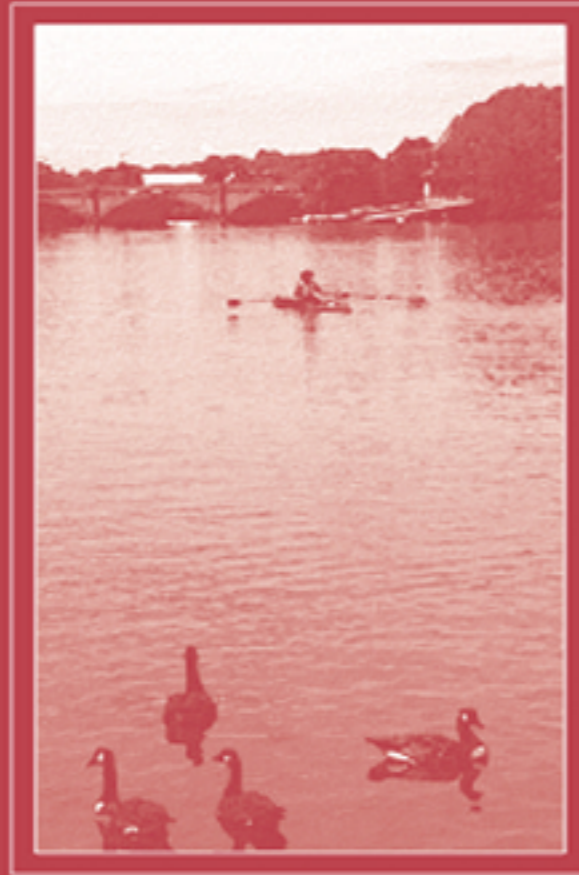


CHARLES RIVER REVIEW

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THE HARVARD EXTENSION SCHOOL WRITING PROGRAM

K.M. CHURCHILL

WOODWORKING

By K.M. Churchill

*Motherhood is bright torture.
I was not worthy of it...*
- Akhmatova¹

Would that she were a woodworker;
How gently she would blow
The cherry dust away
And lift aside the curls,
Caught fallen from her shave.

How standing back she'd gaze,
With learned craftsman's eye,
Upon the graceful curves
Of polished beech wood bellies,
And sturdy tapered legs

Their simple striking shapes
Still smelling faintly of sandalwood
Of linseed oil and lavender.
How deftly she would place
The spirit level, and wait.

¹ Academy of American Poets. 1997. "Anna Akhmatova." 1997, Poets.org, February 10, 2009.
<<http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/1>>