

POETRY MONTH CELEBRATION & SALE

North Carolina's most famous poet, A.R. Ammons, forever called Columbus County his "home country." He visited often, usually driving 700 miles straight through from Ithaca, New York, to visit sister Vida Ammons Cox and family in Clarkton.

Born February 18, 1926, A.R. Ammons (Whiteville High School class of 1943) served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was studying at Wake Forest College on the GI bill when he met his future wife, Phyllis, his Spanish professor.

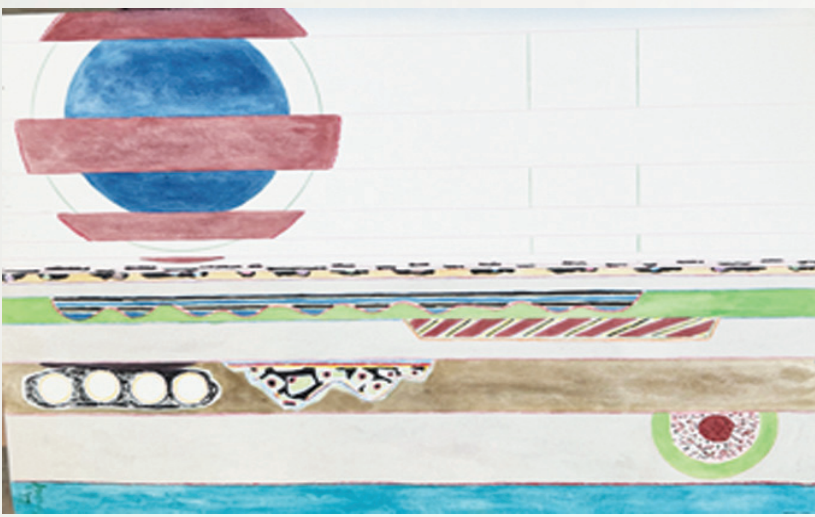
Archie and Phyllis Plumbo Ammons lived for 30 years in Ithaca, where Archie was a beloved poetry professor and mentor at Cornell University, except for a year in the early 1970s when they and their son John all moved to Winston-Salem. That's where Archie and Emily Herring Wilson's friendship began and was cemented--and in 2019 memorialized in Emily's memoir, "When I Go Back to My Home Country"--titled with a line from one of Archie's many Columbus County poems.

Not so many folks know of Archie's talent as a painter, but during two intense periods of his life, he created dozens of watercolors. So, to celebrate poetry month and to honor Archie Ammons and his home country, Emily and her publisher, R.A. Fountain, are offering for sale a number of Ammons original watercolors at prices beginning at \$100 as the feature in a package that also includes a copy of Emily's memoir.

The watercolors are priced & described here: <https://rafountain.com/art/gallery/archie/>

20% discount for purchases of 2 or more paintings for school, library or museum. Personal purchases made at the same time as patron purchases receive the discount.

Contact alex@rafountain.com to arrange the discount & to reserve the paintings you select.



I was born in
Whiteville, a southern place: I can
remember when the sidewalks were
planks over muddy holes and when the
stores were tin-roofed shacks: at
least some of them (the stores): then
Leder's was built, a big department
store in the middle of the block:
but not right in
Whiteville: go about a mile on past
Souls Swamp . . .

--A.R. Ammons

-- from an undated, unpublished scroll housed in ECU's Special Collections

PART LOVING BIOGRAPHY, PART AUTOBIOGRAPHY,

When I Go Back to My Home Country is a deeply felt narrative of Emily Wilson's long friendship with the celebrated poet A. R. Ammons. Unsparring in detail about a complex and enduring relationship, this memoir is a compelling account of her admiration and respect for one of our leading literary figures.

— ROBERT MORGAN



Published by R.A. Fountain Dec. 2019
• 160 pp, trade paperback, w/ gatefold cvr.
• Includes index, sources, and a timeline
• 65 black & white photographs & 3 color prints of Ammons watercolors
• special rates for bookstores & libraries

ARCHIE'S AWARDS

- American Book Award for Poetry, 1973, 1993
- Bollingen Prize, 1975
- MacArthur Fellowship (aka The Genius Grant), 1981
- National Book Critics Circle, 1981
- Library of Congress Bobbit Nat'l Prize for Poetry, 1993
- Robert Frost Medal, 1994
- Ruth Lilly Prize, 1995
- Wallace Stevens Award, 1998
- Elected Fellow of American Academy of Arts & Letters, 1998
- Elected to NC Literary Hall of Fame, 2000



also published by R.A. Fountain