

A Note from the Poetry Editor

What is the first threshold that a poem submitted to the *ATR* must cross? Whenever I read a poem I seek to be taken to a place that would be inaccessible through prose. Poetry is always, for me, a doorway into the uncanny, the mysterious, the unexplainable. The poem need not be complex; it should most certainly *not* be impenetrable. But it is mystery. Christianity is the mystery of God Incarnate, whose Ever-Presence in every creature and in creation is the source of all human emotion. The poetry we publish in the *ATR* recognizes, implicitly or explicitly, this Presence.

On behalf of the *ATR*, I would like to invite poetry submissions from both published and unpublished authors. I read year-round and look for poems that cover a wide range of human experiences. Both form poems and poems in free verse are welcome, yet all the poetry we feature reflects an inner cadence, an awareness of the possibilities of poetic language.

Including more than one poem in a submission is a good idea. I would recommend between three and five pieces. Poems that are no longer than 32 lines have a higher incidence of acceptance. Please do not submit poems that are under consideration by any other journal. In other words, we do not consider simultaneous submissions. However, you can expect a response to your submission within four weeks, so your work will not be tied up for a long time.

I prefer to receive submissions via e-mail, to smstarnes@cox.net, if possible as Word attachments. Please include your full name, contact information, and a brief cover letter. I will acknowledge receipt of your poems, and I always respond personally to a submission.

Lastly, it is an editor's joy to connect a poem to a new reader, and I consider it a privilege to read all the poems that come my way. Thank you for thinking of us as a venue for your work.

— *Sofia M. Starnes*
Poetry Editor and Poetry Book Review Editor

SOFIA M. STARNES, Virginia's Poet Laureate from 2012 to 2014, is the author of five poetry collections and editor of two poetry anthologies. The recipient of a Poetry Fellowship from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, she has been awarded the Aldrich Poetry Prize, the Rainer Maria Rilke Poetry Prize, the Transcontinental Poetry Prize, the Whitebird Poetry Series Prize, the Christianity and Literature Poetry Prize, among other commendations, including four Pushcart Prize nominations. Her first full-length collection, *A Commerce of Moments*, was named Poetry Honor Book by the Library of Virginia in the year of its publication. In 2013, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters degree by Union College, KY. Sofia's next collection, *The Consequence of Moonlight*, is forthcoming from Paraclete Press. Further information about her work may be found at www.sofiamstarnes.com.