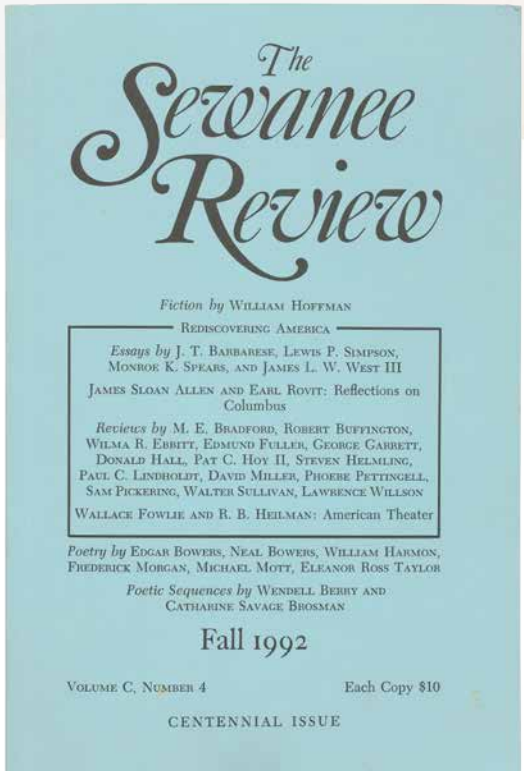
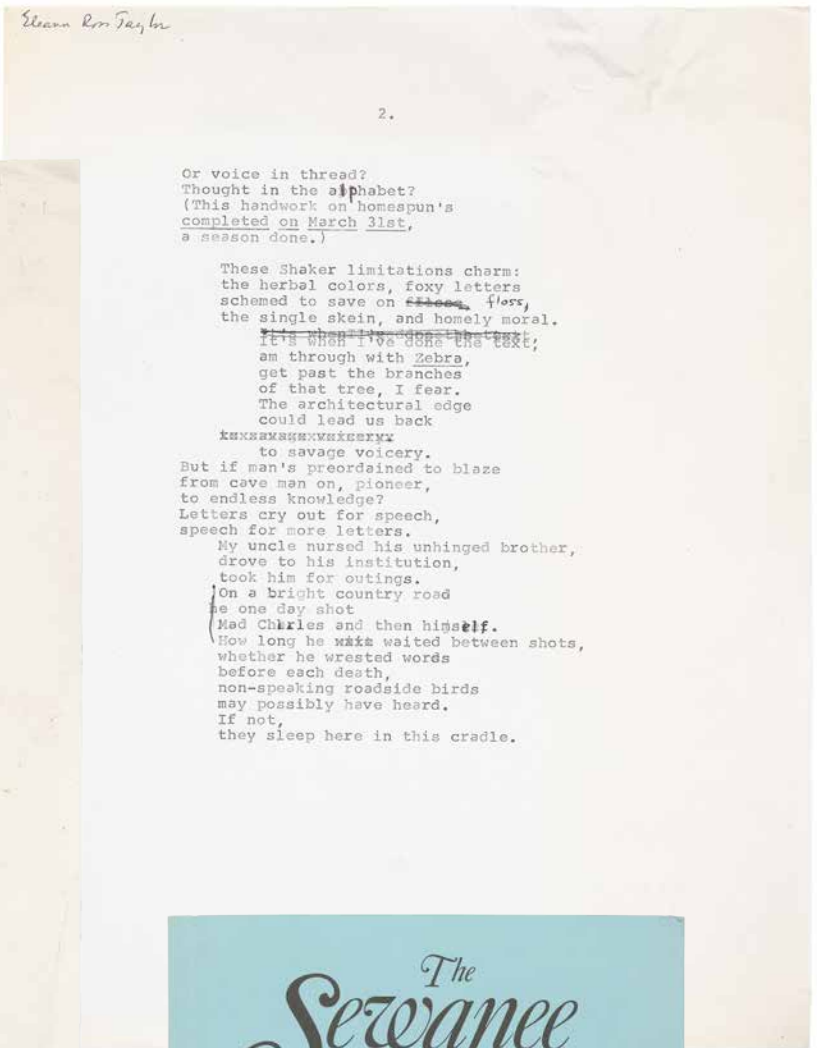
