

THE POETRY PROJECT NEWSLETTER

No. 19

1 Nov. 1974

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

This Wednesday, October 30, Bill Knott and Aram Saroyan will read at St. Mark's. The Poetry Project calendar continues with William Everson (Nov. 6); Ed Friedman (with musical accompaniment) & Pierre Joris (Nov. 13); Jim Harrison & Charles Simic (Nov. 20); Stanley Kunitz (Nov. 27); and John Ashbery (Dec. 4). Readings commence at 8:30. A dollar contribution is requested.

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The new revised standard workshop schedule finds Charles North presiding Mondays at 8 p.m.; Lewis Warsh leading the Thursday evening get-together (beginning about 8:30); and a rotating group of poets conducting the Tuesday workshop, starting at 8 o'clock sharp. Among those sharing the moderator's chair Tuesdays are Peter Stamos, Ed Friedman, Bernadette Mayer, Anne Waldman, Peggy DeCoursey. No admission charge, of course.

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Asylum of One/ Asylum of Many is the tentative title of an anthology of poems written by the formerly institutionalized now being compiled by Sam Slatkin. Those offering poems, advice, help with editing, a little tea, or sympathy, might contact Sam, c/o the Mc Burney YMCA, 215 W. 23, N.Y.C.

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Reading recommended by Bill Berkson: The Shape of Time by George Kubler, Maggie Cassidy by Jack Kerouac, The Curve of Binding Energy by John McPhee, The Courage of Turtles by Edward Hoagland, Kentucky Ham by William Burroughs Jr., Los Angeles by Reyner Banham, The North Sea by HÜlderlin (tr. Vernon Watkins), and The Travels of William Bartram.

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Ms. Kathy Yates, a friend of The Poetry Project, urgently needs a reasonably priced Village/Soho apartment. If you know of such an animal, notify your local S.P.C.A. and then call Kathy evenings at 925-7693.

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Rochelle Owens, whose controversial Futz caused transoceanic rumblings with recent performances in South Africa and New Zealand, is now working on a play about everybody's favorite anarchist, "Red" Emma Goldman.

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A show of 35 tennis paintings by Robert Dash begins November 2 at the Fischbach Gallery, Philadelphia.

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New installments of the series of Thursday night readings at Barnard feature Ruth Whitman (Oct. 31), Tony Towle & David Shapiro (Nov. 7), John Ashbery (Nov. 14), innumerable open readers (Nov. 21) and then (pause) Kenward Elmslie (Dec. 5). Barnard Hall (117th and Broadway) is the place; 8 p.m., the time; and one dollar, the contribution.

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Fielding Dawson offers this review, entitled "Coolidge/Tone POME: GRANITE (clue)":

"if you can taste the milk in cotton on a child's breast, if you can see a bee at sixty paces through ivy, if you can shudder under a dog's breath in summer; feel each as potential for metaphor, and remember their individual lucidity in Bartok's 6th Quartet on a 3 & 2 count in the 9th at Stogie Stadium, you'll understand Clark Coolidge's poetry. Otherwise, boys, it's HARD sledding."

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The latest letterpress pamphlet from Burning Deck (71 Elm Grove, Providence, R.I. 02906) is Jackson Mac Low's dense & pleasing Four Trains. Two dollars & fifty.

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Thursday, October 31, Grim Reaper Books will present a poetry reading & a reception to celebrate the publication of Barbara Holland's Crises of Rejuvenation (Volume 1). Festivities begin at 8 p.m. at 116 East 14th Street, Fourth floor. Halloween costumes are optional.

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The new Painted Bride Quarterly (#4) arranges work composed by Dick Gallup, David Henderson, Gerard Malanga, Israel Horowitz, Leah Zahler, Brian Swann, and cover-girl Audre Lorde. Yours for a dollar from 527 South Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19147.

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A November 4th open reading tops the list of upcoming Monday night performances at the Church. Subsequent performers will include Vito Acconci & Alan Sondheim (Nov. 11); Ann Powell, Peter Stamos & Rhys Chatham (Nov. 18); and Tom Johnson, Steve Schutzman, & Jill Kroesen (Nov. 25). These shenanigans originate in the parish hall at 8:15 p.m. By the way, moderator Ed Friedman had officially become a poet. "I just bought my first rhyming dictionary", Ed reports, "and, hopefully, will be a warrior soon." Good luck, Ed.

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The Boston Eagle #3, edited by William Corbett, Lee Harwood, & Lewis Warsh, spotlights works by Bernadette Mayer, James Tate, Clark Coolidge, Warsh and Corbett. This handsome mimeo is now available at bookstores or from 9 Columbus Square, Boston, Mass. 02116, for a buck & a 1/2.

