

LANGDON HAMMER

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English Language and Literature, Yale University, 1989
B.A., English Major, Summa Cum Laude, Yale University, 1980

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Professor and Chairman, Department of English, Yale (Lecturer Convertible, 1987; Assistant Professor, 1989; Associate Professor on term, 1994; Associate Professor with tenure, 1997; Professor, 2001)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

James Merrill: Life and Art [biography in progress under contract with Alfred A. Knopf]

Hart Crane: Complete Poetry and Selected Letters, edited by LH (New York: Library of America, 2006), 854 pp

Selected reviews: *New York Sun* (October 4, 2006); *New Yorker* (October 9, 2006): 82-86; *Bookforum* (December/January 2007): 33-37; *Wall Street Journal* (October 14-15, 2006): 10; *Nation* (January 1, 2007): 28-30; *New York Times Book Review* (January 28, 2007): 18-19 and letters by LH and four others (February 11, 25, 2007); *Commonweal* (April 6, 2007): 24-26

O My Land, My Friends: The Selected Letters of Hart Crane, edited by LH and Brom Weber; introduction and commentary by LH (New York: Four Walls Eight Windows, 1997), 562 pp

Selected reviews: *Nation* (July 21, 1997): 33-36; *Boston Globe* (July 29, 1997): E3; *Boston Phoenix* (August 1997): 3; *Times Literary Supplement* (September 19, 1997): 27; *New York Review of Books* 46 (October 23, 1997) 16: 32-34; *New Republic* (January 5 and 12, 1998): 36-41; *London Review of Books* (September 30, 1999): 45-46

Hart Crane and Allen Tate: Janus-Faced Modernism (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993), 277 pp

Selected reviews: *Times Literary Supplement* (September 24, 1993) 4271: 9; *Sewanee Review* 102 (1994) 1: viii-xi; *Lesbian and Gay Studies Newsletter* 21 (July 1994) 2: 32-33; *JEGP* (October 1994): 601-03; *Modernism/Modernity* [review-essay] 2 (April 1995) 2: 81-84; named a "Breakthrough Book" in modernist studies by *Lingua Franca* 10 (2000) 2: 14

Essays

- "Plath at War" in *Eye-Rhymes: Sylvia Plath's Art of the Visual*, ed. Kathleen Connor (London: Oxford UP, 2007) [in press]
- "James Merrill's Double Life: 'The Thousand and Second Night,'" *Poetica* [University of Tokyo] 64 (2006 for 2005): 69-85
- "Hall of Voices: Richard Howard," *Parnassus: Poetry in Review* 29 (2006) 1-2: 97-117
- "Life into Art: James Merrill's '16.ix.65,'" *Literary Imagination* 7 (2005) 3: 278-85
- "Merrill and Stevens," *The Wallace Stevens Journal* 28 (2004) 2: 295-302
- "Masks of the Poet: James Merrill and Kimon Friar" [essay and exhibition catalogue], American College of Greece, Library Series 17, Athens, 2003, 47 pp
- "The American Poetry of Thom Gunn and Geoffrey Hill," *Contemporary Literature* 43 (2002) 4: 644-66; reprinted in *Something We Have That They Don't: Anglo-American Poetic Relations*, eds. Steve Clark and Mark Ford (Iowa UP, 2004)
- "Frank Bidart and the Tone of Contemporary Poetry," *Southwest Review* 87 (2002) 1: 75-89; reprinted in *Fastening the Voice to the Page: On the Poetry of Frank Bidart*, eds. Liam Rector and Tree Swenson (U of Michigan P, 2007)
- "Plath's Lives," *Representations* (2001) 75: 61-88
- "Thom Gunn: The Cool Queer Tales of Cupid," *Raritan* 20 (2000) 2: 114-25
- "The Letters of Hart Crane," *Raritan* 17 (1997) 1: 100-20
- "Useless Concentration: Life and Work in Elizabeth Bishop's Letters and Poems," *American Literary History* 8 (1996) 2: 162-80
- "Poetry in Review" [on Allen Grossman and Robert Pinsky], *The Yale Review* 84 (1996) 3: 168-78
- "Art and AIDS; or, How Will Culture Cure You?," *Raritan* 14 (1995) 3: 103-18; reprinted in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, Vol. 125, Gale, 2000
- "Poetry in Review" [on May Swenson, Mary Jo Salter, Heather McHugh, and formalist poetry by women poets], *The Yale Review* 83 (1995) 1: 121-41; reprinted in *Poetry Criticism*

