



2013

Autumn Day

Rainer Maria Rilke

Michael Ritterson
Gettysburg College

Roles

Author: Rainer Maria Rilke

Translator: Michael Ritterson, Gettysburg College

Follow this and additional works at: <http://cupola.gettysburg.edu/gerfac>

 Part of the [German Language and Literature Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Share feedback about the accessibility of this item.

Rilke, Rainer Maria. "Autumn Day." Trans. Michael Ritterson. *F&M Alumni Arts Review* 2 (2013): 90-91.

This is the publisher's version of the work. This publication appears in Gettysburg College's institutional repository by permission of the copyright owner for personal use, not for redistribution. Cupola permanent link: <http://cupola.gettysburg.edu/gerfac/18>

This open access creative writing is brought to you by The Cupola: Scholarship at Gettysburg College. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of The Cupola. For more information, please contact cupola@gettysburg.edu.

Autumn Day

Abstract

This is the English translation of the poem “Herbsttag” by Rainer Maria Rilke, from his *Buch der Bilder* (1902).

Keywords

Herbsttag, poetry

Disciplines

German Language and Literature | Poetry

Autumn Day

TRANSLATED BY MICHAEL RITTERSON '62

Lord: it is time. The summer was immense.
Lay down your shadow on the sundials' faces,
and over meadows now unleash your winds.

Command that laggard fruits be full in time,
grant them just two more days of southern warming,
urge them to ripe fullness now, instilling
the final sweetness into heady wine.

| 91 |

Who has no house now shall not build him one.
Who is alone now shall be long alone,
shall watch late, reading, writing endless letters,
and shall roam up and down the avenues
a restless wanderer in the driving leaves.