

## Wilderness House Literary Review 12/1

*Jack D. Harvey*

### **What History Teaches**

Follow a variety of interests;  
take pleasure  
in what history presents.

Actual government?

No, but Rome in a ring  
with the other beasts.

Xerxes returning  
commends our own times,  
commends the fierce grace  
of automobiles.

Time and chance afford  
us only one opportunity.  
Although the ages  
do not alter us,  
this is not the fault  
of old men.