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Anne Waldman reports: Cecil Taylor recently at S.F.'s Keystone Korner with Jimmy Lyons (sax) & Andrew Cyrille (drums) spun great hour long sound webs with his hands - at times singing and plucking the strings inside his prepared piano. A triumph!

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Allen Verbatim: Lectures on Poetry, Politics, Consciousness (McGraw-Hill, \$8.95) by Allen Ginsberg actually covers more than its subtitle. Lively discussions with Robert Duncan, for instance, and scores of William Blake songs "tuned" by Allen. Editor Gordon Ball has done a competent job pruning & sprucing.

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Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. the West End Bar is the site of an imaginative series of poetry readings organized by Mark Weiss. On tap this month are Jackson Mac Low (Nov. 3); Bliem Kern & Larry Zerlin (Nov. 10); Grace Paley (Nov. 17); and Kathy Kilgore & Greg Orr (Nov. 24). The location is 116 West End Avenue.

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Bill Berkson, presenting himself the "Blooper of the Year Award", issued the following statement:

"The latest issue of Big Sky contains a poem beginning 'Light became audible, that is, a child...' and assigns authorship of the poem to Frank O'Hara. Actually, this poem was found and numbered among Frank's manuscripts by Donald M. Allen, and although unsigned, untitled, undated, assumed to be by Frank. Likewise, when Mr. Allen showed me the poem among other unpublished writings by Frank I considered it a very odd but possible and therefore interesting work for Frank to have written, and I decided, on the spot more or less, to include it in this issue of Big Sky. Not until the magazine was printed, bound & distributed did it dawn on Mr. Allen and me (Primarily through the eagle-eye and quick reflexes of Bill Zavatsky) that poem is indeed not by Frank O'Hara. It is actually a well-known poem by David Shapiro entitled "The Heavenly Humor" and appears as such in David's book Poems from Deal as well as (gulp!) in his & Ron Padgett's Anthology of New York Poets. Obviously, there is no excuse for such lamebrained ineptitude masquerading as 'scholarship' and 'editing'. My sincerest apologies to David Shapiro for any embarrassment this error may cause him. And to Frank..."

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That aside, Big Sky is a bundle of multifarious pleasures, poems by Notley, Godfrey, and Creeley, pictures by Brainard and Schneeman, works by Coolidge, Kyger, Giorno, Mathews, MacAdams, and Padgett nuzzling each other for space. Special treats: Michael Brownstein's "The Glass Enclosure", Bobbie Louise Hawkins' "Back to Texas", and John Ashbery's "Three Poems". Plus three bona fide O'Hara poems. And more. Two fifty at any good bookstore or from editor & chief Berkson, Box 272, Bolinas, California 94924.

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Other big Big Sky productions include Jim Gustafson's Tales of Virtue and Transformation (\$1.50), with a cover drawing by Greg Irons; The Spade in the Sensorium (\$1.50) by David Anderson, with a Philip Guston cover; The Life (\$2.50) by Ted Greenwald with a Richard Nonas cover; and Ron Padgett's Crazy Compositions (\$2.00), sporting colorful artwork by George Schneeman. Also, a special limited (i.e. tiny) reprint edition of Two Serious Poems & One Other (\$1.00) by Bill Berkson & Larry Fagin, with a cover by Joe Brainard. When ordering, please specify shoe size.

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On October 28, the Kulchur Foundation will give birth to siamese twin books by Richard Kostelanetz, I Articulations & Short Fictions. Three dollars paperback, six dollars hardcover, from the Foundation at 888 Park Ave., N.Y.C. 10021.

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A benefit reading for the women's magazine 13th Moon, Saturday, November 2, will feature poets Barbara Guest, June Jordan, Rochelle Owens, Marge Piercy, and Ruth Schecter. Barnard College's MacIntosh Hall is the location. Things begin at 8 p.m.

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Gerard Malanga musing on Disconnected: The Dial-a-Poem Poets records (Giorno Poetry Systems, \$6.98):

"Sarah, 17-wk female Siamese sealpoint came to visit with Eban, my 8-month male 1/2 Siamese (all-black) sidekick, for the weekend. It took nearly all weekend trying to convince them to be friends. They chased each other all over the apartment, hissing and swatting each other. Disconnected arrived in the mail. I played the LP for the first time and went out of the room to run the water for a bath. When I returned I found Eban and Sarah facing each other on chairs on either side of the stereo. John Giorno was reading 'Suicide Sutra'. Several minutes later I returned to the room to find Eban and Sarah asleep in each other. Maureen Owen was reading 'Body Rush'."

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Forthcoming Saturday readings at Dr. Generosity's (Second Avenue corner 73 St.) include Mike Heller (Nov. 2); Rochelle Owens & Ivan Arguelles (Nov. 9); Paul Zweig (Nov. 16); Rebecca Brown (Nov. 23); Frances Wyatt, Paul Pines, & Herb Krohn (Nov. 30). 3 p.m., a contribution, if you will.

