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A poet-friend once said to me that one good poem justified a poet's existence. I recalled his remark as I turned the last page of John L'Heureux's new book, NO PLACE FOR HIDING, that we have just published. I had felt as I read that this poet had somewhat more than justified his existence: one good poem followed another and there are two quite extraordinary long poems, "The Daughter of Her House" and "from St. Ignatius Loyola, Founder of the Jesuits: His Autobiography."

I asked John L'Heureux to tell me how he himself regarded this collection and his answer—like his poems—was vivid and original. "It is," he said, "a book about wars. It is about wars of the flesh and spirit. Wars of the heart and mind. And because it is about war, it is principally about love. About war and about love. It is a commonplace book of human folly."

Love, if not war, one would suspect, informs all of his poetry. James Dickey has noticed in John L'Heureux's earlier work "a sense of the poet's going eagerly toward events and people, open-handed and open hearted, wanting to understand and love." Many of his poems are love poems both earthy and delicate, and the *Library Journal* took note of the "Donne-like essence" of his short poems.

As I read I found myself caught and interested by the versatility and control of this poet. Passion peaks into irony, the underside of wit is revealed as gravity. And beneath his humor there is often a sense of terror, as in "The Thing about Cats," or "Evening Prayer." But writing about poetry can't really convey what one experiences in reading it, and so I want to quote a few lines from one of John L'Heureux's poems:

*I am locked in a Grecian vase,  
smooth,  
with music for a shell. Nothing  
is right.  
Find me find me answer*

It's intense and arresting. Fine poetry that strikes for the heart. I recommend it.

**L.L. Day**  
EDITOR-AT-LARGE

NO PLACE FOR HIDING (\$4.50; paperbound, \$1.95), by John L'Heureux, 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 6315 York Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21212.

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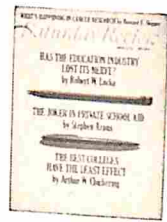
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by Robert W. Locke

Cover design: Bob Cato



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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CANCER RESEARCH by Howard E. Skipper

# *Saturday Review*

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