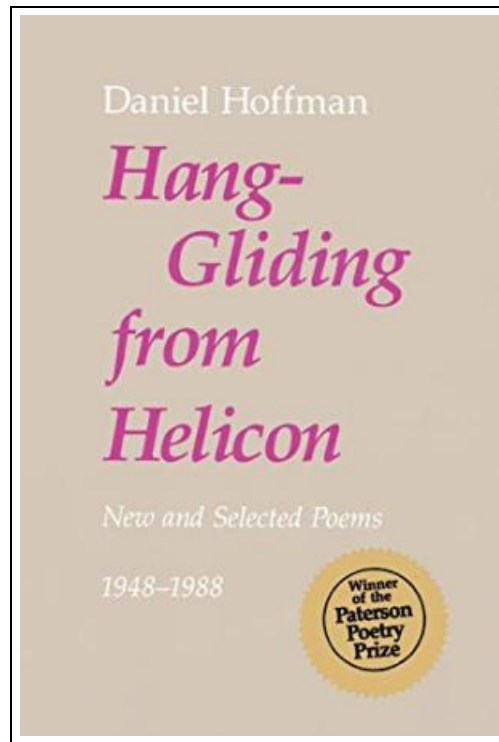


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HANG-GLIDING FROM HELICON: NEW AND SELECTED POEMS, 1948-1988 (PAPERBACK)



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Louisiana State University Press, United States, 1988. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English. Brand new Book. When Daniel Hoffman published a brief volume of selected poems in England, the Times Literary Supplement praised "his zestful verbal performance, supple use of rhyme and other sound effects" that "make the processes of his writing interesting." That same vitality and interest inform Hang-Gliding from Helicon, which presents more than forty new poems and a generous selection from six of Hoffman's previous books. Commenting on the most recent of these in the Southern Review, Monroe K. Spears wrote, "Hoffman's new volume seems to me to establish his claim to the title of major poet." In the New Republic, Josephine Jacobsen observed: "Three major strands knit into a strong texture: myth, history, and immediate experience . . . What he once wrote of Robert Graves is true of his own work: both combine 'A Dionysian compulsion to belief with an Apollonian clarity of presentation.'" In the opening piece of this volume, entitled "The Poem," Hoffman writes: True to itself, by what craft And strength it has, it has come As a sole survivor returns From the steep pass. Carved on memory's staff The legend is nearly decipherable. It has lived up to its vows If it endures The journey through the dark places To bear witness, Casting its message In a sort of singing. Hoffman's poetry is a celebration of life, yet some of his poems have dark implications. "The City of Satisfaction" is a journey into the haunted heart of the American dream. "The Center of Attention" portrays a suicidal man being taunted by a crowd to jump from a bridge, and "Witnesses" explores the aftermath of a car wreck on a desolate stretch of rural highway. Each of Hoffman's poems represents a striking response to the moments of...



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