

THE POETRY PROJECT NEWSLETTER

No. 16

1 June 1974

Bill Mac Kay, editor
St. Mark's Church, 2nd Avenue
& Tenth St., New York 10003.

The Poetry Project continues to present public spectacles to delight & confuse the senses. Wednesday night performers this month include equestrians John Marron, Rachelle Bijou, Susan Howe, and Charlotte Carter (June 5); funambulists Maureen Owen and Charles North (June 12); and juggler John Thorpe (June 19). The circus starts at 8:30 p.m.

* * * * *

Contributors to The Poetics of The New American Poetry (Grove, \$3.95) range from Walt Whitman and Ezra Pound to John Wieners and Jackson MacLow. Editors Donald Allen & Warren Tallman have assembled an exciting volume, rummaging through mental attics, digging into mimeo archives, rediscovering fugitive classics, even slipping Federico Garcia Lorca and D.H. Lawrence past the border guards. Only suggestion: Next time, a few more younguns'.

* * * * *

John Ashbery seeks the help of someone who can type a manuscript from a cassette tape. His address is 360 W. 22nd St., Apt. 4-G, N.Y.C. 10011. White House secretaries need not apply.

* * * * *

The obese, double issue of L Magazine is no mere collection of chocolate bonbons, slowly sinking plastic ducks. Contains instead tracers burst from Lewis Warsh, Robert Creeley, Aram Saroyan, Robert Grenier, Tom Raworth, and Bill Berkson, to name a few. (Best bet: Clark Coolidge's "Tiny Messages"). Two dollars from editor Curtis Faville, 2021 Francisco #301, Berkeley, California 94701.

* * * * *

Thanks & double pirouettes to recent benefactors Alex Katz, Jonas Mekas, and Bill Kinter. And hugs for all those who have sent kind, often unanswered letters.

* * * * *

Secret Victorians will sleep more soundly knowing that the second issue of The Lewis Carroll Circular is on its way. Even now Trevor Winkfield is lovingly gathering all manner of Carrolliana for this limited signed, numbered edition, due out in November. Would-be subscribers should not tarry though; the first issue disappeared as quickly as Mick Jagger in a crowd of teenybops. Three fifty or one pound 25 pence from Mr. Windfield, 14 Wesley Road, Leeds 12, England. (Speculators might note that first issues now change hands for twenty dollars.)

* * * * *

Sum
should d
for farm
board, s
"cause m

A few weeks ago, The Newsletter received the following communique:

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE HOWDY DOODY SCHOOL OF POETRY FROM THE NEW YORK SCHOOL

Dear Aram Saroyan,

Your letter to me was real nice.
Did you know it had the following underlined words
honesty
sincerity
among
the
as writing
tone of voice
real
alive
honest
sincere
uncomplicated ?

Love,

(signature)
The New York School

* * * * *

Monday night performances in the parish hall star Tom Blakely and Margot De-Silva (June 10); Barbara Baracks and Alan Sondheim (June 17); and Ed Friedman/Black Star Pilgrimage (June 24). The monthly free-for-all open reading will be held June 3, 8:15 p.m.

* * * * *

Point of clarification: Bill Zavatsky's magazine Roy Rogers consists of not just typographical errors (as some Newsletter readers have apparently assumed), but 117 pages of one-line poems. Point of correction: Because of starving printers & dwindling forests, the price has inflated to \$2.50. Inexpensive at any price. Available from religious bookstores everywhere or from Zavatsky at 456 Riverside Drive, N.Y.C. 10027.

* * * * *

Damascus Road #4 arrives disguised as 10 Women: Their Poems. Wistful, rare lyrics by Helen Adam top the list. Others in this handsomely produced magazine: Aldan, Bergé, DiPrima, Harris, Herschberger, Levertov, Oden, Owens, Randall. A dollar ninety-five. Correspondence to 6271 Hill Drive, Wescosville, Pennsylvania 18106.

