



A man who can still make us laugh after thirty years of reporting our times is a good man to have around.

Jack Smith's own explanation of how he does it is characteristically disarming: "My trouble is that I don't know the inside of anything. I've been trapped in a number of institutions in my day, but I could never figure out what was going on. I ought to know something about the newspaper business—the real inside. The truth is, take me fifty feet away from the city desk and I'm in Oz."

Fans of his *Los Angeles Times* column and of his first book, *Three Coins in the Birdbath*, have other explanations. My favorite appeared in the *Columbus, Ohio Dispatch*: "Optimistically he shores up the creaking joints of time and makes them work." Richard Armour puts it this way: "Smith is very funny, but he also arouses our sympathy. For if Smith is a square in a round world, so are most of us. His frustrations, his little joys, his big dreams, are also ours." The line we put on the jacket of his new book, *SMITH ON WRYYYY*, suggests another reason why Jack Smith wears so well. "Witty reports on our times from a man who will never be folded, spindled, or mutilated," it says.

After dipping into *SMITH ON WRYYYY*, I am the richer for getting to know the family, animals, and total strangers who pass through Jack Smith's living room. And I am the merrier for sharing his adventures in the great world outside (where hippies, bellydancers, and landlords roam) and in his backyard, where neighbor Dalton emerges as one of today's favorites among his escapades, such as a traditional bird count or breaking into the Colonel Bogie March to drown the humming in one's head. You'll have yours.

L.L. Day
Editor-at-Large

SMITH ON WRYYYY (\$5.95), by Jack Smith, is published by Doubleday & Company, Inc., 277 Park Avenue, New York 10017. Copies may be obtained from your own bookseller or any Doubleday Book Shop, one of which is located at 218 North Park Center, Dallas, Texas 75225.

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Visions of a New Religion

by Marcia Cavell

Cover photo: Stained glass, Austrian, ca. 1380, "The Annunciation," from the Schlosskapelle Ebreichsdorf, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Cloisters Collection, purchase 1936



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Visions of a New Religion

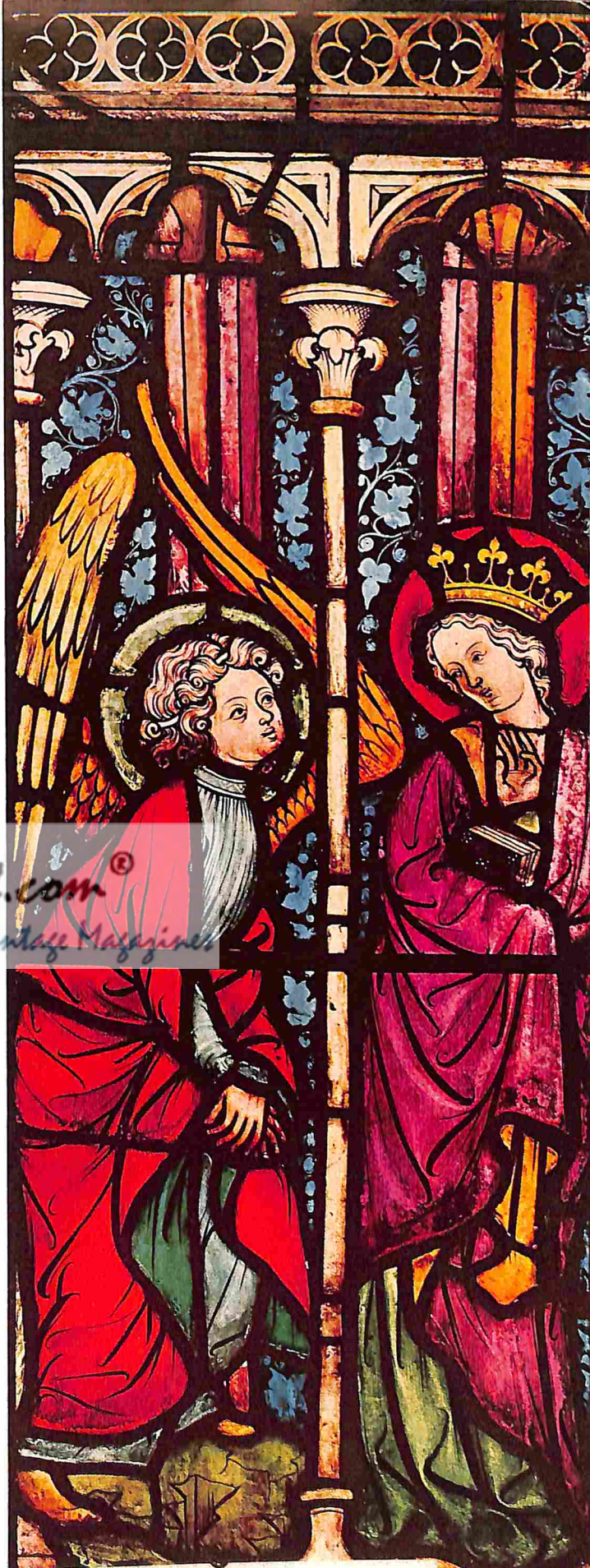
by Marcia Cavell

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