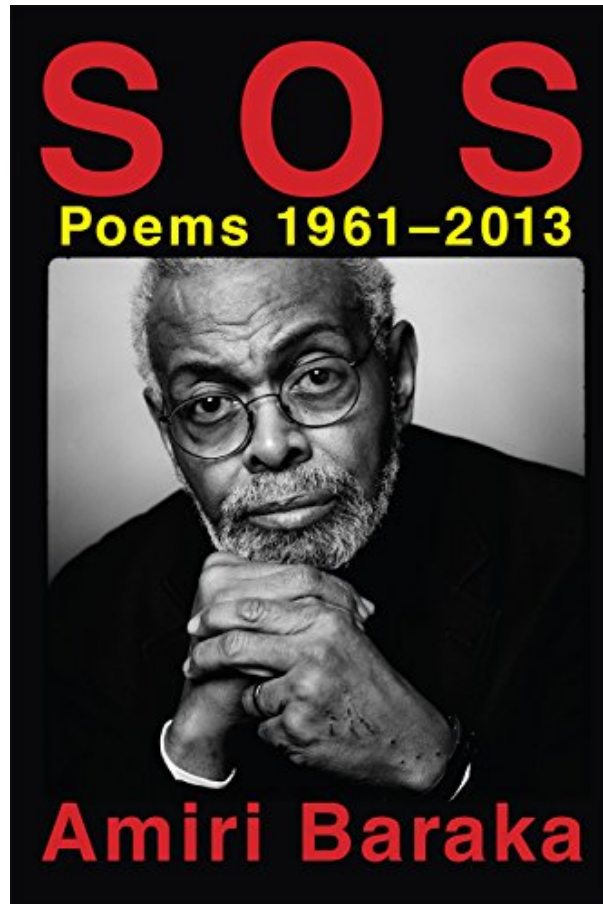
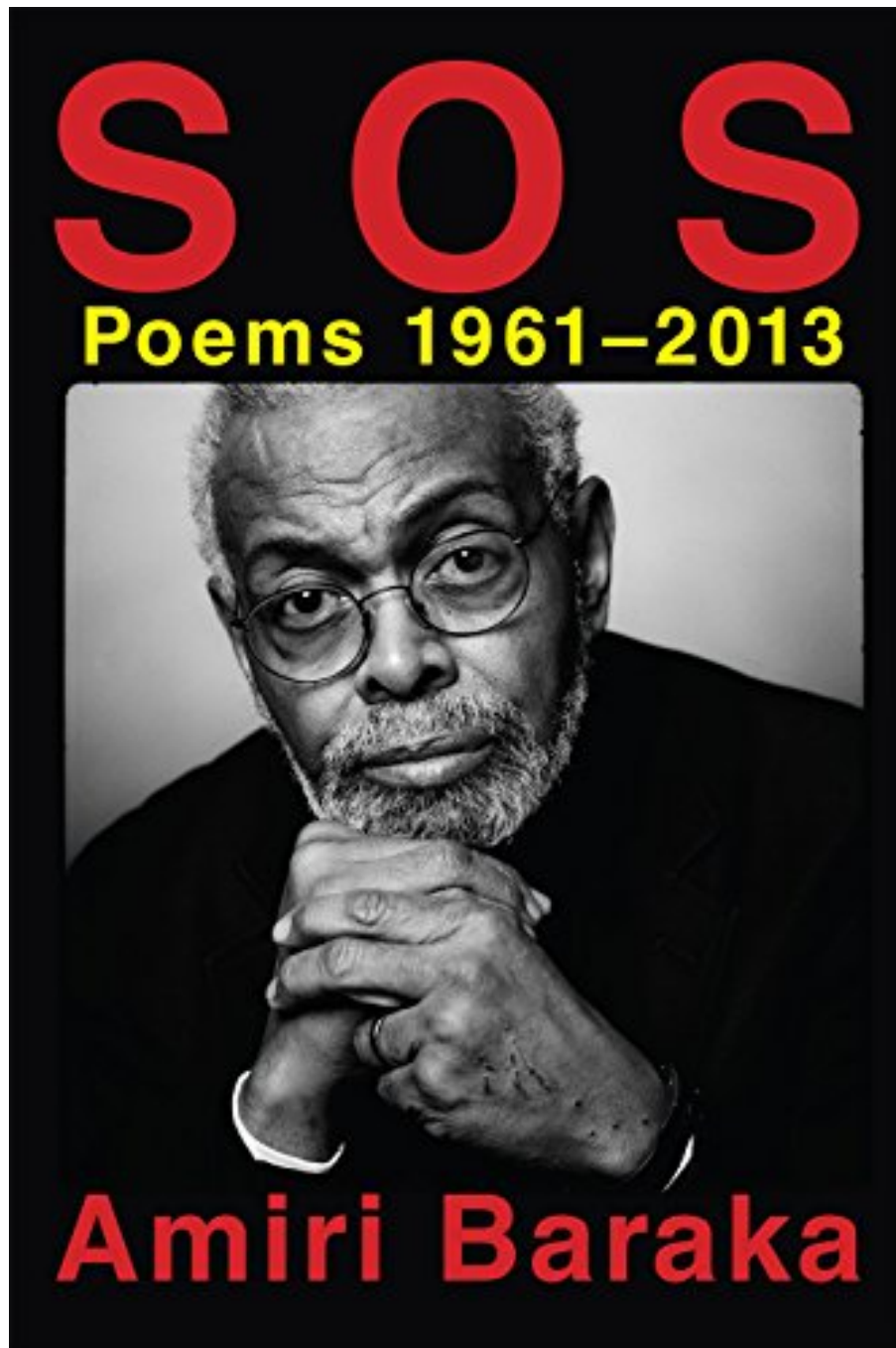


