

On Campus

The Cairn, a 22-Year Tradition

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Communications

For 22 years St. Andrews students have been gathering poems from fellow students and putting them together with works by writers such as James Laughlin, R.T. Smith and Martin Robbin. This collection serves as a monument to the college's intense involvement in the world's literary community.

"The Cairn," as it is called, is the St. Andrews student literary magazine — at least 50% of the material included in it is from the college's students. But the editors have always made an effort to include more established writers. "Because of that, the students have an opportunity to be published right along with professional writers like James Laughlin," said the publication's current editor Stephen Skinner, a junior from Lexington, N.C. Laughlin was Ezra Pound's editor and founder of the New Directions Press.

Volume 22 of "The Cairn" was released by The Cairn Press in early October. This issue, dedicated to St. Andrews Distinguished Professor of English Carl Bennett, includes work from Laughlin, Robbins, Smith, Charles Eaton and the late Ethel Fortner. And there is work from several St. Andrews students and alumni — ranging from sophomore Pam Whitfield's

award winning "A Pardon" to sophomore Laura Rose's witty "Scotch Tape."

Alumni work comes from writers like Rex Mcguinn, a 1973 graduate teaching at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, and J. Robert Burroughs, a 1987 graduate living in Pinehurst.

"This 'Cairn' is very good," said Ron Bayes, St. Andrews Writer-In-Residence and Professor of English. Bayes' poem "Day Being December 10: Kadena," is the magazine's second.

"The Cairn' has traditionally played the role of an outlet for both student work and for established writers throughout the state, nation and world," said Bayes, "and at its best, it offers hot competition for the 'St. Andrew's Review.'"

The "St. Andrew's Review" is the literary magazine edited and founded by Bayes and published by the St. Andrew's Press. The college's students are not guaranteed a showing in the Review.

Bayes pointed out that past "Cairn" editors and student contributors have gone on to varying success in literary fields. Joe Junod, a 1969 graduate, was an early contributor to "The Cairn" - he is now the managing editor of Gannett Publications.

Tom Patterson, a 1978 graduate, was an editor of "The Cairn." His recently released book "St. EOM in the land of Pasaquan" has received rave reviews from the "New York Times Book Review" and "The Village Voice."

This issue of "The Cairn" has 43 poems and 16 photographs. Included is a special section of poetry by St. Andrews students during a term spent in Brunnenburg Castle with Princess Mary deRachewiltz-daughter of Ezra Pound.

One poem written by Gregory Minns, a 1988 St. Andrews graduate, was written in

November 1987 to Pound at his grave in San Michele in Venice, Italy. Across from this poem is a photograph of the Princess and a bust of her famous father taken by T. Charles Erickson.

Entitled "Why Not Spirits," the piece reads: "To not remember/ is to increase vanity/The words/well written/I suppose/ but, where is the master?/There is only one place you have/yet to look to find the master/and it is there-only there/that you will find him/1972 and then/why/not/spirits?"

Pound's publisher James Laughlin has this piece in "The Cairn." The Biformed"-I'm not thinking of identical/twins/or of psychic doubles/but of the possibility that somewhere there is someone/who is my duplicate (or I am, his)/of course the number of/hairs on his head/or the fingerprints would not be alike/but these are unimportant de-/tails what matters is this/if by some chance (statisti-/cally so remote as hardly to/bear mention) if by chance/you encountered both of us/which would you choose?"

The "Cairn" costs \$4.95 and can be purchased at St. Andrews through the Cairn Press. All correspondence and manuscripts for "The Cairn" should be sent to: The Cairn Literary Magazine, Post Office Box 5-1000, St. Andrews Presbyterian College, Laurinburg, North Carolina, 28352.



Poetry of some of the students who studied at Brunnenburg Castle last fall under Princess Mary deRachewiltz, daughter of Ezra Pound are featured in a special section of the Cairn.

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