

TABLE OF CONTENTS

January–February 2002 Issue

EDITORS' NOTE

This issue concentrates on creative risk-taking, what Martin Heidegger called "the venture." The essays here suggest, as Friedrich Hölderlin once wrote, that "where there is danger, there grows / also what saves."

In his Letter to a Young Writer, Edward Hirsch celebrates the adventure of setting out on poetry's "open road." Miranda Field confronts a classroom of rebellious students. Mary Jane Peterson and Susanna Lang describe how taking risks can revive students' individuality. And in this issue's Educating the Imagination interview, Michael Palmer describes the risk of undertaking a poetics in which "the linguistic field is never entirely stable...a source both of great danger and great poetic possibility."

We also hope that you enjoy the semantic adventures of wordplay expert Dave Morice and the sage and courageous writings of Portugal's great writer, Fernando Pessoa.

—Christopher Edgar & Christina Davis

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Letter to a Young Writer Edward Hirsch | 3 |
| Notes from the Chalkboard <i>Rubrics for Risk</i> Mary Jane Peterson | 5 |
| <i>In Their Own Words</i> Susanna Lang | |
| Specimen Days Miranda Field | 11 |
| Illuminations <i>Great Writers on Writing</i> Fernando Pessoa | 17 |
| The Alphabetic New Year & Other Incredible Words Dave Morice | 19 |
| Educating the Imagination <i>Interview with Michael Palmer</i> Daniel Kane | 23 |