THREE POEMS

David Lampe

The Poetry Collection is proud to celebrate National Poetry Month with the publication of David Lampe's *Three Poems*, the sixteenth in a series featuring the work of poets living in Buffalo.

2009	Bernhard Frank
2010	Ansie Baird
2011	Jorge Guitart
2012	Ross Runfola
2013	Norma Kassirer
2013	William Sylvester
2014	Robert Giannetti
2015	Sally Cook
2016	Ann Goldsmith
2016	Max Wickert
2017	ryki zuckerman
2018	Geoffrey Gatza
2019	Irving Feldman
2020	Sherry Robbins
2021	Annette Daniels Taylor

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THREE POEMS

David Lampe

LAMPE MARSH 1998

for Stephen Lewandowski

Twenty-two acres of wetlands
in the midst of prime Iowa
farmland, Webster-Clarion

silt loam, a glacial creation,
a prairie pothole that resisted
cultivation for a century,

now returned to its proper
function—even though my father
might not have approved.

Yet when Ruth and I
walked out into it
that first time

two deer, three geese,
two teal, a mallard
and canvasback fled—

living proof and
undebatable evidence
for two farm kids

of appropriate
restoration and
an ongoing reward.

AWFUL APRIL

That awful April afternoon
when Notre-Dame du
Paris almost perished

my grandson John,
who had never been
to Paris, never

entered or experienced
its solemn holiness,
hoped that all those

efforts to diminish
destructive flames
would not extinguish

the glowing rows
of individually lighted
prayer candles.

MUSICAL BLESSING

What little sanity
I have I owe
to the blessing

of music, the art
I at times
almost understand.

I will never be a soloist
instead I blend, become
part of the sacrifice

of self that is
the splendid release
into the energy

of Dante's
"sweet harmony
of paradise"

About the Author

A Midwesterner by birth (Iowa) and training (Nebraska), David Lampe came to Buffalo over fifty years ago to teach Chaucer and poetry at Buffalo State College (where he taught for forty-three years). Colleagues and friends in the poetic community have indulged and encouraged him, and he continues to learn from them and to celebrate Buffalo and other places he visits. His edited volumes include the Burchfield Penney Art Center Poetry Series anthology *Mortals & Immortals* and he is the author of the collections *The Trees Walked* and *Close to the Bone*, both from Exile Editions.

Published in an edition of 300 copies,
of which the first 50 have been numbered and
signed by the poet.

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