



### ETCHINGS 5

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This is the fifth issue of the Ilura Press's literary journal *Etchings*, with 12 short stories from Australian and international writers, as well as essays, poetry, photographs and other features.

Short stories go in and out of vogue and at this stage of the cycle the role of literary magazines becomes crucial: they provide an outlet for stories that, no matter how good they are, are unlikely to appear in book form, at least until the form becomes fashionable once more.

One result of this is that competition for space gets fierce and the standard of fiction rises as a result.

So all of the stories here are of a high quality. They are original and well-written; each of them is what Helen Garner has called "a little machine that works". But there are some standouts: Kay Sexton's *Schadenfreude In The Racist Park* is a wonderful story and Antoni Jach's *The Tale Of The Postal Worker And The Starlet From Lodz* plays beautifully with the medieval literary convention of bored travellers telling tales.