All Essays: Robert Atwan, Julene Bair, Jo Ann Beard, Michael Benedikt, Anne Carson, Rebecca Blevins Faery, Albert Goldbarth, Steven Harvey, William Kittredge, Carl H. Klaus, Bret Lott, Diane Sullivan Mertens, Naomi Shihab Nye, Judy Ruiz, Gary Soto, Gerald Stevenson, Paul West
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On our covers, this time, are two works by Leola Bergmann, both reproduced with her permission. On the front is a collage portrait of the novelist, Marguerite Young, "Miss MacIntosh/Young's '... odd-angled vision . . . .'" and, on the back, "May 4th-'93," a monoprint based on four plates. A quotation from Rilke appears faintly on it: "so leben wir und nehmen immer Abschied," ("we live our lives, forever taking leave," trans., Leishman and Spender), from the Eighth Dunio Elegy.

Ms. Bergmann earned a BA in English from St. Olaf College, 1937, and an MA, 1939, and PhD in American Civilization from The University of Iowa in 1942. She is the author of Music Master of the Middle West, University of Minnesota Press, 1944; The Negro in Iowa, Iowa State Historical Society, 1948; Americans from Norway, J. B. Lippincott, 1950; and numerous articles and reviews. From 1964 to 1969, she studied printmaking at Iowa with Mauricio Lasansky, Keith Achepol, and Virginia Myers. Her prints are in numerous private and public collections in this country and abroad. A retrospective of three decades of printmaking was shown in an Iowa City gallery in October, 1994. Her late husband, Gustav Bergmann, was professor of philosophy at The University of Iowa. He lettered the line from Rilke that Ms. Bergmann worked into her print.

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The Tim McGinnis Award

We are pleased to announce that the fifth winner of the McGinnis Award is John Picard, for his story “Sinatra: A Memoir,” from Volume 24/3. This award, in the amount of $500, is given irregularly to authors of work with a light or humorous touch, and is made possible by the generous contributions of Mr. McGinnis’s family and friends.