

Curriculum Vitae of:
Bill Christophersen

bchris1008@aol.com

Expertise

American literature from the Revolution to the Civil War; the fiction of Charles Brockden Brown and James Fenimore Cooper; American poetry; medieval English literature; the sonnet; gothic fiction; Romantic literature.

Education

Graduate: Columbia University, Ph.D., English, 1981. (Specialization: 19th-century American literature, teaching of writing)
Undergrad: Columbia University, B.A., English, 1971.
Languages: Read French, Russian, Spanish.

Journalism Employment

9/04-12/16: Copy editor, Global Finance (6/10-12/16); deputy copy chief, Institutional Investor (9/04-5/09). Styled, fact-checked, copy-edited and proofed articles.

6/96-12/03: Freelance copy editor and writer. Edited and rewrote copy for The New Leader, Infrastructure Finance, Treasury and Risk Management; styled and proofed pages for Life, Forbes Global, Sports Illustrated for Kids, Time Inc. Custom Publishing. Reviewed books for The New Leader, The Wall Street Journal, Poetry.

1/90-8/95: Associate editor, Newsweek. Edited letters column; supervised department of eight; freelanced book reviews to Newsweek, New York Times Book Review.

12/85-12/89: Letters correspondent, Newsweek. Researched and assembled letters column; answered letters; freelanced book reviews to New York Newsday, Chicago Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle Book Review, Dallas Times-Herald, Boston Phoenix, Baltimore Sun, American Book Review.

Teaching Employment

9/00-5/05: Adjunct assistant professor, Fordham College. Taught "Close Reading and Critical Writing," "English Literature: Beowulf to Milton," "English and American Literature: 1660-1870," "English and American Literature: 1870 to the Present," "18th-Century British and American Literature."

2/96-5/96: Adjunct assistant professor, Marymount Manhattan. Taught "Introduction to Poetry" survey.

9/83-6/85: Adjunct assistant professor, City University of New York. Taught composition.

- 9/84-6/85: Adjunct instructor, Manhattan Community College. Taught freshman composition, remedial freshman composition.
- 6/84-8/84: Adjunct instructor, Manhattanville College (N.Y.). Taught “The Short Story in America.”
- 1/82-1/85: Adjunct instructor, School of New Resources, College of New Rochelle. Taught “The American Experience” (survey of American lit and culture).
- 9/81-6/82: Adjunct instructor, Montclair College (N.J.). Taught composition.
- 5/79-7/79: Adjunct instructor, Columbia Teachers College. Taught advanced writing seminar to graduate and postgraduate students.
- 1/79-6/82: Adjunct instructor, New School of Social Resources (N.Y.). Taught business writing to professional people.
- 7/78-8/78: English teacher, College Readiness Program, a preparatory program hosted by Columbia University for high-school juniors. Taught writing and literature.

Publications

Books

Resurrecting Leather-Stocking: Pathfinding in Jacksonian America (University of South Carolina Press, 2019). A reading of James Fenimore Cooper’s Leather-Stocking Tales as fictions set in the 18th century but speaking to 19th-century America.

The Apparition in the Glass: Charles Brockden Brown’s American Gothic (University of Georgia Press, 1993). A critical reading of Brown’s major romances against the social and historical backdrop of Federalist America.

Two Men Fighting in a Landscape (Aldrich Press, 2015). Poetry.

The Dicer’s Cup (Kelsay Books, 2017). Poetry.

Tableau with Crash Helmet (Hanging Loose Press, 2018). Poetry.

Where Truth Lies (Kelsay Books, 2020). Poetry.

Why the Gods Don’t Get It (Kelsay Books, 2021). Poetry.

Its Shadow Rakes the Grass (Kelsay Books, 2023). Poetry.

