

jected third epic poem (following *Homage to Mistress Bradstreet* and *77 Dream Songs*, 1965 winner of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award). Berryman considered he had completed the "Henry poems," written in the voice of a middle-aged white American characterized by a need for women, cigarettes, liquor, freedom, and an understanding of the past, with the publication of *His Toy, His Dream, His Rest*. But these new dream songs are rich additions—about travel, teaching, age. Some of the poems written just before his death view an alcoholics' ward with a compassionate, almost sociological eye. A testament concludes this collection: *The rest is for the blessed. The rest is bells / at sundown off across a dozen lawns, / a lake, two stands of laurel, where they come / out of phase three mild toward the sacristy.*

AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FAIRIES: Hobgoblins, Brownies, Bogies, and Other Supernatural Creatures

by Katherine Briggs
Pantheon, 1976
481 pp. \$12.95
L of C 76-12939
ISBN 0-394-40918-3

Asked if she believes in fairies, Oxonian Katherine Briggs, author of *The Anatomy of Puck* and many other books, won't clap her hands. In the foreword to this encyclopedia/anthology, she declares herself "an agnostic." Readers of Shakespeare and Spenser, Bruno Bettelheim's *The Uses of Enchantment*, or Sylvia Townsend Warner's *New Yorker* stories, who consult Briggs for historical information or literary reference, are apt to find themselves, hours later, entrapped by this book's "glamour." (Defined by Briggs as originally a Scottish word in undoubted use in the 18th century. It "signified a mesmerism or enchantment cast over the senses, so that things were perceived or not as the enchanter wished. Gipsies, witches, and above all fairies had this power.")

Religion

FORGOTTEN TRUTH: The Primordial Tradition
by Huston Smith
Harper, 1976, 182 pp. \$8.95
L of C 74-15850
ISBN 0-06-013902-1

In this stimulating work, Huston Smith, an eminent student of world religions, defends the traditional wisdom of the ancient faiths. He sees them as a necessary complement and correction to the reigning scientism of the West, whose assumptions he challenges (or,