

though there is an added earnestness here. Nature is still sending "nearly adequate/ messages to no one." But with Ammons, the reward is in the effort, not the results: on the last page of this book he is still listening to wind and water in the certainty that "instruction is underway, an/ answering is calling me, bidding me rise."—*David Kirby, English Dept., Florida State Univ., Tallahassee*

**Creeley, Robert. The Collected Poems of Robert Creeley, 1945-1975.**

Univ. of California Pr. 1983. c.576p. index. LC 81-19668. ISBN 0-520-04243-3. \$27.50. POETRY  
Creeley presents particular moments in an unmistakable voice that is terse, cranky, and poignant. Always he returns to his comedy of terrors: love, marriage. So removed is he from the sensual world that in one poem the word "green" goes off like a grenade in his monochromatic cerebral landscape. A generation of poets has branched into a genealogy of Creeley imitations and a generation of critics has considered his impact on contemporary poetry. In the introduction to this volume Creeley says: "Thankfully, I was never what I thought I was, certainly never enough." His *Collected Poems* will ensure that the debate on the merits of his statement continues merrily. For academic and larger public libraries.—*Rhoda Donovan, English Dept., Vermont Coll., Montpelier*

**Knott, Bill. Becos: poems.**

Random. Mar. 1983. c.60p. LC 82-16712. ISBN 0-394-52924-3. \$10. POETRY  
"Becos," as Herodotus tells us, is the Phrygian word for bread and was perhaps the first word spoken by the human race. As a heading for these 40 poems, "becos" connotes Everyman's concern for survival (spiritual, global, and otherwise) and poetry (radical language) as a possible means to that end. Knott has not altogether abandoned the poetry of glamorous mutilations, but the searing belligerence that in certain earlier poems denied poetry itself in favor of punishing wisecracks and soap-box posturing has largely been transformed into a poetics of grappling with illusive snapshot facsimile-realities and irascible, self-propelling words that play the artful middlemen between the poet and the fulfillment of his wish for the society of love. Recommended.—*Leonard S. Marcus, Humanities Div., Sch. of Visual Arts, New York.*

**Nicholson, Norman. Selected Poems 1940-1982.**

Faber & Faber, dist. by Harper. 1983. 72p. ISBN 0-571-11949-2. \$12.95; pap. ISBN 0-571-11950-6. \$5.95. POETRY  
Nicholson evokes an England of played-out coal mines, sleepy villages, and rocky seashores. He is a champion of children, old people, the natural environment. He loves local names (Dud-don, Millom, Scafell Pike), and his diction is decidedly British ("haar," "neb," "corrie"). In spite of these traditional features, Nicholson is very much a man of the present, writing also of nuclear pollution and the Holocaust. In his best poem, "The Pot Geranium,"

he starts with a single flower and ends with the whole universe: "I eat the equator, breathe the sky, and carry/ The great white sun in the dirt of my fingernails." Highly recommended.—*Daniel L. Guillory, English Dept., Milikin U., Decatur, Ill.*

**Piercy, Marge. Stone, Paper, Knife.**

Knopf. 1983. c.125p. LC 82-48050. ISBN 0-394-52802-6. \$12.95; pap. ISBN 0-394-71219-6. \$5.95. POETRY  
Piercy's new poems embody her old themes. The poems in the first section rehash the breakup of her own and, by implication, the failure of all marriages. Like the poems of rage in the second section, these poems are general rather than specific, and artifice is substituted for emotion. Compared with Piercy's earlier work, they are shallow. Part 3, "Digging In," reminiscent of the quiet nature poems in *Living in the Open*, is the most successful section. The images arise naturally, the language is as close to lyrical as Piercy can get. All the themes—love, rage, and nature—combine in the long poems which make up the final section. And if these poems are also rhetorical at times, they have both craft and vision behind them.—*Rochelle Ratner, formerly Poetry Editor, "Soho Weekly News," New York*

**Political Science & International Affairs**

**Finch, Phillip. God, Guts, and Guns: a close look at the radical right.**

Seaview: Putnam. Apr. 1983. c.240p. ISBN 0-399-31012-6. \$15.95. POL SCI  
This book is not about the "New Right" (the Moral Majority et al.) dealt with by Alan Crawford in *Thunder on the Right* (LJ 8/80), but rather about what Finch terms the "renegades": the political survivalists, gun-toters, anti-Semites, racists, nationalists, ultraright anarchists and revolutionaries. Their number includes the KKK, John Birch Society, Nazis, Liberty Lobby, and groups so extreme that they are scarcely visible, so far removed that the term "radical" is misleading. Finch talked to them, read about them, immersed himself in their weird subcultures. While Finch mentions possible dangers, and his accounts are interesting, he lacks the insights or analysis to make this more than a quick guided tour into a political twilight zone.—*Henry Steck, Political Science Dept., SUNY Coll. at Cortland*

**Taleghani, Ayatullah Sayyid Mahmud. Society and Economics in Islam: writings and declarations.**

Mizan Pr. (Contemporary Islamic Thought, Persian Series). 1983. c.240p. tr. from Persian by R. Campbell. intro. by Hamid Algar. bibliog. index. LC 82-2115. ISBN 0-933782-08-X. \$17.95. REL/POL SCI  
Taleghani was a widely respected religious and political leader in Iran; in addition to serving as Imam of Tehran, he was the chairman of the Revolutionary Council. This collection of his writings sets forth in fairly clear and logical language a precise framework for a mod-

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