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Review

Praise for S O S: Poems 1961-2013

A New York Times Editors' Choice

"The most complete representation of over a half-century of revolutionary and breathtaking work."
—Claudia Rankine, New York Times Book Review

"S O S provides readers with rich, vital views of the African American experience and of Baraka's own evolution as a poet-activist. . . . Baraka is as adept with spare, imagistic lines as with lyrical realism. Racist, provincial ideas earn his angry unmasking as he sings, shouts and shakes a fist at corruption and ignorance."
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"[S O S is] a signal of blunt urgency . . . this is undeniably the work of the kind of poet we will not see again; Amiri Baraka was one of the last of the 20th century's literary lions. This momentous collection exhibits his abiding resistance to almost everything, but subversiveness." —Terrance Hayes, Publishers Weekly (boxed review)

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A New York Times Editors' Choice

Fusing the personal and the political in high-voltage verse, Amiri Baraka—"whose long illumination of the black experience in America was called incandescent in some quarters and incendiary in others" (New York Times)—was one of the preeminent literary innovators of the past century. Selected by Paul Vangelisti, this volume comprises the fullest spectrum of Baraka's rousing, revolutionary poems, from his first collection to previously unpublished pieces composed during his final years.

Throughout Baraka's career as a prolific writer (also published as LeRoi Jones), he was vehemently outspoken against oppression of African American citizens, and he radically altered the discourse surrounding racial inequality. The environments and social values that inspired his poetics changed during the course of his life, a trajectory that can be traced in this retrospective spanning more than five decades of profoundly evolving subjects and techniques. Praised for its lyricism and introspection, his early poetry emerged from the Beat generation, while his later writing is marked by intensely rebellious fervor and subversive ideology. All along, his primary focus was on how to live and love in the present moment despite the enduring difficulties of human history.

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5 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Amiri Baraka aka Leroy Jones is one of the greatest poets of the century

By William T. Greene Jr.

Amiri Baraka aka Leroy Jones is one of the greatest poets of the century. This compilation of his poems is the landscape of his life and offers deep insights in the social, psychological and literary culture of African Americans. His passionate defense of the creativity and sensitivity of the black artist in America is unparalleled. He is not to be judged by his politics but the brilliance and honesty he brings in articulating the rage of what Gunnar Myrdal labeled the American Dilemma. Unfortunately, often unlooked or rarely discussed is Baraka's full command of the American and European literary tradition, including Pound,

Shakespeare, Faulkner, Dostoyevsky, Dickens, Richard Wright, Camus, Sartre, Joyce and an infinite numbers of artists and playwrights. And there is no better expert of the historical tradition and relevancy of Jazz and Blues. This book is something every American should read.

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His poems flow like Monk or Miles

By B. Bergerious

Baraka's words have a dark and brooding musical power. His poems flow like Monk or Miles, surveying the landscape of their gifts. Following him from beat poet to third world Marxist, shows the true beauty of the African American intellectual mind, at work. This collection shows that Baraka's whole writing career was based on the idea of transition. Movement controlled every aspect of his work. His restless spirit, could easily be a measuring stick for black people's existence in this country as a whole. Our path and growth could easily be tracked in each one of his literary personas. No other poet has taken the mantle of cultural spokesmen with more conviction, before or since.

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By knowing the literary establishment better than it knew itself

By M K M

A literary giant; the most important American poet who's writing impressed upon the 20th century and the 21st as he continued to engage topics like 9 11. By knowing the literary establishment better than it knew itself, Baraka emerged first as beat (Ginsberg and O'Hara), father of the black arts movement, and a third world marxist. This is the extensive volume that includes his later work, the most stylistically innovative.

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