

Since 1969, William Packard has been founder and editor of THE NEW YORK QUARTERLY, a magazine devoted to the craft of poetry, publishing the best cross-section of contemporary American poems. He edited THE POET'S CRAFT (1987, Paragon House), a selection of NYQ Craft Interviews featuring W. H. Auden, Anne Sexton, James Dickey, Allen Ginsberg, Charles Bukowski, W. D. Snodgrass, and Muriel Rukeyser. Mr. Packard also published THE POET'S DICTIONARY (1988, Harper & Row), a Handbook of Prosody and Poetic Devices, with a foreword by Karl Shapiro. His book on THE ART OF POETRY WRITING (1992, St. Martins Press) was nominated as a Book of the Month Club selection. (WRITERS DIGEST BOOK CLUB)

William Packard graduated with honors in philosophy from Stanford University in 1956, and has served as Professor of Humanities at New York University for 25 years where he teaches the poetry writing courses in the Washington Square Writing Center, as well as classes in world classics and a course in the plays of Shakespeare. In 1990 he received the Teaching Excellence Award from New York University. Mr. Packard also teaches poetry and playwriting at the H. B. STUDIO in Manhattan and he has written standard texts on THE ART OF SCREENWRITING (1986, Paragon House) with a foreword by Gene Frankel, and THE ART OF THE PLAYWRIGHT (1987, Paragon House) with forewords by José Ferrer and Beatrice Straight. He also edited the 1989 Bantam Classics paperback, SIX MAJOR TRAGEDIES.

Mr. Packard is also the author of EVANGELISM IN AMERICA / From Tents to TV, a study of the history of Evangelism, conversionary experience and Revivalism from John the Baptist to Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.

Mr. Packard's FIRST SELECTED POEMS was published in 1977, he was invited to record his poetry at the Library of Congress, and in 1980 he was one of the distinguished American poets honored with a reception at the White House. In 1983, National Public Radio devoted a program to his poetry.

William Packard's plays include SANDRA AND THE JANITOR (published in BEST SHORT PLAYS OF 1971), THE FUNERAL (produced in Paris as CEUX QUI RESTENT), THE MARRIAGE and WAR PLAY (directed in New York by Gene Frankel). Otto Preminger directed his play THE KILLER THING in 1980 in New York, and Mr. Packard has gone on to write THE LIGHT OF LIFE (1981), STARK PLACE (1986), and THE RED CHAIR (1992).

Mr. Packard's translations include an English version of IKKAKU SENNIN for the Kita troupe of the Noh in Tokyo (published by Penguin), and an alexandrine translation of Racine's PHÈDRE which was directed by Paul-Émile Deiber of the Comédie-Française and produced off-Broadway starring Beatrice Straight and Mildred Dunnock and won the Outer Circle Critics Award. Mr. Packard went on to create the English sub-titles for the French film of PHÈDRE directed by Pierre Jourdan and starring Marie Bell. He also translated THE WHITE SNAKE, a Chinese Peking Opera which was produced in New York and published by David Godine in Boston, and FEMMES/HOMBRES, the erotic poetry of Paul Verlaine published by Chicago Review Press.

Of William Packard's first novel, SATURDAY NIGHT AT SAN MARCOS, the New York Times wrote: "Picture the pace of Jack Kerouac's ON THE ROAD plus caricature worthy of Portnoy." The novel was published in 1985 by Thunders Mouth Press, and reissued in paperback in 1987 by Grove Press. His second novel, THE NOTEBOOKS OF ELIOT MORRISON, was completed in 1991.