

# Spirit of Bosnia / Duh Bosne

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## Contemporary American Poetry

Saša Skenderija

I've been wondering  
how woefully few junkies and alcoholics there are  
amidst NPR's contemporary American poets,  
even how few just plain smokers, and how  
woefully many non-smokers, vegetarians,  
globetrotters, and environmental activists.

How many poetry magazine editors  
and non-profit publishers there are  
among all those award-winning authors  
of suburban and collietown opuses,  
multiply divorced and remarried ex-hippies  
with paid-off mortgages and lawns,  
how many professors  
of literature and creative writing  
who every now and then discover,  
screw, and marry future NPR poets  
and poetesses  
from the ranks of their own students.

I wonder  
how woefully few junkies and alcoholics there are  
among future NPR American poets,  
how few just plain smokers, even.

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*Translated from the Bosnian by Wayles Browne*  
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