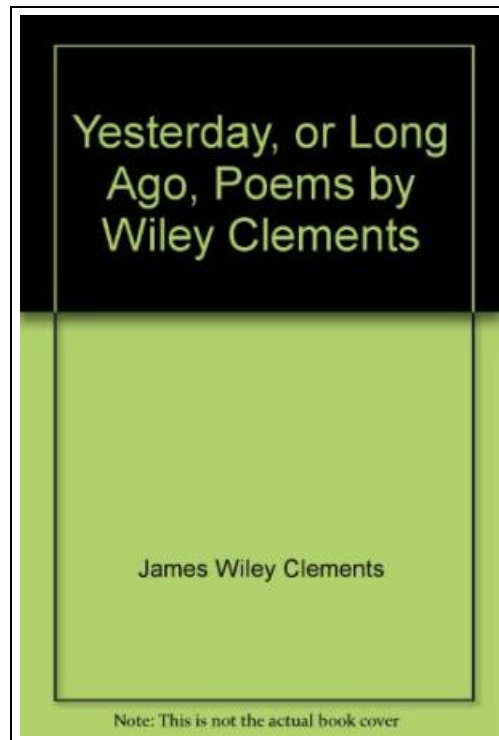


Yesterday, or Long Ago - Poems by Wiley Clements



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YESTERDAY, OR LONG AGO - POEMS BY WILEY CLEMENTS



Clock & Rose Press, Harwich Port, 2004. Cloth. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. Campbell, Jeanette Sloan (illustrator). First Edition. First trade edition, preceded by a limited, numbered & signed edition of 125 copies. Cloth binding, 93 pp. James Wiley Clements, although he would deny it, stands as a remnant of a transitory time in the evolution of our consciousness as a people. This is a man who stood with Douglas MacArthur on the bridge of his flagship at Inchon, Korea, when to be an American was to stand for bravery, strength, and compassion- virtues we seem to have lost sight of now. Born in 1928 and raised by his grandmother on a one-mule farm in rural Alabama, the product of a fundamentalist Christian upbringing, he made the transition into a world larger than any he could have envisioned as a child. It is his (and our) gift that he observed the details of this passage so well and for so long. These poems, his first published book, preserve a perspective both wry and gentle that is almost extinct in American letters. These are immensely appealing poems: sometimes caustic, sometimes pensive, always alive with a vivid undercurrent of humor and compassion. He speaks to the Confederate dead, whose dying world shaped his early days. He speaks to the grace and humility that lives in all of us, urging, in his understated manner, a return to the roots of our national humanity before it withers away entirely. Wiley would say these are the simple poems of a simple man near the end of his days. He'd say he's publishing them because he wants to please a few friends and leave something behind for his grandson to remember him by. Yet, in "Yesterday, or Long Ago" there is a palpable sense...



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