



210 pp | 6 x 9

ISBN: 978-1-939530-15-8
trade paper | \$19.99

ISBN: 978-1-939530-16-5
hardcover | \$29.99

POE000000 POETRY /
General

POE005010 POETRY /
American - General

Publication date: Spring 2021

Download hi-res cover image
at www.circlingrivers.com

BOOKSELLERS/LIBRARIES:
Available from Ingram and
direct from the publisher

CIRCLING RIVERS

www.circlingrivers.com

804-368-6833

jeanh@circlingrivers.com

Circling Rivers is an
independent publisher of
poetry and literary nonfiction.

Praise and Threnody: Collected Poems | Robert Hazel

Gritty and tender, raw and lyrical, Robert Hazel illuminates the mystical in the commonplace, the sacred body in the exploited flesh, the human voice amidst the racket of our machines. His vision of America's life never flinches, it never loses faith, and it stays true to this day.

This book, the only full collection of Hazel's poems, answers the need to revive and preserve the poetry of a writer who, as Wendell Berry said, "stands not only apart, but high and alone."

The body of American poetry cannot be whole without Robert Hazel's work.

...I saw a thin girl
at a bank of white candles
whose flames were the leaves
of her burnt childhood
and their smoke was the scented
cry of her dreams
in a chapel of plaster hands...
— from "Queen's Plaza"

PRAISE FOR ROBERT HAZEL

So large and pure and new a voice so suddenly there. Hart Crane pouring back into the language, and behind him Walt Whitman, the main current flowing, but gracefully; the natural, special, endlessly ambitious American poetics; the true inheritance. — Barry Spacks

Mr. Hazel is his own kind of poet. He ought to be one of the best of the second half of the century. There is no poet of his generation to whom more has been given.... — Allen Tate

It is a language akin to the mystery of the commonplace, sensuous almost to the point of mysticism. — Allen Planz

Robert Hazel has written poems that stand, not only apart, but high and alone. — Wendell Berry

I consider Robert Hazel to be one of the most important Southern poets writing today ... without parallel for evocation of life and passion... The honesty, breath and depth of his insights amount to a sense of a total comprehension of the times. — David Ignatow

Robert Hazel has a mind that could perhaps be described as "rude." Instead of polishing the shoes of the American dream...or shrieking at it..., Hazel is rude to it. Thinking of Washington, D.C., he remembers the "tamed cement percheron that stood outside the Labor Department." He dislikes the usual clean-shaven version of American history.... Hazel is something independent—a voice strong and unpleasant. — Robert Bly

ABOUT ROBERT HAZEL

Robert Hazel was born in Indiana and attended George Washington University and Johns Hopkins. He was poetry editor at The Nation. As a teacher of writing and literature, he was much loved by his students at the University of Kentucky, Oregon State, New York University and Virginia Tech. He is the author of three novels and five collections of poetry. Robert Hazel died in 1993.