Scholarly Articles

- “The Sea Lions: Cooper’s Antebellum Jeremiad.” ESQ 68:1 (2022): 37-67.
- “The ‘Amaranthine Flower of Virtue’: Cooper’s Pathfinder as Democratic Trail-Blazer.” James Fenimore Cooper Society Journal 31:1 (2020): 15-26
- “The Prairie as a Southern Tale.” Literature in the Early American Republic 7 (2016): 1-30.
- “The Last of the Mohicans and the Missouri Crisis.” Early American Literature 46:2 (2011): 263-289.
- “Agnostic Tensions in Hawthorne’s Short Stories.” American Literature (September 2000): 595-624.
- “Charles Brockden Brown, Enthusiasm and the Ghost of William Penn.” Profils Américains (Spring 1999): 18-30.
- “Israel Potter: Melville’s ‘Citizen of the Universe.’” Studies in American Fiction 21 (Spring 1993): 21-3.
- “Picking Up the Knife: A Psycho-Historical Reading of Wieland.” American Studies 27 (Spring 1986): 115-126.
- “‘Young Goodman Brown’ as Historical Allegory.” Studies in Short Fiction 23 (Spring 1986): 202-204.
- “Conjurin’ the White Folks: Charles Chesnutt’s Other ‘Julius’ Tales.” American Literary Realism 18 (Fall 1985): 208-218.
- “Between Two Houses: Architecture as Metaphor in The Professor’s House.” North Dakota Quarterly 53 (Spring 1985): 89-96.
- “Hawthorne’s ‘The Wives of the Dead’: Bereavement and ‘the Better Part.’” Studies in Short Fiction 20 (Winter 1983): 1-6.
- “‘Jean-ah Poquelin’: G.W. Cable’s Place in Southern Gothic.” South Dakota Review 20 (Summer 1982): 55-66.
- “Behind the White Veil: Self-Awareness in Hawthorne’s The Blithedale Romance.” Modern Language Studies 12 (Spring 1982): 81-92.
- “Stephen Crane’s ‘The Upturned Face’ as Expressionist Fiction.” Arizona Quarterly 38 (Summer 1982): 147-160.

“Charles Brockden Brown’s Ormond: The Secret Witness as Ironic Motif.” Modern Language Studies 10 (Spring 1980): 37-41.

Review Essays

“No Shadow but Myself”: Remembering W.S. Merwin.” Michigan Quarterly Review Online 60 (Nov. 12, 2021).

“Traditional Tunes, Bop Tercets” (five books of poetry). North Dakota Quarterly 72 (Winter/Spring 2005): 252-259.

“The ‘I’ and the Beholder: Negotiating the Shoals of Personal Narrative” (seven books of poetry). Poetry 182 (Apr. 2003): 35-46.

“Down From the Tower: Poetry as Confabulation” (six books of poetry). Poetry 179 (Jan. 2002): 217-225.

“Classical Virtues—and Vices” (six poetry books). Poetry 177 (Dec. 2000): 217-224.

“Spruce but Loose: Formalism in the Nineties” (five poetry books). Poetry 174 (Sept. 1999): 345-351.

“Late Night Music” (essay on William Matthews). Poetry 174 (May 1999): 99-107.

“Confessions, Obsessions, Requiems” (six books). Poetry 172 (Sept. 1998): 337-343.

“Short Reviews” (seven books of poetry). Poetry 171 (Mar. 1998): 339-345.

“Struggles with Belief” (Alfred Kazin, God and the American Writer). The New Leader 80 (Dec. 1-15, 1997): 15-16.

“Short Reviews” (six books of poetry). Poetry 170 (Sept. 1997): 347-351.

“Love and Death in Chicago” (Saul Bellow’s The Actual). The New Leader 80 (July 14-28, 1997): 18-19.

“The Inglorious Puritan” (Peter Ackroyd’s Milton in America). The New Leader 80 (May 5, 1997): 19-20.

“Singing the Body Eclectic: Walt Whitman’s ‘Multitudes.’” North Dakota Quarterly 64 (Winter 1997): 51-58.

“Declarations of Independents: Some Un-Schooled Poets.” North Dakota Quarterly 61 (Spring 1993): 37-43.

“Hands Washed in Blood: A Look at the Life and Work of Randall Jarrell.” Newsweek June 11, 1990.

“Opposite Poles” (contemporary Latin American writers Jim Sagel and Edgardo Cozarinsky). American Book Review 14 (Aug.-Sept. 1992).

“Unknown Necessity” (Russian poet Marina Tsvetayeva). American Book Review 9 (Jan.-Feb. 1988).

“Father of the American Novel’: Brockden Brown in the ’80s.” Western Humanities Review 39 (Spring 1985): 77-85.

Reviews

If the Delta Was the Sea (poems), Dick Lourie. New Delta Review (online): June, 2012.