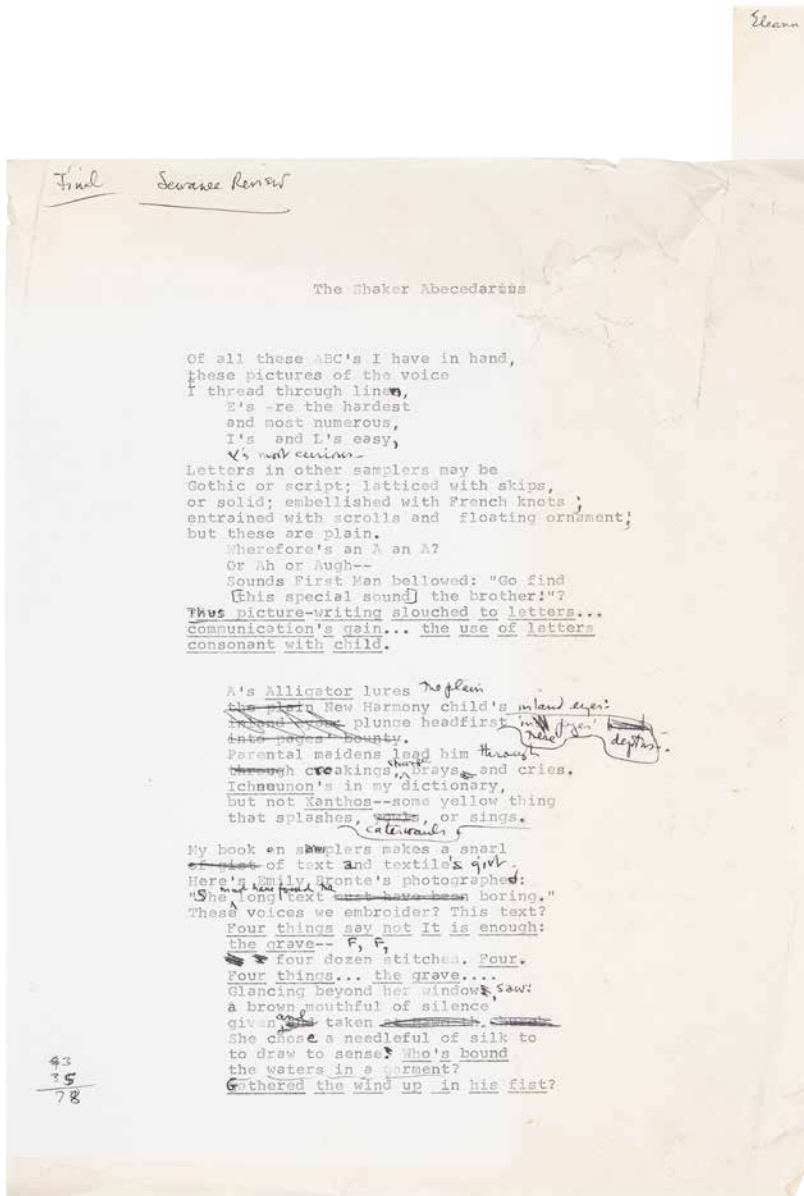


