

THE YEAR BOOK *of* THE
POETRY SOCIETY
of SOUTH CAROLINA //



CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, U. S. AMERICA
1923

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THE YEAR BOOK *of* THE POETRY SOCIETY *of* SOUTH CAROLINA

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOCIETY

CHARLESTON, S. C., OCTOBER, 1923

FOREWORD



ROSPEROUSLY proceeding on the way mapped for it from its outset, the Poetry Society of South Carolina salutes its contemporaries at home and abroad. Its modest Year Book, which, upon its first appearance, was hailed as the "Voice of one crying in the wilderness," is now but a single note in a chorus of voices so numerous, and, honesty compels us to admit, so vociferous, that further assertion on our part that the South has brought forth a literary revival would be to stress the obvious. In point of fact, the Southern Poetry Movement bears a striking resemblance to the legendary matron who inhabited a discarded boot, and was confused by the multiplicity of her progeny. For, in all parts of the South, her robust youngsters, in the guise of poetry societies and magazines, are speaking for their schools and groups; and are producing staggering masses of verse, much of which shows promise, and some of which is poetry.

In the Southeast the movement thus far has organized itself into poetry societies, following the general plan of the Poetry Society of South Carolina, and, with slight

PRIZES OFFERED

FOR the season of 1923-24 The Poetry Society of South Carolina offers the following prizes, and for the information of those desiring to compete, this announcement of rules and suggestions is made:

The Blindman Prize, \$250.00; (see page following).

The Southern Prize, \$100.00; (see page following).

The Society's Prize, \$25.00, for the best poem of any style or nature, is open to all members of the Society; but to Society members only.

The Caroline Sinkler Prize, \$25.00, offered by Miss Caroline S. Sinkler, of Philadelphia, for the best poem of any style and character, is open only to members of the Society who have never received payment for the publication of a poem.

The Harman Prize, \$25.00, is offered by Mr. Henry E. Harman, of Atlanta, Ga., the best poem written by a woman student in any college or university in South Carolina during the current year. Publication in a college magazine does not disqualify for entry.

The Skylark Prize, \$10.00, is offered by John Bennett, of Charleston, for the best student-poem published in a college magazine in the State of South Carolina during the current year, 1923-24, or written by any student of English Literature in any Academy, College or University of the State.

The Ellen M. Carroll Prizes, \$10 and \$5 respectively, are offered annually by Mrs. Ellen M. Carroll, of Charleston, to be competed for by pupils of the Memminger High School. As this offer has a specific purpose, the rules governing both contest and judgment are left to a special committee. MSS. should be sent to the Chairman of that committee. Rules which govern the general competitions of the Society do not apply to this.

PRIZE AWARDS, 1922-1923

RÉSUMÉ

The Blindman Prize, \$250, to Leonora Speyer, for her poem "Oberammergau." Honorable mention, "Leaves of a Sapling," Richard Butler Glænzler. Judge, Prof. John Erskine, Columbia University.

The Southern Prize, \$100, to John Crowe Ransom, of Vanderbilt University, for his poem, "Armageddon." Honorable mention: "A Fragment," William Alexander Percy, Mississippi; "Avalon," Donald Davidson, Tennessee. Judges, Dr. Henry Bellamann, Dean of the School of Fine Arts, Chicora College, Mrs. Karle Wilson Baker, Vice President of the Poetry Society of Texas, and Mr. John McClure, Editor of "The Double Dealer," of New Orleans.

The Society Prize, \$25, to Beatrice Raveln, for her poem, "First Love." Honorable mention, "Cypresses," Kate Drayton Mayrant Simons, Summerville, S. C.

The Caroline Sinkler Prize, \$25, to Louisa Cheves Stoney, for her poem, "The Live Oak." Honorable mention, "After Winter," Anne Blackwell Payne, Washington, No. Ca.; "Breath of Spring," Janef Preston, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia.

The Harman Prize, \$25, to Mary Randolph Mathewes, Converse College, for her poem, "The Phantom Argosy." Honorable mention, "With Thanksgiving," Mary E. Bosse, of Converse.

The Skylark Prize, \$10, to Mary E. Bosse, Converse College, for her poem, "To One Apostate." Honorable mention, Hallie M. Faulkner, of Winthrop College.

The Ellen M. Carroll Prizes, \$10 and \$5, for students of Memminger High School, Charleston, to Evelyn Townsend, for her poem "Wondering;" and Dorothy Jervey for "The Topic of the Day." Honorable mention: Kitty Raveln, Dorothy Gooding, Elliott Hills.

PRIZE POEMS



THE FOLLOWING POEMS RECEIVED
PRIZES FROM THE POETRY SOCIETY
OF SOUTH CAROLINA DURING
THE YEAR, 1922-1923

THE SOUTHERN PRIZE POEM, "AR-
MAGEDDON," BY JOHN CROWE
RANSOM, BEING PRINTED IN BIBE-
LOT, IS NOT REPRINTED HERE

THE CAROLINE SINKLER PRIZE

THE LIVE OAK

LOUISA CHEVES STONEY

MASSIVE against the dark of the sky
An Atlas oak rounds his burned back
Hung with a robe heavy with gloom.
The hems of his garment merge into dusk.
One shoulder is buckled with a curved moon,
While stars are caught in the web of leaves
Fringed deep with moss all ragged and reft,
Dragging age-worn about his knees.

His reaching arms grope for the touch
Of someone, mighty to share the load
Of stars and centuries patiently borne.

And the wind blows,
Blows low and light
Through the tree,
The Atlas Oak,
Through the night.