

"ALWAYS, SINCE
I WAS A KID,
POETRY HAS
BEEN A WAY OF
SEEING, A WAY
OF UNDER-
STANDING
THE WORLD. . ."



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAN G. HENSLEY

WORKING WITH THE WIGGLE: AN INTERVIEW WITH BETTY ADCOCK

POET BETTY ADCOCK GREW UP IN THE SMALL TOWN OF SAN AUGUSTINE, TEXAS, WHERE HER FATHER'S ANCESTORS SETTLED IN THE 1820S. *St. Augustine is on the Ayish Bayou and close to the Sabine River and Big Thicket and the Louisiana state line. Unfamiliar references, perhaps. Insular and remote, her homeplace rouses conflicting emotions in Adcock's poetry, although her beloved Siphnos, Greece, often reminded her, she told me, of east Texas. She met her husband, Don, in Texas, and she married him, she laughed, because he was the only man she had found there who knew anything about poetry.*

BY JAMES SMITH JAMES SMITH is Associate Editor of *Southern Poetry Review* and Associate Professor of English at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, GA, where he teaches creative writing and American literature. His poetry has appeared in numerous literary magazines, and he is the editor of *Don't Leave Hungry: Fifty Years of Southern Poetry Review* (University of Arkansas Press, 2009). He interviewed *NCLR's* poetry editor, Jeffrey Franklin, for the 2007 issue and North Carolina poet laureate Kathryn Stripling Byer for the 2008 issue.

ABOVE Betty Adcock at the Galway Kinnell reading at Meredith College, Raleigh, NC, 1 Oct. 2001