- ed. Christine Slovey, Gale, 1996
- "The New Elizabeth Bishop," *The Yale Review* 82 (1994) 1: 135-49
- "Who Was Randall Jarrell?," *The Yale Review* 79 (1990) 3: 389-405
- "Robert Lowell's Breakdown," *The Yale Review* 79 (1990) 2: 172-87;
reprinted in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, Vol. 124,
Gale, 1999
- "Modernism in Reverse: Hart Crane, Eliot, and Joyce," *Western
Humanities Review* 43 (1989) 3: 167-87

Reviews

- Horse Latitudes* [poems] and *The End of the Poem: Oxford Lectures*
by Paul Muldoon, *New York Times Book Review* (February 25,
2007): 24
- Hart Crane: After His Lights* by Brian M. Reed, *MLQ* 68 (Winter
2007)1: 126-28
- God's Silence* [poems] by Franz Wright, *New York Times Book
Review* (May 14, 2006): 38
- Invisible Listeners: Lyric Intimacy in Herbert, Whitman, and
Ashbery* by Helen Vendler, *New York Times Book Review*
(October 16, 2005): 8
- Star Dust* [poems] by Frank Bidart, *New York Times Book Review*
(July 24, 2005): 11
- Digressions on Some Poems by Frank O'Hara* [memoir] by Joe
LeSueur, *New York Times Book Review* (April 13, 2003): 16
- A Short History of the Shadow* [poems] by Charles Wright, *Los
Angeles Times Book Review* (August 18, 2002): 6
- James Merrill's Apocalypse* by Timothy Materer,
Modernism/Modernity 8 (2001) 3: 515-17
- Electric Light* by Seamus Heaney, *New York Times Book Review*
(April 8, 2001): 16
- The Boys at Twilight: Poems 1990-1995* and *Time's Fool: A Tale in
Verse* by Glyn Maxwell, *New York Times Book Review* (November
5, 2000): 26
- Trappings* [poems] by Richard Howard, *New York Times Book Review*
(January 23, 2000): 24
- Cleanth Brooks and Allen Tate: Collected Letters, 1933-1976*, ed.
Alphonse Vinh, and *Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren: A
Literary Correspondence*, ed. James Grimshaw, Jr.,
Modernism/Modernity 7 (1999) 1: 165-68
- The Broken Tower: A Life of Hart Crane* by Paul Mariani, *New York
Times Book Review* (July 18, 1999): 9
- The Triumph of Love* [poem] by Geoffrey Hill, *The New York Times
Book Review* (January 17, 1999): 9-10
- Politics and Form in Postmodern American Poetry: O'Hara, Bishop,
Ashbery, and Merrill* by Mutlu Konuk Blasing, *Modern
Philology* 96 (1998) 1: 137-42
- From Outlaw to Classic: Canons in American Poetry* by Alan

Golding, *Modern Philology* 95 (1998) 3: 433-37
Desire [poems] by Frank Bidart, *The Nation* 265 (November 24, 1997) 17: 32-33; reprinted as "Poetry and Embodiment" in *Fastening the Voice to the Page: On the Poetry of Frank Bidart*, eds. Liam Rector and Tree Swenson (U of Michigan P, 2005)

