

Sam Cornish

The Man From Laramie

--for James Sock

“No one knew anything about him”
-- lyrics from the theme by Ned Washington

just a man	longing
for his brother	a stranger
riding	out
of an old man's dream	in a white hat
two guns at his side	they hog tied him
dragged his squirming	body through
the campfire	the salt and dust
he had been loading	his mule drawn wagons
up with salt	when they caught
him on the flats	on the old man's
range just salt	but the range
is the old man they	
shot him left	

a bullet
in his gunhand

left him with the dead mules	the burning
wagons	the angry man

from Laramie nobody knew anything about
him 'cept he was diggin

on the old man's range

Sam Cornish is the city of Boston's first Poet Laureate. He published nine volumes of poetry, several pamphlets and has been anthologized many times. His poetry has also appeared in many of the country's leading publications including, *Kenyon Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Essence Magazine*, *Angi Review*, *Evergreen Review*, *University of Tampa Poetry Review*, *Black Poetry*, *Work*, *Obsidian*, *Greenfield Review*, *Ann Arbor Review*, *Camels Coming*, *Hiram Review*, *Grand Street Magazine* to name a few. He was Poet-In-Residence at Emerson College, 1979-80 and also taught there from 1982 to 2004. He was Visiting Instructor on African-American Poetry at The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. Cornish was a guest editor of *Ploughshares* and the *Ann Arbor Review*.

He is the recipient of numerous grants and awards, including an NEA Fellowship, NEA Award, ALA Notable Book Citation and a grant from the Mass. Council on the Arts.