Eleanor Ross Taylor

(Poetry manuscript): *The Shaker Abecedarius*

\$400



Two quarto leaves typed rectos only, ribbon copy (the top copy) heavily hand-corrected by the poet and Signed by the poet on the second page. A bit wrinkled at the top of both leaves, else near fine. Accompanied by the Fall 1992 issue of *The Sewanee Review* where the poem appeared.

Detailed images follow. [BTC#437832]

The Shaker Abecedarius

Of all these ABC's I have in hand,
 these pictures of the voice
 I thread through lines,
 E's are the hardest
 and most numerous,
 I's and L's easy,
 V's most curious.

Letters in other samplers may be
 Gothic or script; latticed with skips,
 or solid; embellished with French knots;
 entrained with scrolls and floating ornament;
 but these are plain.

Wherefore's an A an A?

Or Ah or Augh--

Sounds First Man bellowed: "Go find

[this special sound] the brother!"?

Thus picture-writing slouched to letters...
communication's gain... the use of letters
consonant with child.

A's Alligator lures the plain
~~the plain New Harmony child's inland eyes:~~
~~inland eyes plunge headfirst~~ ^{in 'eyes'}
~~into pages' bounty.~~ ^{here} ^{depths}

Parental maidens lead him through
 through croakings ^{streaks} brays and cries.
 Ichneumon's in my dictionary,
 but not Xanthos--some yellow thing
 that splashes, ~~sings~~, or sings.

My book on samplers makes a snarl
~~of gist of text and textile's gift.~~
 Here's Emily Bronte's photographed:
^{must have found her}
 "She long text ~~must have been boring.~~"
 These voices we embroider? This text?

Four things say not It is enough:
the grave-- F, F,

~~four~~ four dozen stitches. Four.

Four things... the grave...

Glancing beyond her window, saw:
 a brown mouthful of silence
 given, ~~and~~ taken ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~mouth~~.

She chose a needleful of silk to
 to draw to sense? Who's bound
the waters in a garment?

Gathered the wind up in his fist?

Or voice in thread?
Thought in the alphabet?
(This handwork on homespun's
completed on March 31st,
a season done.)

These Shaker limitations charm:
the herbal colors, foxy letters
schemed to save on ~~floss~~ floss,
the single skein, and homely moral.

~~It's when I've done the text;~~
It's when I've done the text;
am through with Zebra,
get past the branches
of that tree, I fear.
The architectural edge
could lead us back

~~to savage voicery.~~

to savage voicery.

But if man's preordained to blaze
from cave man on, pioneer,
to endless knowledge?
Letters cry out for speech,
speech for more letters.

My uncle nursed his unhinged brother,
drove to his institution,
took him for outings.

On a bright country road
he one day shot

Mad Charles and then himself.

How long he ~~waited~~ waited between shots,
whether he wrested words
before each death,
non-speaking roadside birds
may possibly have heard.

If not,
they sleep here in this cradle.

The Seewanee Review

Fiction by WILLIAM HOFFMAN

REDISCOVERING AMERICA

Essays by J. T. BARBARESE, LEWIS P. SIMPSON,
MONROE K. SPEARS, AND JAMES L. W. WEST III

JAMES SLOAN ALLEN AND EARL ROVIT: Reflections on
Columbus

Reviews by M. E. BRADFORD, ROBERT BUFFINGTON,
WILMA R. EBBITT, EDMUND FULLER, GEORGE GARRETT,
DONALD HALL, PAT C. HOY II, STEVEN HELMLING,
PAUL C. LINDHOLDT, DAVID MILLER, PHOEBE PETTINGELL,
SAM PICKERING, WALTER SULLIVAN, LAWRENCE WILLSON

WALLACE FOWLIE AND R. B. HEILMAN: American Theater

Poetry by EDGAR BOWERS, NEAL BOWERS, WILLIAM HARMON,
FREDERICK MORGAN, MICHAEL MOTT, ELEANOR ROSS TAYLOR

Poetic Sequences by WENDELL BERRY AND
CATHARINE SAVAGE BROSMAN

Fall 1992

VOLUME C, NUMBER 4

Each Copy \$10

CENTENNIAL ISSUE

THE SHAKER ABECEDARIUS

ELEANOR ROSS TAYLOR

Of all these ABC's I have in hand,
these pictures of the voice
I thread through linen,
E's are the hardest
and most numerous,
I's and L's easy,
Y's most curious.

Letters in other samplers may be
Gothic or script; latticed with skips,
or solid; embellished with French knots;
entrained with scrolls and floating ornament;
but these are plain.

Wherefore's an A an A?
Or Ah or Augh—
sounds First Man bellowed: "Go find
[this special sound] the brother!"

*Thus picture-writing slouched to letters . . .
communication's gain . . . the use of letters
consonant with child.*

A's Alligator lures the plain
New Harmony child's inland eyes:
plunge headfirst into pages' depth.
Parental maidens lead him through
croakings, strange brays, and cries.
Ichneumon's in my dictionary,
but not *Xanthos*—some yellow thing
that splashes, caterwauls, or sings.

My book on samplers makes a snarl
of text and textile's gist.