



Of Some Sky



Joseph Harrington

Professor **Joseph Harrington's** new poetry collection, *Of Some Sky*, was released in late 2017 by BlazeVOX Books. Harrington describes the work as “a book of satirical poems in the old-timey sense of a *satura lanx* – a full plate, dishing on many aspects of our contemporary necroculture. In particular,” he adds, “it delves into an American ecological unconscious in which real animals are cartoons and only heaven is real.” Press publicity includes commentary by several poets and critics, among them former Eberhardt lecturer Maria Damon, who writes, “Braiding insights from post-structural theory with perceptions of

the natural world, adding a strand of self-deprecating wit devoted to the agon and illusion of the writing process itself, *Of Some Sky* is a compelling critique . . . of the death of the earth and the self-involvement and inadequacy of the individual subject.” Susan Schultz perceives “bitter wisdom” in Harrington’s ecopoetry, calling *Of Some Sky* “honest” if not “hopeful.” Rae Armantrout doubles down on the elegiac tone: “it doesn’t get much darker than this . . . this book surveys the terrain we inhabit now (in the mid-Anthropocene) somewhere between the devil and the rising seas.” Harrington cites the influence of Joy Williams, Timothy Morton, and a host of contemporary poets on his collection. The title derives from a line in “To Elsie” by William Carlos Williams. Congratulations, Joe!

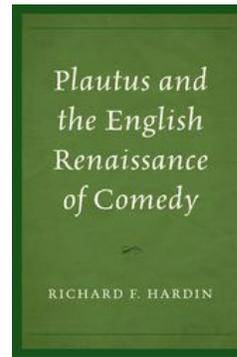


A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Westminster

Though Professor Emeritus **Richard Hardin's** acquaintance with Plautus goes back to his advanced Latin courses in high school, he didn’t begin to ponder authoring a book about the Roman farceur’s influence on 15th- and 16th-century English literature until he taught a graduate seminar on Shakespeare and Roman comedy in the 1990s. He then took a course (as a “grunt student”) on Plautus from Professor Tony Corbeill in Classics and soon began to write and publish articles on Plautus’s reception in Early Modern England. Parts of two of those



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articles, along with more recent scholarship, comprise Hardin’s new monograph, *Plautus and the English Renaissance of Comedy* (Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 2017). Press publicity notes that “the discovery of Plautus’s lost comedies in the 15th century . . . led to a reinvention of comedy and to new thinking about its art and potential.” Hardin analyzes the contributions of Plautus to English comedy from 1560-1640, distinguishing his (Plautus’s) influence from that of his Roman compatriot Terence and pre-Renaissance native English writers. He “considers such points

of comparison as dialogue, asides, metadrama, observation scenes, characterization and atmosphere,” using plays by Shakespeare, Jonson, Middleton and others for illustration and support. Plautus, Hardin seems to argue, deserves more recognition for his part in the quantum leap in comic playwriting that took place in England in the eighty years prior to the closing of the theatres by Parliament, not to mention a further tip of the cap from the comic artists and popular entertainers of more recent times who have benefited from his craft. Congratulations, Dick!

Publications

Hardin, Richard F.

Plautus and the Renaissance of English Comedy. Madison NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press; Lanham MD: Rowman and Littlefield. 2018.

Harrington, Joseph

Of Some Sky (poetry collection). Buffalo, NY: BlazeVOX [books], 2018.

Calendar

- M 29 Digital Humanities Seminar**, “Postcolonial Imperatives in the Digital Age,” **Dhanashree Thorat**, Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
- W 31 Kenneth Spencer Lecture**, “Poetry in Context” (hybrid lecture and reading), **Eve L. Ewing**, poet/essayist and sociologist, University of Chicago, 7:00 pm, Liberty Hall. Tickets are free but required. See The Commons website.
- W 7 The John F. Eberhardt Memorial Lecture**, “Poetry Reading,” **Juliana Spahr**, English, Mills College, 7:00 pm, The Commons, Spooner Hall.
- F 9 Nature & Culture Seminar**, “Wabash River Blues” (creative non-fiction), **Jessica Weatherford**, English, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

KU and Regional Events

- **Gender Seminar**, “Food and Protest: How American Housewives Captured the Nation’s Attention,” Emily E. LB. Twarog, Labor and Employment Relations, University of Illinois, 1 February, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

Calls for Papers, Conferences, Symposia, Etc. (Posted)

- **Cavalier Conference on Writing and Literature 2018**, “Researching: Teach, Do, Share,” featuring **Doug Hesse**, English, University of Denver, 20 April, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS. Deadline: 2 February.

- **Faulkner and García Márquez**, sponsored by the Center for Faulkner Studies, 11-13 October, Cape Girardeau, MO. Deadline: 15 April.

- **Western States Rhetoric and Literacy Conference**, “Matter and Mattering,” 2-3 November, New Mexico State University (Las Cruces, NM). Deadline: 2 March.