Edited texts, commentary, and interviews

- "The Mind at Work and Play in the World: John Hollander," *The American Scholar* 75 (2007) 1: 47-52
- "Culture and Conflict" [comment on poems by Peter Filkins, Catriona O'Reilly, Marilyn Nelson, and Robert Pinsky], *The American Scholar* 74 (2006) 4: 69-77
- "Carl Phillips: 'The Leaves Rush, Greening, Back,'" *The American Scholar* 74 (2006) 3: 58-62
- "The Crux of the Matter: Heather McHugh," *The American Scholar* 75 (2006) 2: 41-47
- "Introduction" to *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce, Signet Classic Edition (New York, 2006), 7-18
- "The Bomb in the Sanctuary: Michael Longley, an Ulsterman in Arcadia," *The American Scholar* 75 (2006) 1: 48-52
- "The Latches of Paradise: Charles Wright," *The American Scholar* 74 (2005) 4: 73-83
- "Invisible Things: Thylis Moss and Charles Simic," *The American Scholar* 74 (2005) 2: 49-56
- "Two Formalists: Remembering Thom Gunn and Anthony Hecht," *The American Scholar* 74 (2005) 1: 51-58
- "Elizabeth Bishop: Letters to Gold and Fizdale and James Merrill," *Yale Review* 91 (2003) 2: 27-54
- "Last Words: On Stevens and Apocalypse" [afterword to an issue on "Stevens and Apocalyptic Language" edited by Eleanor Cook], *The Wallace Stevens Journal* 23 (1999) 2: 194-96
- "Caroline Gordon, Allen Tate, and Hart Crane: An Exchange," *Sewanee Review* 106 (1998) 1: 88-90
- "Hart Crane and Joseph Stella," in *Artists on Art: Observations by Yale Faculty on Works in the Yale University Art Gallery*, ed. Daphne Deeds (Yale U Pubs. 1999), 22-25
- "Bright Stones: Letters of Hart Crane and Jean Toomer," *The Yale Review* 84 (1996) 2: 22-38
- "Efforts of Attention: An Interview with Anthony Hecht," *Sewanee Review* 104 (1996) 1: 120-33
- "Working Through Poems: An Interview with John Hollander," *Southwest Review* (1995): 423-37; reprinted in *The Poetry of Everyday Life* by John Hollander, U of Michigan P, 1999

Selected papers and invited lectures

- "Hart Crane and Jasper Johns," Art Institute of Chicago, 2007
- "Plath's German," Sylvia Plath 75th Anniversary Conference, Oxford University, 2007
- "Recognizing Hart Crane," Hiram College (keynote address Horace Bissell Symposium), 2007; additional talks on Crane at Chapters Bookstore, Washington DC; New School, New York; Poetry Society of America, CUNY Graduate Center, 2006-7
- "Auden and 'The Prick,'" Modernist Studies Association, Chicago, 2005
- "James Merrill: The Biographical Container," Literary Biography: A Conference at Beinecke Library, Yale, 2005; Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, 2006
- "James Merrill in Stonington: The Winter of 'The Summer People,'" First Annual James Merrill Lecture, Stonington Town Library, Stonington, Connecticut, 2005
- "Life into Art: James Merrill's '16.ix.65,'" James Merrill: A Celebration, Yale, 2005
- "James Merrill at Amherst," Amherst College, 2004
- "Masks of the Poet: James Merrill and Kimon Friar," Ninth Annual Kimon Friar Lecture in Neo-Hellenic Arts and Letters, American College of Greece, Athens; lecture, Hellenic Studies Program, Yale, 2003
- "The Teaching of Modern Literature: Lionel Trilling and Two Students," Modernist Studies Association, Houston 2001; Vanderbilt, 2003
- "Crane's Letters," Hart Crane Centennial Celebration, 92nd St YMHA, New York City, 1999
- "Modern Letters and the Making of the Author's Life," Modernist Studies Association, Penn State, 1999
- "Stieglitz, Crane, and Abstract Form," Yale U Art Gallery, 1999
- "The American Poetry of Geoffrey Hill and Thom Gunn," U of London, 1998
- "The Tone of Contemporary Poetry," Wellesley College, 1998
- "Plath's Lives," Yale, 2001; U of Chicago, 1999; Johns Hopkins, 1995; Faculty Seminar in Psychoanalysis and the Humanities, NYU, 1995
- "On Sylvia Plath" and "On Elizabeth Bishop," Hilien Lectures in American Literature and Culture, U of Washington, 1995
- "Writing Lives: Postwar American Poetry," Emory, 1995
- "Ashbery's Formalism," MLA Convention, San Diego, 1994
- "Thyllias Moss's Postmodernism," The Poetry Center, Paterson, New Jersey, 1994
- "How Will Culture Cure You?: Disease and Desire in Elegies for David Kalstone," MLA Convention, Toronto, 1993
- "Mrs. Gaskell and the Martyrdom of Charlotte Bronte," MLA Convention, San Francisco, 1991
- "Books, Lives, and Merchandise: The Literary Author in the

