

Mark Strand

A Reading of His Poetry

Eating Poetry

Ink runs from the corners of my mouth.
There is no happiness like mine.
I have been eating poetry.

The librarian does not believe what she sees.
Her eyes are sad
and she walks with her hands in her dress.

The poems are gone.
The light is dim.
The dogs are on the basement stairs and
coming up.

Their eyeballs roll,
their blond legs burn like brush.
The poor librarian begins to stamp her feet
and weep.

She does not understand.
When I get on my knees and lick her hand,
she screams.

I am a new man.
I snarl at her and bark.
I romp with joy in the bookish dark.

REASONS FOR MOVING. 1969 ANTHENEUM

Mr. Strand will be reading from his own poetry
as well as his translations of Spanish and
Portuguese poetry.

Mark Strand

*1990 Poet Laureate
of the United States,
Elliot Coleman Professor
of Poetry at Johns Hopkins
University, and art critic*

April 4, 1996

Thursday 4:00 p.m.

Twentieth Century Gallery
Krannert Art Museum

500 West Peabody Drive, Champaign
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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