



blue
Scorpion
poems by
Julie Fay



Truman State University Press
New Odyssey Series

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For Henry Stindt
For Zoë Fay-Stindt
and
For Dudkey Holland Fay

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Acknowledgments

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Poems and Sources: The Literary Review, Thomas Kennedy, editor,
reprinted "Estuary" along with an essay on how it came to be

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Notes

Sundays: Rebecca's on the Hill

gâteaux: cakes

mange-touts: snow peas

aubergines: eggplants

boules: popular game in southern France played with heavy fist-sized balls tossed by each player

Les Rochers des Vierges: literally, the Virgins' Rocks, a limestone outcropping in the Herault river valley and is the subject of local legends

Cherries, 1983

cassoulet: a country dish of southwestern France made with conserved goose, sausages, and beans

santons: finely detailed and costumed clay figurines that represent different trades indigenous to southern France, such as those of farmers, shepherds, etc.

Pilgrimage: Mount Canigou

June 23, the feast of Saint John, is the national holiday of Catalonia. People return from all corners of the world to replenish the flame that represents their culture.

Two Languages and Witches at Saint Guilhem

Langue d'Oc is "the language of Oc," that is, Occitan, also known as Provençal. The Languedoc is a geographical region in southern France.

Saint-Guilhem-le-Desert is a village known for its Romanesque church and its attendant cloister, a substantial portion of which was sold and is now reconstructed in New York's Cloisters Museum on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

falaises: cliffs

sirop du pêche: peach syrup used to make drink often served to children

Arles: World Cup Semi-Final at the 25th Annual

International Photo Conference

exceptionnellement ce soir: tonight only

le match du foot: soccer game

fans du foot: soccer fans

on va gagner: we're going to win!

Mistral: Provençal poet, also the name of a wind that often blows down the Rhone River

Midi: southern France

Remy, s'il vous plait, Madame: Remy is a brand of cognac

Zidane: France's most-loved soccer player

on a gagné: we won!

Les Très Riches Heures

les très riches heures: the very rich hours; also remembers du Barry's medieval illuminations of the seasons

dépaysée: disoriented

sanglier: wild boar

s.v.p.: *s'il vous plait*, please

Larzac: high plain area at the southern end of the Massif Central mountain range in France used largely by sheep and goat farmers. Site of a French military base. In 1973, over 100,000 demonstrators occupied the Larzac plateau to protest the French military's plan to expand its area base, an act that would deprive local farmers of their livelihoods. One of those farmers was Jose Bové who has since become one of the world's most popular and outspoken leaders against globalization and worldwide corporate expansion. Founder of the Confederation Paysanne, a leftist peasant farmers' union, he has been imprisoned for political causes numerous times. In 2003, he served time for having led a group years earlier in dismantling a newly constructed McDonald's restaurant in Millau, France. That same year, the thirtieth anniversary of the Larzac sit-in was recognized and some 300,000 people rallied for a three-day conference.

enceinte: protective wall constructed around a village

co-opé: wine cooperative

chez lui: at home

rouge en vrac: bulk wine bought in large containers filled by pumps similar to those used at gas stations

Bonjour coquine... Hello you little rascal, did you sleep well? She's mad, she's pouting, she's spoiled.

santé: cheers

chez Tata's: Tata in French is "auntie" but is sometimes used for a close female friend of the family

Winter Story for Henry

FUBAR: fucked up beyond all recognition!

Wednesday Night

Les Sourcières: Witches

West, East, Sunday

See article by Ian Fisher, *New York Times*, 31 May 1999, "Crisis in the Balkans: Refugees; They Were Human Shields When 80 Died, Kosovars Say."

marche aux puces: flea market

ados: adolescents

fabriqué en France: made in France

Carapace

cigales: cicadas

garrigue: brush

chêne: oak

marchands: sellers

crotte: shit

Gathering Tilleul

tilleul: lime blossom or linden tree leaves are used for herbal tea

Virelai

jeux de mot: play on words

emmenthal: swiss cheese

Heat Wave

bouffées de chaleur: hot flashes

Larzac 2003

See note for "Les Très Riches Heures"

pompiers: firemen

Priming Tobacco/Picking Grapes

saucisson: salami or dried sausage

Ballade of the Four Winds

misère: extreme poverty, also Wandering Jew plant

About the Author

Julie Fay is the author of three previous poetry collections, including *The Woman Behind You* (Pitt Poetry Series, 1999.) Her work has appeared in numerous anthologies, including *Breadloaf Anthology of New American Poets, Poems & Sources*, *A Formal Feeling Comes: Women's Formal Poetry*, and *Poetry Daily: 366 Poems from the World's Most Popular Poetry Website*. Professor of English at East Carolina University and 2004-2005 Fulbright Scholar at Université Paul Valéry, Montpellier, France, she lives in North Carolina and southern France.