

The Book of the Green Man

- may all his seasons be Isafy -Roudhuron Aspen 67

The Book of the Green Man



Then cam four grett wodyn with four grett clubes all in grene

& with skwybes borning . . .

by Ronald Johnson



New York

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THE BOOK OF THE GREEN MAN

A Poem

By RONALD JOHNSON

The Book of the Green Man encompasses a year, October to October: on foot for a month in the Lake Country, Wordsworth in one hand and a staff in the other; a walk in spring from the mouth of the Wye, up its winding valley, to its source in Wales high on the flanks of Plynlimmon; and various excursions to gardens, follies and grottoes, to Gilbert White's Selborne, and the carved foliage and green men of the Chapter House at Southwell Minster.

British poet Christopher Middleton comments:

"This is the work of a young poet from Kansas who spent a year in England during 1962-63. It is a remarkable piece of work. The surprise is this: he presents an image of England, or, to be precise, of sundry English scenes, with a vividness and a strangeness beyond the reach of any English poet, and unknown, I venture to say, since the days of Blake, Calvert and Palmer. Ronald Johnson has unearthed an England which most people have forgotten.

"His observation is microscopic, but his sense of place drills through to the mythic substrata. Hence the title, which names the Green Man, the old English nature-genius."

Ronald Johnson was born in Ashland, Kansas. His other books include A Line of Poetry, A Row of Trees; Slow Owls; and Rousseau: Assorted Jungles.

Cover photo is a detail from the South Tower, Chartres Cathedral.

> A clothbound edition of The Book of the Green Man is also available.