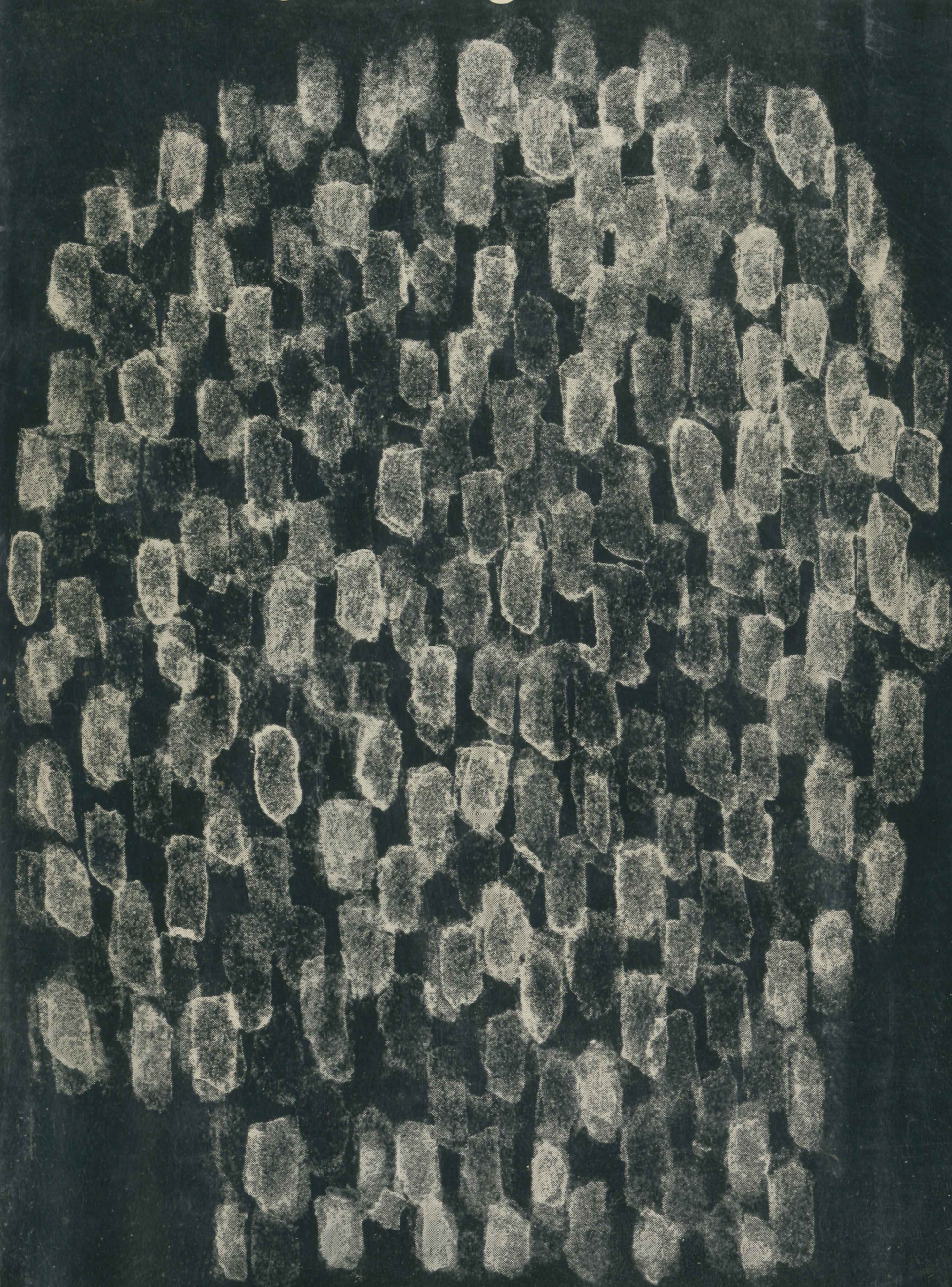


AFTER THE STRANGER

BY HAYDEN CARRUTH

Imaginary Dialogues with Camus



"A venture in extreme speculation" is Carruth's own summation of *After the Stranger*. His book, however, is more than that.

It is a dazzling new approach to philosophical inquiry (or at least one that has not seen much use in this century). It is an examination of the artist's affect on other men's lives—and of his responsibility. And it is a deeply felt, deeply moving homage to the life and work of a leading European writer by one of the most interesting of America's young men of letters.

After the Stranger is the story of a fictional pilgrimage on which an American painter, Aspen, embarks—in pursuit of Camus and of himself. Emasculated by Dread, an anchorite to the Age of Alienation, Aspen is first encountered trying to flee his cell-like room—with the aid of a stone, of a diary, and of Camus, whose voice is the only one that reaches him. Meursault, the central figure of Camus's *The Stranger*, stimulates Aspen sufficiently, and pries him from his cell. Aspen crosses the Atlantic and seeks out Camus in a spellbinding hegira of the mind.

Meeting Camus in France, Aspen confronts him with questions about Meursault. And it is the ensuing dialogue that forms the core of *After the Stranger*. Provocative,

(Continued on back flap)

TM
GIFT

For Tom Norton —

All good wishes from

Gayden Canale

" March 1969

After the Stranger

Imaginary Dialogues with Camus

By HAYDEN CARRUTH



*Alas, thoughte I, what adventures
Han these sory creatures,
That they amonges al the pres,
Shulde thus be shamed gilteles!
But what! hit moste nedes be.*

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(Continued from front flap)

highly philosophical, intellectual in the most seminal sense of the term, this dialogue forces the reader into taking a stand of his own, and into facing the non-viability of modern life.

American readers will find the conversations of particular importance—for while Aspen and Camus agree by conviction, they differ enormously by inheritance—and their debate pinpoints some of the difficulties Americans encounter when facing the European existentialists.

Aspen and Camus depart for the South of France—there to meet D'Arrast and Dora, two characters from Camus's own fiction (Dora from *The Just Assassins*, D'Arrast from *The Growing Stone*). The debate continues, but the relationships change. At the end Aspen is freed not only from his cell but also for his future. The reader, too, returns to his own existence more committed for Aspen-Carruth's dramatic journey *After the Stranger*. For readers not yet familiar with Camus, *After the Stranger* is a stimulating introduction to him. For Camus's confirmed following, it is an unusual and exciting addition to Camusian literature.

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Schaefer

Poet, novelist, critic, editor, Hayden Carruth wrote *After the Stranger* on a Bollingen Foundation grant.

His four volumes of verse include *The Crow and the Heart*. His first novel, *Appendix A*, received considerable critical attention. Mr. Carruth was at one time the editor of *Poetry*, and has been Project Administrator of *Perspectives USA*. He lives in a Vermont village with his wife and young son.

Review comments on APPENDIX A

"Carruth's self-described 'novel or autobiography or dissertation' . . . comes spooling off the mind of the narrator in great loops and tangles of yarn. But its feeling is all of a piece—and chilling in effect . . . Anguished in spirit but comic in detail . . . a convincing, step-by-step chronicle of a mind stretching beyond its breaking point."—*Time*

"The characterizations are perceptively and solidly drawn but the tangible sense of Chicago—the look and feel of the city—is one of the most memorable features of a sensual, intrinsically philosophical story."—*Booklist*