

Emily Herring Wilson. *“When I Go Back To My Home Country”: A Remembrance of Archie Ammons*. Fountain, NC: R.A. Fountain, 2019. 160 pp. \$20.00. ISBN 978-0-9842-1023-7.

Is it possible for an American poet to be influenced heavily by an encounter with a nother poet/painter? Throughout the pages of the book, *“When I Go Back To My Home Country”: A Remembrance of Archie Ammons*, author Emily Herring Wilson recounts the highlights of her 30-year friendship and association with Archie Ammons. Specifically, the friendship began in 1974 when Archie Ammons was on sabbatical from Cornell University and “came home” to North Carolina to teach some classes at Wake Forest University. After the friendship was solidified at Wake Forest, Emily Herring Wilson was later invited by Archie Ammons to Cornell University so that she could listen to lectures given by Archie Ammons and teach some one semester classes herself.

The book is interspersed with author commentary as well as specific poems by Archie Ammons including the following: “Still,” “Ten Years Ago I Was,” “For Emily Wilson, From A Newcomer,” “I Went Back,” “Chiseled Clouds,” and “My Father, I Hollow For You.” On several occasions in the book, the author includes her own literary works to illustrate the enormous impact that her friendship with poet/painter Archie Ammons had on her own literary development. Specifically, she includes several of her own poems, such as “Hairpin” and “The Bread and Butter of Life.” The book also includes 65 photographs and 3 color reproductions of Archie Ammons watercolor paintings.

Emily Herring Wilson still resides with her husband near the Wake Forest University campus in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Besides *“When I Go Back To My Home Country: A Remembrance of Archie Ammons,”* author Emily Herring Wilson has written several other works, including the following: *Arise Up and Call Her Blessed* (1982), *Hope and Dignity: Older Black Women of the South* (1983), *For the People of North Carolina: The Z Smith Reynolds Foundation at Half-Century, 1936-1986* (1988), *Get a Good Life* (1997), *North Carolina Women: Making History (with Margaret Supplee Smith)* (1999), *Two Gardeners: Katharine S. White and Elizabeth Lawrence: A Friendship in Letters* (2002), *No One Gardens Alone: A Life of Elizabeth Lawrence* (2004), and *The Three Graces of Val-Kill: Eleanor Roosevelt, Marion Dickerman, and Nancy Cook in the Place They Made Their Own* (2017).

This book is intended to showcase the successful 30-year friendship between the author and poet/artist Archie Ammons. The interwoven poems, personal reminiscences of the author’s interactions with Archie Ammons, and the recollections of Shelby Stephenson, former North Carolina Poet Laureate, draw the reader’s attention to the content matter of the book. Because of it specific scope and subject matter, *“When I Go Back To My Home Country”: A Remembrance of Archie Ammons* would be suitable for inclusion in any academic library with a focus on North Carolina literature or poets/artists who have made a contribution to the state’s literary history.

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