“Emily’s Ambassador” (White Heat, Brenda Wineapple’s literary biography of Emily Dickinson, Thomas Wentworth Higginson). Wall Street Journal (8/16/08): W6.

Ghost Pain (poems), Sydney Lea. Shenandoah 56 (Fall 2006): 204-207.

White Sea (poems), Cleopatra Mathis. Shenandoah 55 (Winter 2005): 157-160.

The Cambridge Introduction to Twentieth-Century American Poetry, Christopher Beach. North Dakota Review 72 (Winter/Spring 2005): 247-252.

The Clerk’s Tale (poems), Spencer Reece. Shenandoah 54 (Winter 2004): 179-183.

Midsummer Night (novel), Uwe Timm. New York Times Book Review, 6/28/98

House of Days (poetry), Jay Parini. New York Times Book Review, 6/21/98

“Tale of Sugar and Spice” (Nicholson Baker’s novel The Everlasting Story of Nory). Wall Street Journal, 5/1/98.

Magdalena the Sinner (novel), Lilian Faschinger. New York Times Book Review, 1/4/98.

“It’s a God’s Life” (Sten Nadolny’s novel The God of Impertinence). New York Times Book Review, 9/7/97.

My Favorite War (novel), Christopher John Farley. New York Times Book Review, 10/13/96.

The One-Handed Pianist and Other Stories, Ilan Stavans. New York Times Book Review, 5/5/96.

What They Tell You to Forget (stories), Fred Pfeil. New York Times Book Review, 4/14/96.

The Cliff (novel), David R. Slavitt. New York Times Book Review 10/30/94.

The Palace Thief (stories), Ethan Canin. Chicago Tribune 4/10/94.

Glimpses (novel), Lewis Shiner. New York Times Book Review 9/5/93.

Hotel Insomnia (poems), Charles Simic. Newsweek March 22, 1993.

Slow Walk in a Sad Rain (novel), John P. McAfee. New York Times Book Review 3/14/93.

Knife Edge (novel), Ralf Rothmann. New York Times Book Review 9/6/92.

Short List (novel), Jim Lehrer. New York Times Book Review 2/23/92.

The Foreseeable Future (novellas), Reynolds Price. Newsweek Oct.21, 1991.

More Shapes Than One (stories), Fred Chappell. New York Times Book Review 10/6/91.

Billy the Kid: A Short and Violent Life (history), Robert M. Utley. Great Plains Quarterly 11 (Fall 1991).

Is It Sexual Harassment Yet? (stories), Cris Mazza. New York Times Book Review 4/28/91.

Walking on Ice (stories), Susan Hubbard. New York Times Book Review 2/10/91.

The Gates of Paradise (novel), Gwyneth Cravens. New York Times Book Review 12/23/90.

Selected Poems, James Schuyler. Prairie Schooner 64 (Winter 1990).

The Ideal Bakery (stories), Donald Hall. Studies in Short Fiction 27 (Winter 1990).

“I’ve Got That Old Feeling” (recording), Alison Krauss. Newsweek Oct. 1, 1990.

The Animal Wife (novel), Elizabeth Marshall Thomas. Newsweek Sept. 24, 1990.

Plato at Scratch Daniel’s (stories), Edward Falco. New York Times Book Review 9/23/90.

Essays in Disguise (essays), Wilfred Sheed. Newsweek June 11, 1990.

Sex and Subterfuge: Women Writers to 1850 (literary (criticism), Eva Figs. American Book Review 11 (Nov.-Dec. 1989).

Home Economics (essays), Wendell Berry; In Deep: Country Essays, Maxine Kumin. Prairie Schooner 63 (Winter 1989).

New Stories From the South: The Year's Best, 1989, ed. Shannon Ravenel. Newsweek Oct. 2, 1989.

Altazor (poems), Vicente Huidobro. American Book Review 11 (Sept.-Oct. 1989).

Dreams of Distant Lives (stories), Lee K. Abbott. Newsweek May 15, 1989.

The Midnight Examiner (novel), William Kotzwinkle. Newsweek May 8, 1989.

The Candles of Your Eyes (stories), James Purdy. Studies in Short Fiction 25 (Fall 1988).

A Hunger (poems), Lucie Brock-Broido. Boston Phoenix Literary Section 11/88.

Stalin in the Bronx (stories), Suzanne Ruta. American Book Review 10 (July-Aug. 1988).