- Marketplace," USC, 1990
 "Feminism and 'The New Formalism,'" MLA Convention, New Orleans, 1988
 "Allen Tate's Two Eliots, 1922 and 1926," T. S. Eliot Centenary, U of New Hampshire, 1988
 "An Unfinished Face: Flannery O'Connor and *A Memoir of Mary Ann*," Northwestern, 1987

Poems

- "The Divining" and "A Troika for Rachmaninoff," *Shenandoah* 38 (1986) 4: 43-44
 "Detail from 'The Assassination of Khosrow Parviz,'" *Ploughshares* 7 (1981) 3: 95-96
 "Chenega Island," *The Yale Review* 70 (1981) 3: 409-10

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- Robert Rosenkranz and Alexandra Munroe Foundation, 2005
 Magowan Family Foundation, 2004-07
 Hellen Plummer Foundation, 2004-07
 Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, 2003-04
 Larry Kramer Initiative for Gay and Lesbian Studies at Yale, 2003
 Niarchos Foundation, Hellenic Studies Program, Yale, 2002, 2003
 Research Fellowship, Olin Library, Washington U, St Louis, 2002
 Griswold Faculty Fellowship, Yale, 2001
 Moore Fund and Beinecke Library grants for teaching, Yale, 2002-4
 Whitney Humanities Center Research Fellow, Yale, 1994-95
 Griswold Faculty Fellowship, Yale, 1994
 Smart Family Fund (for poetry series at Yale), 1994
 Morse Junior Faculty Fellowship, Yale, 1991-92
 Frederick W. Hilles Fund, Yale, 1990
 Whiting Fellowship, Yale, 1984-85
 Yale Graduate School Fellowship, 1981-84

EDITORIAL WORK AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Poetry Editor, *The American Scholar*, since 2004
 Advisory Editor, *English Literary History (ELH)*, since 1998
 Judge with Gary Snyder and Caroline Kizer, Bollingen Prize in Poetry (Robert Creeley selected) 1999; with Ellen Bryant Voigt and Nicholas Jenkins (Frank Bidart selected) 2007
 Book manuscript referee: Princeton UP, Harvard UP, Blackwell, Wesleyan UP, U of Virginia P, Cambridge UP, Fairleigh

Dickinson UP, Cornell UP, Stanford UP
 Article referee: *Modernism/Modernity*, *PMLA*, *American Literary History*, *GLQ: Gay and Lesbian Studies Quarterly*, *MLQ*, *Contemporary Literature*, *Yale Journal of Criticism*
 External doctoral committees: Brandeis, Washington U St Louis

YALE UNIVERSITY TEACHING

Undergraduate courses:

Introduction to Literary Study (freshman seminar)
 Modern Prose (expository writing)
 Major English Poets: Chaucer to Eliot (sophomore seminar)
 Writing of Verse (workshop)
 Postwar American Poetry (junior seminar)
 Contemporary American Literature (lecture)
 The Life of the Author from Johnson to Woolf (senior seminar)
 American Literature and the Cold War (senior seminar)
 The World of James Merrill (senior seminar)
 Modern Poetry (lecture)
 Poetry in English Since 1950 (lecture)

English 310b, Modern Poetry, spring 2007, lectures recorded and transcribed for free online worldwide web access as one of seven Yale College courses in the university's Pilot Video Project

