

THREE FABLES



Mary Barnard

MARY BARNARD was born in Vancouver, Washington, in 1909. She attended Reed College in Portland, Oregon, where she received her degree in 1932. In 1935 she won Poetry's Levinson Prize. Her first collection of poems, *Cool Country*, appeared in *Five Young American Poets, 1940*, published by New Directions. In 1979 her *Collected Poems* won the prestigious Elliston Award. She lives in Vancouver, Washington.



Breitenbush Books
Portland, Oregon

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PREFACE

Five years ago this December Breitenbush published its first title, *I Want To Be A Crowd* by Peter Sears, a supplementary text for teaching poetry in the schools.

What began as a fanciful and blissfully ignorant whim of four Reed College students has grown into a beautiful, exotic, multi-blossomed flower that consumes currency of large denominations at an astonishing rate. Throughout the past four years, as my three friends went on to medical school, dental school, and law school, I have been constantly reminded of the words of Walter Wolf on auto racing. His formula for making a small fortune, he said, was to take a large one and go racing. The same can be said of literary publishing: the rewards are no less exciting and the work can be as life-threatening to the psyche of the publisher/editor as racing is to the body of the Grand Prix driver. But what a ride! And as the years go by you become more thankful for friends and the mixture of skill and good fortune that allow you to continue while navigating through the debris of both the novice and veteran.

It is fitting that Breitenbush should celebrate its fifth anniversary with the publication of *Three Fables* by Mary Barnard. Her *Collected Poems* was the second title we published and the first to give the Press a taste of critical acclaim. In many ways it set the standards by which I have since operated Breitenbush. In brief, we have selected quality manuscripts of modern or contemporary literature (usually poetry) that might not be published without our initiative

and then presented these manuscripts in a form that clearly demonstrates our respect for the work. Attention to page design, typography, acid-free papers, sewn bindings, and complete cloth covers have become as important to the Press as the selection of manuscripts. *Three Fables* represents all the considerations of Breitenbush.

During 1982-83 I taught a full-year class at Marylhurst College in Portland, Oregon, on the fundamentals of book publishing. It was my aim to give preparation, and a sense of caution, to the prospective publisher, author, and printer, and maybe communicate some of the joy of working with books. Our course project became this book. So let it signify the survival and success of Breitenbush Publications and the thrill of being involved with the making and reading of books which might not have otherwise found their way into print.

James Anderson
October 1st, 1983

BREITENBUSH BOOKS

I Want To Be A Crowd

Original Poems and Commentary
by Peter Sears (Fall 1978)

Collected Poems

1979 Elliston Award Winner by
Mary Barnard (Fall 1979)

Different Ways To Pray

1980 T.I.L. Award Winner by
Naomi Shihab Nye (Winter 1980)

Jabón

Poems by Gary Gildner with
Drawings by William Mulstay
(Winter 1981)

Duino Elegies

Translated by Gary Miranda (Fall
1981)

Pressure Under Grace

Poems by William Greenway
(Spring 1982)

Lighting The Night Sky

Poems by Kenneth O. Hanson
(Spring 1983)

Place Of Birth

Poems by David Kherdian (Fall
1983)

Three Fables

by Mary Barnard (Fall 1983)

Fatal Pleasure

Poems by Sam Hamill
(Forthcoming – Winter 1984)

A Heaven In The Eye

an autobiography by Clyde Rice
(Forthcoming – Spring 1984)

Mary Barnard's distinguished literary career includes *Sappho: A New Translation* (University of California Press, 1958), *The Mythmakers* (Ohio University Press, 1966) and *Collected Poems* (Breitenbush, 1979), which won the prestigious Elliston Award. *Assault On Mount Helicon: A Literary Memoir* is forthcoming from the University of California Press in spring 1984.

Miss Barnard's prose fiction works, published in magazines in the 1940s, are not generally known and have been unavailable in book form. With the publication of *Three Fables*, which originally appeared in the winter 1948 issue of *Kenyon Review*, readers can now sample the wisdom and humor of Miss Barnard's uncollected early prose.

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