

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

CHARLOTTESVILLE

VIRGINIA 22903

15 December 1992

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
WILSON HALL

Tel. 804-924-7105
804-982-HEAR (TDD)

Bud Kliment
Assistant Administrator
The Pulitzer Prizes
702 Journalism
Columbia University
New York, New York 10027

Dear Mr Kliment -

On behalf of the Pulitzer Prize Nominating Jury in Poetry for 1993, I submit the following three books, in alphabetical order, along with the jury's citation for each, for the Pulitzer Prize Board's consideration for the Poetry Award for 1993.

John Ashbery, Hotel Lautréamont (Knopf)

"Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1976, represents the Ashbery of Romantic and High Modernist themes and cadences. But there is another, more daring Ashbery - comic, surreal, uncanny - who predates Self-Portrait and is brilliantly realized in Hotel Lautréamont. He makes us search in the fun-house mirror of our language and culture for the ghosts of our formulated selves. He helps us find there our creative freedom and our humanity."

Louise Glück, The Wild Iris (Ecco)

"Louise Glück's The Wild Iris is a book with a solitary, almost monastic vision. A kind of devotional poetry, it recalls the metaphysical tradition of the early 1600s, particularly the poet George Herbert. The poems themselves take place entirely within a garden, with the Christian motif of suffering and redemption, death and resurrection much in evidence. It is a book of intense inward rapture where lyric values, pure lyric values of voice and spiritual meditation, predominate, and its appearance secures for Glück a high place indeed in contemporary American poetry."

James Merrill*, Selected Poems 1946-1985 (Knopf)

"James Merrill's Selected Poems 1946-1985 is the great American poet's own selection from his 'shorter' poems, excluding his book-length The Changing Light at Sandover. The selection returns to print many of the most distinguished poems of the past few decades, poems such as 'The Broken Home,' 'Days of 1935,' and 'Lost in Translation.' Merrill is without question one of the authentic masters of American poetry, joining formal and narrative virtuosity with 'inner' autobiography, in a manner that is brilliantly his own: 'To fictive environments/Blood is the fee.' Merrill has always with disarming vulnerability and candor paid that fee, and the result is one of the most valuable moments in American poetry."

*Merrill won the 1977 Poetry Prize

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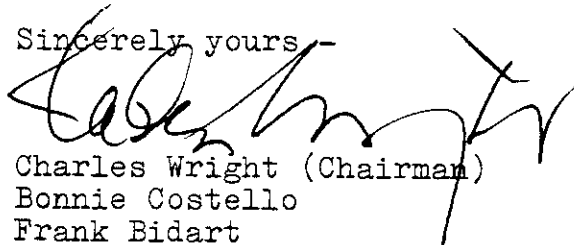
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The Nominating Jury discovered a remarkable coincidence of shared values and judgment. This year, at least, the task in poetry was both pleasant and relatively easy. We hope the same will obtain for the Board.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Wright", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Charles Wright (Chairman)
Bonnie Costello
Frank Bidart