

# Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies

(formerly Kansas Quarterly)

Volume 51, Number 1

Spring/April 2020

<b>Fent Noland, Thomas Bangs Thorpe, and Friedrich Gerstaecker: Positive Images of Frontier Arkansas . . . . .</b>	<b>3</b>
by Jon David Cash	
<b>What the Water Consumes (poetry) . . . . .</b>	<b>11</b>
by Jonathan Rowe	
<b>Daily Tours to the Swamp of Infinite Sorrows (fiction) . . . . .</b>	<b>12</b>
by Thomas Price	
<b>Dandelion to the Wind (poetry) . . . . .</b>	<b>20</b>
by Elizabeth Buttimer	
<b>Immaculate Toad (fiction) . . . . .</b>	<b>21</b>
by Lou Mindar	
<b>Two Poems (poetry) . . . . .</b>	<b>28</b>
My Father's Scarecrows Groundskeeper	
by Kevin Thomason	
<b>Shockwaves (memoir) . . . . .</b>	<b>30</b>
by Abraham Aamidor	
<b>Two Poems (poetry) . . . . .</b>	<b>36</b>
Plea After Beale Street Shuts Down	
by Larry D. Thomas	
<b>The One Good Thing About Not being Pregnant (fiction) . . . . .</b>	<b>38</b>
by Miriam Cohen	
<b>Five Poems (poetry) . . . . .</b>	<b>46</b>
Shoveling Mud into Rushing Water Huntington's Disease The Wizard Straw Cutting Bulls	
by CL Bledsoe	

**The First Ascent of Mount Shannon,  
the “Shiprock” of the Mississippi Delta (fiction) . . . . . 51**  
by Alton R. Stone

**Delta Sources and Resources . . . . . 56**  
Rockabilly—Remembered and Celebrated:  
A Trip to Arkansas State University Museum’s Rockabilly Exhibit  
320 University Loop West, Jonesboro, Arkansas  
by LaDawn Lee Fuhr

**Reviews . . . . . 59**  
Brosman and Pass, *Louisiana Poets: A Literary Guide*, reviewed by Claude Wilkinson  
Brown, *To Those Who Were Our First Gods*, reviewed by Floyd Collins  
Ball, *Talking Pillow*, reviewed by John Zheng  
Powell, *Come Again*, reviewed by Marck L. Beggs  
Thomas, *In A Field of Cotton*, reviewed by CL Bledsoe  
Howerton, ed., *The Literature of the Ozarks: An Anthology*, reviewed by Mark Spitzer  
Blevins, *A History of the Ozarks, Volume II: The Conflicted Ozarks*, reviewed by  
Lauren Willette  
Takei, Eisinger, Scott, and Becker, *They Called Us Enemy*, reviewed by Ali Welky  
Johnson, *Arkansas in Modern America Since 1930*, reviewed by Keith M. Finley  
Tell, *Remembering Emmett Till*, reviewed by Guy Lancaster

**Contributors . . . . . 77**

General Editor’s note: April 15, 2020

Dear Readers and Friends,

As I write this, the world is in the midst of the worst economic crisis in a century and we face a global pandemic the likes of which has not been witnessed in at least two generations. Covid-19’s effects have left neither the Delta nor this journal untouched. Tragic loss of life, especially in New Orleans but in all the states of our region, have shaken us; losses of jobs and incomes have impacted many many residents, resulting in long lines and low stocks at food pantries; a “hunker down and bunker down” mindset has led to shortages of common household goods and groceries.

Meanwhile, Arkansas State University has closed and remains so for the foreseeable future,

with all classes taught online and non-essential personnel asked to remain home. The good folks at the ASU printshop as well as my editorial team are among the many of us who are not on campus. For the journal, this situation means for the first time an issue will be released in electronic form before the print issue is ready. It is unclear when this issue will be plated and printed; equally unclear, when it will be mailed.

With luck, that day will come in the relatively near future, and—in the face of probable state and university budget cuts for our next fiscal year (2020-2021)—the delayed release of the print version of this issue will not set a precedent. It is my sincere hope that our print journal will not become another casualty of this plague year.

Yours, Marcus C. Tribbett