Graduate courses:

Postmodern American Poetry
 Postwar American Literature
 Modern Poetry
 Late-Twentieth-Century Lyric Poetry
 The Life of the Author
 Elizabeth Bishop and James Merrill
 Lyric Poetry and Society After Auden
 Contemporary American Poetry
 Research seminar: Twentieth-Century Poetry

Supervisor for 26 senior essays and 5 poetry projects since 1987

Dissertation director for 22 PhD students in English since 1995:

Jeannine Johnson, PhD 1998, dissertation revised as *Why Write Poetry? Modern Poets Defending their Art* (Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 2007)
 Aidan Wasley, PhD 2000, dissertation revised as *W. H. Auden and American Poetry* (ms under review)
 Stephen Burt, PhD 2000, dissertation revised as *Randall Jarrell and His Age* (Columbia UP, 2003, winner of the Robert Penn

Warren-Cleanth Brooks Award from the Warren Studies Center)
 David Rosen, PhD 2000, dissertation revised as *Power, Plain English, and Modern Poetry* (Yale UP 2005, winner of the Warren-Brooks Award)
 Shaileen Beyer, PhD 2002 ("The Grace of Accuracy: Modern and Postmodern Devotional Poetry")
 Isaac Cates, PhD 2002 ("Nature Poetry after Darwin")
 William Burgos, PhD 2002 ("Parody in the work of John Ashbery")
 Charlotte Taylor, PhD 2004 ("Accountability and Forgiveness: Ezra Pound and Robert Lowell")
 Karin Roffman, PhD 2004 ("Museums, Libraries, and the Woman Writer: Edith Wharton, Marianne Moore, and Nella Larsen")
 Charles Baraw, PhD 2005 ("Hawthorne and the Travelling Eye: Nineteenth-Century Tourism and American Literary Culture")
 Kamran Javadizadeh (madness and postwar American poetry)
 Emily Setina (modernist writing and visual technologies)
 Jesse Zuba (modern American poetry and prize culture)
 Gabriele Hayden (modern poetry and Spanish translation)
 Patrick Redding (democratic individualism in modern poetry)
 Susannah Hollister (geography in postmodern American poetry)
 Andrew Goldstone (modernism and aesthetic autonomy)
 Erica Levy (poetry of work)
 Andrew Dimock (American war fiction)
 Shanna Perkins (John Berryman)
 Gabriel Alkon (American poetry and philosophy)
 Rebecca Boggs (modern poetics of intensity)

YALE UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University Budget Committee, 2005-07
 Beinecke Library Advisory Committee, 2005-07
 Mellon Center for British Art Advisory Committee, 2005-07
 Term Appointments Committee, 2004-05
 Chair, Executive Committee, Yale College, 2002-03
 Fact-finder, Executive Committee, Yale College, 2001-02
 Graduate Vice-President, New Haven Chapter of PBK, 2001-06
 Sudler Prize Committee, Yale College, 1997, 2001, 05, 06
 Selection committee, Graduate Prize Teaching Fellowship, 1999
 Cameron Committee on Student Governance, Graduate School, 1996
 (ad hoc committee to design Graduate Student Assembly)

English Department offices and committees:
 Department Chair, 2005-08
 Senior Appointments, 2004-05
 Graduate Studies, 2004-05
 Director of Undergraduate Studies, 1995-2000

Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies, 1990-92, 1994
Junior Appointments, 1993, 1995-96, 1998-99
Chair, Senior Writer Search Committee, 2002-04
Americanist Search Committee, 2002-03
Department Self-Review, 2001
Chair, committee on writing, 1999-2000, 2001 (designed writing
concentration in the English major)
Chair, readings committee, English, 1996-2001
Coordinator, Schlesinger Visiting Writer Program, 1999-2002
Selection committee for Rosenkranz Writer-in-Residence (Robert
Stone 1993, Louise Glück 2004)
Clapp Fellowship selection committee for a poet graduating from
Yale College, 1992-2006
English Department prizes committee, 1988-2000