumental achievements; they display a courage and an imagination that leave old poetic expectations behind. To read Julie Carr is to watch how author responsibility gives way to artistic risk and great, visionary blossoming into true modern poetry.

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**Handling Destiny**

Poems

ADRIAN CASTRO

Coffee House, \$16.00 paper,
ISBN 978-1-56689-235-3

Cuban Dominican poet Adrian Castro is a master of rhythms and word sounds. He writes through all the senses, fusing his vibrant poems onto the page even as they take off in musical directions. The voices of Castro's people in the Caribbean melting pot have given him cultural identifications that require the vision to sing and compose. His poems about the self are the true lyrics of all the Americas. His impactful writing is meant to be shared, off and on the page. Castro's poems are recognized as some of the most heartfelt political statements in poetry today.

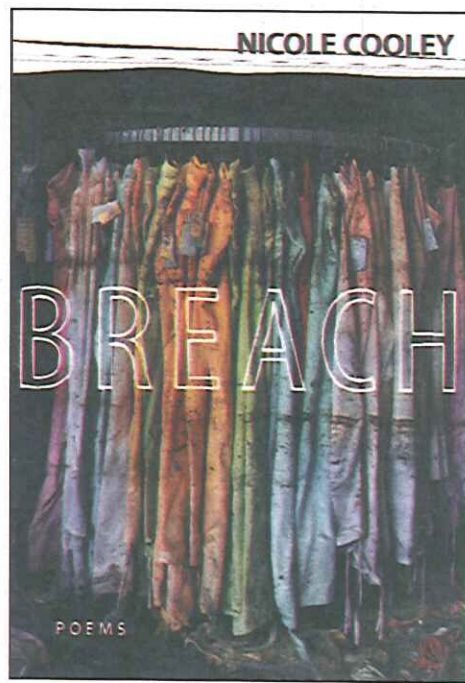
Breach

Poems

NICOLE COOLEY

Louisiana State University, \$17.95 paper,
ISBN 978-0-8071-3584-6

Nicole Cooley's poems about Katrina are a tour de force. They grieve the



destruction and the forced changes in the lives of thousands while creating a complex and universal world where "home" is revisited again and again. Once Cooley, a native of New Orleans, explores the ruins and sees things for herself, she begins an inner journey toward salvation. These poems are not an indictment. They are a statement about humanity and the power of language to bring tragic history into sharper, more personal focus.

The Brittle Age and Returning Upland

RENÉ CHAR

Translated From the French by
GUSTAF SOBINWith a Foreword by MARY ANN CAWS
Counterpath Press, \$15.95 paper,
ISBN 978-1933996-11-0; PO Box 18351,
Denver, CO 80218**Stone Lyre**

Poems of René Char

RENÉ CHAR

Translated From the French by
NANCY NAOMI CARLSONForeword by ILYA KAMINSKY
Tupelo Press, \$16.95 paper,
ISBN 978-1-932195-78-1

René Char (1907-1988) was one of the 20th century's most important literary figures. During World War II, he was a leader in the French Resistance against Nazi Germany and an early member of the surrealist movement. He is revered in Europe and remains central to modern French poetry. Despite his influence and mastery, he has not been widely translated into English, until now. Two new collections approach his work differently.

Stone Lyre is a slim volume of selected poems spanning 50 years. It includes short lyrics and prose poems, Char being one of the key contributors to modern prose poetry. His short poems circle around breathless moments whose quiet constructions are deceptive. In rereading them there is an eruption of image into revelation and self-assurance. *Stone Lyre*

could have used an index of dates of the poems or where they originally appeared in French, though one could argue that Char's amazing style and voice don't require such documentation. *The Brittle Age* and *Returning Upland* are two long sequences of poems from the French edition of Char's *Complete Poems*. The very brief prose poems in *The Brittle Age* read like tiny glimpses and aphorisms from a life lived during the worst times of the last century, though the wisdom expressed rises above the horrors of humanity to create a music that brings hope and celebration. *Returning Upland* is a mixed-genre text of prose poetry and sections of long stanza poems. Its tone is one of redemption and somber examination of the self growing stronger after years of struggle. These new translations are a treasure in world poetry because René Char wrote about justice, both human and natural—acts of survival whose marriage to language results in timeless poetry.

The Heart's Traffic

A Novel in Poems

CHING-IN CHEN

Arktoi Books/Red Hen Press, \$21.00 paper,
ISBN 978-0-9800407-2-2

This stunning debut by a young Chinese American poet is a complex, lively excursion into mystical texts and abrupt shapes that tell the story of Xiaomei, an immigrant girl haunted by the death of her best friend. Ching-In Chen shows an impressive mastery of many poetic forms, filling her sequences with prose poems, fragments, lyrics, stories, riddles, and every imaginable symbol of discovery. Poets such as Ching-In Chen reassure the world that linguistic defiance is a skill that shapes the heart and soul of poetry.

