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Dancing with Columbus

poems

Robert Hedin

Dancing with Columbus gathers together fifty-two new poems by award-winning Minnesota poet, translator, and editor Robert Hedin. Employing spare, imagistic language, this wide-ranging volume is filled with deeply felt, beautifully crafted poems that explore the themes of loss and reclamation, the integrity of everyday events, and our proper place in the natural world with all its seasonal turnings.

One poem, leavened with the gentlest irony, describes how a farmer named Gustavson "found religion" during a thunderstorm. Another chronicles the migration of waterfowl and monarch butterflies downstream in late fall. One short series deals with the brief heyday of airships during the 1930s. The title poem, tinged with nostalgia, describes a childhood memory of *ad hoc* boxing lessons behind an abandoned boat yard. As poet Joyce Sutphen puts it, these are poems of "putting one's ego aside and letting the craft do its work."

About the Author

Born and raised in Red Wing, Minnesota, Robert Hedin is the author, translator, and editor of more than two dozen books of poetry and prose. The recipient of many honors and awards for his work, including three National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships as well as fellowships from the Bush, McKnight, and Yaddo Foundations, he has taught at the University of Alaska, the University of Minnesota, St. Olaf College, and Wake Forest University. He is co-founder and former director of the Anderson Center at Tower View, a residential artist retreat in Red Wing. His work has been featured on *The Writer's Almanac,* National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*, and in the nationally syndicated column, *American Life in Poetry.* He lives in Frontenac, Minnesota.

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