



*This Morning*  
 New Hanover County Arboretum  
 Wilmington, North Carolina  
 Photo by Dan Hardison

## The Round

*Stanley Kunitz*

Light splashed this morning  
 on the shell-pink anemones  
 swaying on their tall stems;  
 down blue-spiked veronica  
 light flowed in rivulets  
 over the humps of the honeybees;  
 this morning I saw light kiss  
 the silk of the roses  
 in their second flowering,  
 my late bloomers  
 flushed with their brandy.  
 A curious gladness shook me.

So I have shut the doors of my house,  
 so I have trudged downstairs to my cell,  
 so I am sitting in semi-dark  
 hunched over my desk  
 with nothing for a view  
 to tempt me  
 but a bloated compost heap,  
 steamy old stinkpile,  
 under my window;  
 and I pick my notebook up  
 and I start to read aloud  
 the still-wet words I scribbled  
 on the blotted page:  
 "Light splashed . . ."

I can scarcely wait till tomorrow  
 when a new life begins for me,  
 as it does each day;  
 as it does each day.