

jected third epic poem (following *Homage to Mistress Bradstreet* and *77 Dream Songs*, 1965 winner of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award). Berryman considered he had completed the "Henry poems," written in the voice of a middle-aged white American characterized by a need for women, cigarettes, liquor, freedom, and an understanding of the past, with the publication of *His Toy, His Dream, His Rest*. But these new dream songs are rich additions—about travel, teaching, age. Some of the poems written just before his death view an alcoholics' ward with a compassionate, almost sociological eye. A testament concludes this collection: *The rest is for the blessed. The rest is bells / at sundown off across a dozen lawns, / a lake, two stands of laurel, where they come / out of phase three mild toward the sacristy.*

AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FAIRIES: Hobgoblins, Brownies, Bogies, and Other Supernatural Creatures

by Katherine Briggs
Pantheon, 1976
481 pp. \$12.95
L of C 76-12939
ISBN 0-394-40918-3

Asked if she believes in fairies, Oxonian Katherine Briggs, author of *The Anatomy of Puck* and many other books, won't clap her hands. In the foreword to this encyclopedia/anthology, she declares herself "an agnostic." Readers of Shakespeare and Spenser, Bruno Bettelheim's *The Uses of Enchantment*, or Sylvia Townsend Warner's *New Yorker* stories, who consult Briggs for historical information or literary reference, are apt to find themselves, hours later, entrapped by this book's "glamour." (Defined by Briggs as originally a Scottish word in undoubted use in the 18th century. It "signified a mesmerism or enchantment cast over the senses, so that things were perceived or not as the enchanter wished. Gipsies, witches, and above all fairies had this power.")

Religion

FORGOTTEN TRUTH: The Primordial Tradition
by Huston Smith
Harper, 1976, 182 pp. \$8.95
L of C 74-15850
ISBN 0-06-013902-1

In this stimulating work, Huston Smith, an eminent student of world religions, defends the traditional wisdom of the ancient faiths. He sees them as a necessary complement and correction to the reigning scientism of the West, whose assumptions he challenges (or,

as in the case of Darwinian evolutionism, rejects). Smith's own religiosity can be described as a harmonious mixture of elements from Platonism, Hinduism, Sufism, Zen, classical Christianity, and Jung; among Christian theologians, Dionysius the Areopagite (sometimes called Pseudo-Dionysius), 1st-century author of *The Divine Names and the Mystical Theology*, seems to have a special attraction for him.

Science & Technology

FORCES OF NATURE

edited by Sir Vivian Fuchs
Holt, 1977, 303 pp. \$25
L of C 76-3973
ISBN 0-03-17591-7

MISSION TO EARTH:

Landsat Views the World
by Nicholas M. Short et al.
NASA, GPO, 1976
462 pp. \$14
L of C 76-608116

British geologist Sir Vivian Fuchs has assembled a generally well-illustrated survey of nature's more powerful earth and atmospheric forces (volcanoes, avalanches, tornadoes, lightning) doing their damaging worst. The emphasis, in photos, drawings, and literate essays by noted scientists, is on catastrophic or periodic fluctuations in nature's behavior—and the impact of these episodes on what we have come to consider man's environment. *Forces of Nature* is written in popular style but reflects controversies and recent advances in various fields. Essays on the origin and place of life in the physical environment and on the latest advances in global environmental studies from satellites are commendably handled.

What today's earth is like as seen from space, replete with the traces left by glaciers, drought, changing river courses—and by building, polluting man—can be studied in the lavish collection of Landsat satellite pictures made available by NASA and the U.S. Government Printing Office. *Mission to Earth* must be the book bargain of the year. Its 400 plates, almost all in color, are admirably reproduced. Introductory material and appendixes explain the application to which these startlingly detailed images have already lent themselves (in agricultural crop classification, forestry, desert control, land use, mapping, identification of water pollution sources, geology). Landsat's sensors cover a range greater than that of the human eye; its "scenes" measure 115 miles square.