* * * * *

Poet friends of Lew Welch gathered on the slopes above the south fork of the Yuba River to mark the third anniversary of his disappearance, May 23. That day a meditation room in Kitkitdizze was designated "Ring of Bone Zendo", in honor of Lew.

* * * * *

Summer people seeking relief from the city or searching for good deeds to do should dart to Stone Academy, RFD Route 1, Enfield, New Hampshire 03748. In exchange for farm work or help in the "print" shop, Academy earthlings will provide food, board, smoke, friendly conversation. "The sooner, the better", Sam Abrams writes, "cause may, june are busy months".

* * * * *

By the way, Bobbs-Merrill has just published Abrams' Post American Cultural Congress (\$3.95), despite the somewhat misleading title, a supple, sustained collection of poems.

* * * * *

Bart Midwood and Suzanne Zavrian will be West End Bar readers, June 9, at 2 p.m. Then, summer recess. Organizer Mark Weiss daydreams of Polynesian skindiving, plans, more realistically for another adventurous West End season.

* * * * *

Amnesty International (200 W. 72) has just released a list of 176 writers held in 21 countries, some tortured, many detained for long periods without charges, all without access to the media. Only, unfortunately, the top of the iceberg.

* * * * *

Workshoppers at the Project congregate around John Godfrey (Monday, 7:00 p.m.), Bernadette Mayer (Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.) and Lewis Warsh (Thursday, 8:30 p.m.)

* * * * *

Information about events & publications can be obtained by writing, or by dialing 674-0910. Office hours: Monday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 2-5 p.m.

* * * * *

Perhaps the greatest book bargain in existence these days is Louis Tannen's Magic Catalogue No. 10, a beautifully illustrated 572-page hardcover catalogue of magic tricks available from Tannen's Magic Shop. Two dollars at the store, three by mail, from Louis Tannen Inc., 1540 Broadway, New York City 10036.

* * * * *

The Planisphere, Harry Mathew's stately book of poetry, and Accidental Postures by George Hodgkins are the latest Burning Deck Letterpress pamphlets. Each, two fifty. Printer-publishers Keith & Rosemarie Waldrop reside at 71 Elmgrove, Providence, R.I. 02906.

* * * * *

Those interested in contemporary French poetry will want to examine La Nouvelle Poesie Francaise, an anthology of a hundred French poets under 40, edited by Bernard Delvaille and published in a pocket edition by Seghers. The same publisher recently issued Allen Ginsberg by Christine Tysh, the latest addition to its Poètes d'Aujourd'hui series. Both titles available from Editions Seghers, 7 boulevard La Tour Maubourg, 75007 Paris, France.

* * * * *

Grape Press (461 Wilde Ave., San Francisco, California 94134) is shamelessly soliciting funds to buy a copy camera. The press currently does inexpensive printing for local small presses and would like to be able to do low cost photo-negative work as well. According to Tom Veitch, boss of Grape, the actual costs of producing an 8 1/2 x 11 negative are "about 30¢ plus five minutes labor. And yet any graphic arts shop will charge you from two to five dollars for that same negative. When you're doing a sixty or eighty page magazine, that's a lot of bucks." Friends of the small press scene should send all the funny green stuff in their wallets c/o Tom at the above address.

* * * * *

The series of readings of long poems at Paula Cooper Gallery (155 Wooster; corner Houston) draws to a close with the appearance of Bernadette Mayer, June 14 at 8:30 p.m. Last month's rendition of "Polaroid" by Clark Coolidge, the of of American poetry, was simply dynamite.

* * * * *

Lew Arthur is protecting the Presidency from further encroachments by assembling an anthology of poetry on presidential themes: e.g. impeachment, conspiracy, wiretapping. Contributions may be serious or unserious, elegies or Mother Goose rhymes; in short, anarchy reigns. Submit poems, questions, S.A.S. to Lew Arthur/ Presidential Poems, Box One, Stuyvesant Station, N.Y.C. 10009.

