

New (and Not So New) Writers to Watch

Margaret D. Bauer, Editor

I have noted many times that one of NCLR's missions is to call attention to neglected and new writers of North Carolina. In this issue's North Carolina Miscellany section we once again have the opportunity to do both. First, Anthony Hatcher introduces to some and reintroduces to others a writer who published only one novel and was therefore too easily forgotten once that book went out of print. Hatcher has been writing about James Ross for a few years now, including the essay we are publishing here, and perhaps his efforts have played a role in the new edition of Ross's novel published by Mysterious Press. As always, I invite other literary scholars to submit essays on other neglected writers worthy of reading or rereading.

And here in this section, too, we introduce two new writers to our readers: Leah Hampton, recipient of the North Carolina Writers' Network's 2012 Doris Betts Fiction Prize for her story "The Saint," and Grace Cloris Ocasio, whose poem "Little Girlfriend" was selected as honorable mention in the 2012 James Applewhite Poetry Prize competition. After working with these two women to prepare their work for publication in *NCLR*, I look forward to keeping an eye out for more of their writing for years to come.

Look for the first- and second-place poems in this year's Applewhite competition in the previous sections of this issue, and you can find other finalists' poems spread out in the three sections of *NCLR Online* 2013, as well as three of the stories awarded honorable mention in the 2012 Betts competition. Our readers report that the pool of submissions for these competitions is getting stronger every year, and I encourage the short story writers and poets out there to read our submission guidelines and mark your calendars to submit next year.

In the meantime, as usual I encourage writers – and readers – to subscribe to *NCLR* and thereby show your support of this literary magazine and the writers whose work (some day, perhaps yours) is published inside its pages. ■

NORTH CAROLINA MISCELLANY

- 164** *"It didn't sell much": The Publishing Struggles of Novelist Turned Newspaperman James Ross*
by Anthony Hatcher
- 186** *Little Girlfriend*
the 2012 James Applewhite Poetry Prize
Honorable Mention poem
by Grace Cloris Ocasio
art by Romare Bearden
- 188** *The Saint*
the 2012 Doris Betts Fiction Prize story
by Leah Hampton
art by Jennifer Bueno

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- 4** ■ **North Carolina: A State of Change, A Changing State**
interviews, essays, poetry, and fiction
- 106** ■ **Flashbacks: Echoes of Past Issues**
an interview, literary criticism, poetry and prose hearkening back to previous issues' special feature section topics

