

The Angle

Volume 1970 | Issue 2

Article 26

1970

Critic's Choice

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Recommended Citation

Bisky, Tom (1970) "Critic's Choice," *The Angle*: Vol. 1970 : Iss. 2 , Article 26.
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Cover Page Footnote

Appeared in the issue: Spring 1970.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

A Self-Contained Dialogue Between
An Overly Credulous Critic and a Self-Deprecating Author

TOO MANY TIMES, FOR WANT OF RHYMES,
I'VE PENNED SOME SORRY VERSE;
THIS POEM'S SO BAD, IT'S SAFE TO ADD
ONE COULDN'T MAKE IT WORSE.

Crit.

“But tarry, friend, and look again
At that first line and scan it:
There's counterpointed rhythm there!
You say you didn't plan it?”

“That line's also alliterative;
So's the second. That's good timing!
And gaze at one and three again;
They've got internal rhyming!”

Auth.

“To analyze *ex post facto*
Does wonders for a work!”

Crit.

“What's that? You think I'm fetching far?
You say it's all a quirk?”

“You say the third line's “hissing”
Makes it sound too harsh, too hard?
You say you've “jammed your consonants?”
So what! That's AVANTE GARDE!”

“How dare you scorn a monument
To the noble Bard's profession
When perhaps his spirit moved your pen
To yield your theme's expression!”

Auth.

“Yes, I've come to the conclusion
That I cannot make it better:
This little masterpiece of mine
Is perfect to the letter.”