* * * * *

"The Great Waldo, sideshow star, swallows live white mice and coughs them up." Waldo, pictured with his tiny rodent friends, is only one of the highspots of Strange Faeces #15. Others include Britt Wilkie, Lewis MacAdams, Beau Beausoliel, Kathy Acker, Andrei Codrescu, and Mr. Peanuts. Three dollars at bookshops or in plain brown paper wrappers from Opal & Ellen Nations, 66 Montell, Oakland, California 94611.

* * * * *

Poems Traveling 1971-1973 by Patty Oldenburg, designed & illustrated by the poet, is available, c/o The Project. Two fifty, if you please.

* * * * *

A brutal assault by a small army, then a ghastly human barbecue. If the Los Angeles police were demonstrating how to protect lives & property, they failed. If they were attempting to martyr the S.L.A., they very nearly succeeded.

* * * * *

This 5 is up to its ears in all-stars: Bill Berkson, Larry Eigner, Clark Coolidge, Joanne Kyger, Bobbie Louise Hawkins, Steve Malmude, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Lewis MacAdams, Larry Fagin. A buck and a half, cheap, from Robert Grenier, Franconia College, Franconia, N.H. 03580.

* * * * *

Lower
Poet
Is

Lower East Side street celebrity Irving Stettner authored the lively "If A Poet Is", available at bookstores, selected delicatessens, or from the writer at 110 E. 10 Street, New York City, N.Y. 10003. A dollar fifty.

* * * * *

No periodical on earth is more attractive than Tree:4, the sumptuous modern kaballa emanating from David Meltzer. Texts from Hirshman, Tarn, Neugröschel, Brakhage, Lenny Bruce, Reb Nachman brighten the gnostic night. Four dollars. All orders to Book People, 2940-7th Street, Berkeley, California 94710.

* * * * *

The entire body of Michael McClure's "Wolf Net" is printed in Io/20: Biopoesis, reason enough to storm any booksmith. Guest-edited by Harvey Bialy, Io still pivots on its latter-day-alchemist axis, offers hosts from Kelly, Grossinger, Dorn, Quasha, Metcalf, Enslin, more. Five thin, crisp bills to FRD#2, Box 135, Creamery Road, Plainfield, Vermont 05667.

* * * * *

Anne Waldman is on loan to the state of California. She reads at Intersection in San Francisco, June 4. We miss her.

* * * * *

The July Newsletter will be the last until September. Summer vacation notes appreciated.

* * * * *

Two baseball books. Marvin Cohen's Baseball the Beautiful (Links, \$3.95), a leisurely appreciation of the game's rituals, "decoding the diamond", he calls it. A slow afternoon in the sun. Then, The Sports Encyclopedia: Baseball (G & D, \$5.95), pages of statistics, stubborn exactitudes, precise like Lou Brock striding out his lead. A few grams difference & Williams knew it wasn't his bat.

A cool breeze out to left. The wind-up.

* * * * *

I don't want to repeat
the same mistakes over again,
or the mistakes somebody else made just so
I can have the experience of them. See, fucked
up again. Live and learn. And off the excessive
fondness for one's own self knowledge, un-
tested, but reigning supreme. That leads me
more astray, every day. What we commonly
know in the air, in our dreams, what chooses
continually & continually to grow, the obvious
under our noses, is this life. Yearning in blind-
ness. The weed has a name, is quite proud of it-
self, builds a community with other weeds, birds
hop through. The imported domestic is a labor
of love, but a labor, such a labor. At home here,
no single thought is my thought. It whispers
through the air in sweet misty fog,
in bright sky blue.

-- Joanne Kyger

THE POETRY PROJECT
St. Mark's Church
Second Ave. & Tenth St.
NY, NY 10003



TO Phil Whalen
10 Zen Center
300 Page Street
SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA

First Class Mail