Afoot in a Field of Men (stories), Pat Ellis Taylor. The Chicago Tribune 3/4/88.

Archaic Figure (poems), Amy Clampitt. High Plains Literary Review 3 (Spring 1988).

The Boys of Bensonhurst (stories), Salvatore La Puma. New York Newsday 6/14/87.

Revolution and the Word: The Rise of the Novel in America (criticism), Cathy N. Davidson. San Francisco Chronicle Review 3/8/87.

The Voice of Prose: Early Prose and Autobiography, Boris Pasternak. Dallas Times-Herald 2/1/87.

We Must Make a Kingdom of It, Gregory Orr. San Francisco Chronicle Review 2/1/87.

Paradise Resisted: Selected Poems, Tom Clark; Westerns (poems), Richard Dankleff. Arizona Quarterly 42 (Winter 1986).

Letters: Summer 1926, Boris Pasternak. San Francisco Chronicle Review 6/29/86.

The Past (poems), Galway Kinnell. The Baltimore Sun 2/23/86.

We Are the Fire: A Selection of Poems, Toby Olsen. Arizona Quarterly 41 (Fall 1985).

Personal Essays / Op-Ed Pieces

- “What Would Natty Do? A Personal Take on the Leather-Stocking Tales.” James Fenimore Cooper Society Journal 31:1 (Spring 2020): 15-26.
- “Is Costa Rica Still Neutral?” New York Newsday 11/30/85.
- “Costa Rica’s Waning Neutrality.” Chicago Tribune 9/21/85.
- “Social Theory Isn’t Darwin.” New York Newsday 6/20/85.
- “Columbia’s Deceptions: Misusing Thoreau and Dr. King.” Columbia Spectator 4/23/85.

News Articles

- “San Fran Police Issued Gloves as Anti-AIDS Precaution.” Police Magazine July 1983.
- “Fingerprinting Children: Insurance Policy or Placebo?” Police Magazine, May 1983.
- “Anti-Bias Promotion System Sparks Black-White Controversy in Omaha.” Police Magazine, May 1983.
- “Ossining Riot: In the Shadow of Attica.” Corrections Magazine, April 1983.
- “Faced With Layoff Threat, Alabama Troopers Choose to Work ‘Free’ Days.” Police Magazine, March 1983.
- “Challenging the Breathalyzer.” (with Deborah Veron) Police Magazine March 1983.

Poems

American Poetry Association Anthology (1982), Antioch Review, Apalachee Review, Barrow Street Review, Bear Creek Haiku, Birmingham Poetry Review, Blue Unicorn, Borderlands, California Quarterly, Carolina Quarterly, Charlotte Poetry Review, Chicago Review, Columbia Review, Comstock Review, Connecticut Poetry Review, Courtship of Winds, Currency, Evening Street Review, Great River Review, GW Review, Hanging Loose, Hurricane Review, Innisfree Poetry Journal, Kansas Quarterly, Light, Main Street Rag, Measure, Modern Poetry Studies, Mojave River Review, Naugatuck River Review, New Letters, New Orleans Review, North American Mentor Magazine, Oak Bend Review, Poetry, Potomac Review, Pudding, Quarto, Rattle, Rhino, Right Hand Pointing, Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation Newsletter, Shenandoah, Sierra Nevada Review, South Dakota Review, Southern Humanities Review, Southern Poetry Review, Southwest Review, Tampa Review, Texas Review, The Beast in a Cage of Words, Upstart, Virginia Quarterly Review, White Pelican Review, Xanadu, Yale Review.

Honors

- *National Merit Scholar
- **Who's Who in the World* listing
- *J. F. Cooper Society's James Franklin Beard Award for independent scholarship 2017
- *Hawthorne article anthologized in *Critical Insights: Nathaniel Hawthorne* (2009).
- *Crane article and Hawthorne article anthologized in *Short Story Criticism*.
- **Rhino*'s 2016 translation prize for "The Seafarer."
- *Poems nominated for Pushcart Prize (12 times) and *Best New Poets 2014*.
- *Third-place award: Best poems published in *Kansas Quarterly*, 1986.
- *Honorable mention: Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation Poetry Competition, 2001.
- *Finalist, National Poetry Series Competition (2005)
- *Finalist, Morton Marr Poetry Contest (*Southwest Review*) (five times)