Here Be Monsters

COLIN CHENEY

University of Georgia, \$16.95 paper,
ISBN 978-0-8203-3576-6

Colin Cheney's first book contains more details from science, history, pop culture, and daily life than most collections of poetry. He is a wise, clever poet who takes those details and gives them surprising imagistic energy that does not weigh the work down but instead brings sudden turns of reality amplified through imagination. This is not the easiest poetry to write, but it is a joy to read and ponder as he turns wisdom into unforgettable, multidimensional journeys.

Long Distance

STEVEN CORDOVA

Bilingual Press, \$10.00 paper,
ISBN 978-1-931010-62-7

Steven Cordova writes about AIDS in a unique and enlightening manner. His mastery of the poetic voice allows him to ascend beyond the sobering fact of diagnosis until brutal honesty becomes a metaphor for survival and redemption. His poems are an entrée into worlds where there are no victims, but rather spirits whose inner strength is heightened with each passing day. This is a marvelous book that calls the reader back, time and time again.

Inner Cities of Gulls

J.P. DANCING BEAR

Salmon Poetry/Dufour, \$19.95 paper,
ISBN 978-1-907056-23-9**Velroy and the Madischie Mafia**

SY HOAHWAH

West End, \$12.95 paper,
ISBN 978-0-9816693-7-3

A new generation of Native American poets are reinterpreting the poetic traditions of their cultures and actively participating in the national poetry community. J.P. Dancing Bear (Chippewa) and Sy Hoahwah (Yapituka Comanche/Southern Arapaho)

are two young poets quite different from each other in their approach to U.S. history and its influence on Native people today. Their fresh, new collections show us how Native American poetry is moving beyond previous expectations and characterizations. Ceremony and ritual, family and tribal myths, and relationship with the earth remain as key themes, but they are given contemporary views that place the poet-seer in the modern world where culture is erased and then redefined, as it is rebuilt through language.

J.P. Dancing Bear writes of the California coast and creates a self in his poems that has the tone of an ancient, wise speaker who imagines that explorations of the individual will lead to a deeper understanding of his place on earth. His allusions to Greek myths, Shakespeare, and modern American poets such as James Wright move his writing beyond conventional notions of Native writing. It is evident this strong, fresh voice is the sound of the future.

Sy Hoahwah reconstructs his hometown in Comanche County, Oklahoma, by completely removing any sense of tradition. Instead, drugs, violence, and pop culture mix into restless episodes that show both the fate and the salvation of his people. His poems could be set to hip-hop music, as his pride and sorrow create uncanny musical rhythms that retell the Comanche story by showing how modern it is.

These two impressive collections are must-reads in a time when all Native cultures are under attack in the U.S. These young poets make us stop and listen, which is when poetry has completed its task.

The Rose of Time

New and Selected Poems

BEI DAO

Edited by ELIOT WEINBERGER

New Directions, \$16.95 paper,
ISBN 978-0-8112-1848-1

This is an important volume of poems by one of China's greatest living poets. Bei Dao grew up during the Cultural Revolution, went into exile, and has lived around the world since then. A master of the short lyric, Bei Dao sees the world through the lens of global conflict as he focuses his words to reflect the personal journey he has been on since the days of Mao and the clash at Tiananmen Square. Five previous books, along with new work, are presented here and serve to remind us how the lifelong sacrifices of a great poet are the continuing record of millions.

Preliminary Report

JON DAVIS

Copper Canyon, \$15.00 paper,
ISBN 978-1-55659-315-4

Jon Davis writes complex and magnetic prose poems that also resonate in the wide range of linear poems in this collection. Davis' narrative voice is his strength, and each of these detailed and often lengthy poems allows entrance into the natural world, father-and-son relationships, and eternal questions about the place of the self in poetic and real dimensions. This is one of the best books of poetry to appear this year.

Out of Sight

New & Selected Poems

EAMON GRENNAN

Graywolf, \$27.00 cloth,
ISBN 978-1-55597-564-7

Few poets have the strength of vision for control of startling detail that Eamon Grennan has. Everything he examines bursts with wonder amidst human recognition and longing. A native of Ireland who has lived in the U.S. for more than 30 years, Grennan takes the experiences of continents and people and focuses them into majestic

Gila Country Legend The Life and Times of Quentin Hulse Nancy Coggeshall

Mountain man, cowboy—trickster supreme—the story of Quentin Hulse packs accounts of his life, outrageous pranks, and the untold history of New Mexico's Gila.

"If you didn't know Quentin, reading *Gila Country Legend* will make you wish you had, right before it makes you believe you did." —Louis Warren, author of *Buffalo Bill's America* and *The Hunter's Game*

"Gritty, gripping, and authentic. ... I couldn't put Quentin's story down!"

—Marc Simmons, historian

Hardcover \$29.95

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