

Classic Poetry Series

Haniel Long

- poems -

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Haniel Long (9 March 1888 – 17 October 1956)

Haniel Clark Long was an American poet, novelist, publisher and academic. He is best known for his novella, *Interlinear to Cabeza de Vaca* (1936), a fictionalized account of the true story of a Spanish conquistador in 16th century North America.

Life and career

Born to Methodist missionaries Samuel P. and May Clark in what is now Myanmar (then known as Rangoon, Burma), Haniel Long was taken to Pittsburgh at the age of three with his family. Educated at Phillips Exeter Academy and Harvard, Long started a career as a reporter for the *New York Globe* but returned to Pittsburgh to teach at the Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon). He was promoted to head the English Department in 1920, the same year his first book was published, *Poems*, a collection of his poetry. In 1926 he published a collection of fairy tale-like short stories called *Notes for a New Mythology*.

Long moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1929 with his wife Alice and his son Anton for health reasons, and spent the rest of his life there. He helped founding a publishing organization called *Writers' Editions*, which concentrated on works by New Mexican authors. The organization published Long's poetry collection, *Atlantides*, in 1933 and his *Pittsburgh Memoranda* in 1935. In 1936 *Interlinear to Cabeza de Vaca* appeared, considered Long's best statement of his beliefs on man's place in the world.

Long continued to publish other works over the next two decades: *Walt Whitman and the Springs of Courage* (1938), *Malinche (Dona Marina)* (1939), *Pinon Country* (1941), *Children, Students and a Few Adults* (1942), *French Soldier Home from Being a War Prisoner* (1942), *The Grist Mill* (1945), and *A Letter to St. Augustine* (1950). He also wrote for the *New Mexico Sentinel*, editing its writers' page. Long finished his final novel, *Spring Returns*, in 1956 shortly before his death. It was published posthumously, as were two other works: *If He Can Make Her So* (1968) and *My Seasons* (1977).

The main repository for Long's manuscripts is the Special Collections of the Libraries of the University of California, Los Angeles, with other material at Carnegie Mellon and Washington University in St. Louis. Long died in 1956.

Works:

Interlinear to Cabeza de Vaca (1936)
Walt Whitman and the Springs of Courage (1938)
Malinche (Dona Marina) (1939)
Pinon Country (1941)
Children, Students and a Few Adults (1942)

French Soldier Home from Being a War Prisoner (1942)
The Grist Mill (1945)
A Letter to St. Augustine (1950)
Spring Returns (1956)
If He Can Make Her So (1968)
My Seasons (1977)

Butterflies

There will be butterflies,
There will be summer skies
And flowers upthrust,
When all that Caesar bids,
And all the pyramids
Are dust.

There will be gaudy wings
Over the bones of things,
And never grief:
Who says that summer skies,
Who says that butterflies,
Are brief?

Haniel Long

Daphnis and Chloe

You found it difficult to woo—
so do we who follow you.

Everyone would like to mate;
Everyone has had to wait.

So much beauty, so much burning!
But ages pass as we are learning.

Haniel Long

Dead Men Tell No Tales

They say that dead men tell no tales!

Except of barges with red sails
And sailors mad for nightingales;

Except of jongleurs stretched at ease
Beside old highways through the trees;

Except of dying moons that break
The hearts of lads who lie awake;

Except of fortresses in shade,
And heroes crumbled and betrayed.

But dead men tell no tales, they say!

Except old tales that burn away
The stifling tapestries of day:

Old tales of life, of love and hate,
Of time and space, and will, and fate.

Haniel Long

The Poet

I take what never can be taken,
Touch what cannot be;
I wake what never could awaken,
But for me.

I go where only winds are going,
Kiss what fades away;
I know a thing too strange for knowing,
I, the clay.

Haniel Long