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A series of workshops on the production & design of little magazines is being conducted at The Print Center (68 Jay Street, Brooklyn, seventh floor) by Barbara Baracks, Larry Zerlin, and Erica Rothenberg. The next episode, on Wednesday, November 6, centers on paper stock & its choice. Texture, color, weight, and printability will be discussed. Those present at 7:30 will not miss a particle of this secret wisdom. So take the F train to York St. Station. (For more information contact Ms. Baracks, P.O. Box 830, Peter Stuyvesant Station, New York, N.Y. 10009.)

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Available any day from Angel Hair Books (Box 257, Peter Stuyvesant Station, N.Y.C. 10009) are Blues of the Sky, interpretations from the ancient Hebrew Book of Psalms, by David Rosenberg, and a book-length poem, Makes Sense, by Ted Greenwald. George Schneeman did both covers. Two dollars apiece.

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The Visions of the Great Rememberer, Allen Ginsberg's reminiscence of Cassady & Kerouac, with letters by Neal Cassady, drawings by Basil King, and photographs of every one & his kid sister is available now from Mulch Press for \$2.50, so there.

If that doesn't satisfy you ingrates, maybe the rest of the Mulch list will: Joel Oppenheimer's short story collection Pan's Eyes, or Susan Sherman's With Anger/ With Love, Selections: Poems and Prose (1963-1973) or Paragraphs by Michael Stephens. Two fifty @ from bookmobiles or from Mulch Press, P.O. Box 426, Amherst, Mass. 01002.

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The 12th annual Avant-Garde Festival will present itself on Nov. 16 from noon to midnight at Shea Stadium. Poetry coordinator Michael Cooper plans a full and spirited day of verbal phenomenon from Jackson MacLow, Barbara Baracks, Peter Stamos, Armand Schwerner, Sharon Mattoni, Regina Beck, and others. Interspersed will be musical diversions under the direction of Rhys Chatham. On hand will also be video, film, and art exhibits.

\* \* \* \* \*

When Red Grooms was offered an exhibition at Caracas' shiny new Museum of Contemporary Art he was understandably pleased. He & wife Mimi spent five days packing & labeling 175 crates, flew to Venezuela, set up the show with almost no assistance ("They gave us a hammer," Mimi remembers); then sat back, tired eyes & aching backs, as crowds flooded in. According to the Museum, two hundred thousand humans saw the show. Critics were enthusiastic, even effusive in praise: "We have pounds of reviews." Gratified by this popular & critical success, the Grooms got back to work, unwalling, recreating the artwork, arranging for its shipment stateside. Finally, exhausted but happy, they jetlined home. Months passed. No paintings. Eventually, the crates arrived at Pier 1 in Brooklyn, only to be frozen in customs by dog-sniffing drug-hunters. More months. Then comes the word: the paintings are resting comfortably in a Brooklyn warehouse. Red & Mimi are elated. Then comes further word: Red has been billed \$17,000 for shipping & storage and the paintings are being held for ransom by money-hungry warehousemen. Telegrams, midnight calls to Caracas follow. The Museum claims amnesia. More telegrams, more phone calls. A week of pleading and legal threats as storage fees mount. Finally, the Museum relents, sends the money. At this writing, the paintings are still in storage.  
MORAL: Make them write it down and sign it. It's a mean world out there, kiddies.

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Jacques Rivette's 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -hour Out One/ Spectre was panned by the press, booted at the Film Festival, and ignored by the distributors. But John Ashbery, writing in The Soho News (Oct. 24), deemed it a masterpiece. Bernadette Mayer agrees. "Ashbery says 'maybe I'm crazy'," she writes. "He's not, I'm not & I know two poets and one filmmaker who aren't. That's enough to make a masterpiece." Here's a quote from Ashbery's review: In Rivette's last film L'Amour Fou, "...madness was viewed from a case-history viewpoint rather than as a condition of the world. Now that it has triumphed it can afford to be less visible, and Rivette is able to juggle a whole Larousse of fructifying influences, from such masters of the enigmatic as Carroll, Gaston Leroux and Raymond Roussel...to Cocteau to the Godard of "Alphaville" to Robert Wilson to Hollywood..."

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A benefit reading dubbed "100 Poems for Ramsey Clark" will be held 8 p.m., Saturday, November 2, at The Clark Campaign Store-Front, 401 Fifth Ave. (btwn 36th & 37th Sts.). Poets participating include Allen Ginsberg, Galway Kinnell, Mafy Swenson, Anne Waldman, and Audre Lorde. Admission will be a \$1 - \$100 campaign contribution.

The Newsletter endorses Clark & encourages you to be at the reading, Saturday, & in the voting booth next Tuesday.

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With Red and Mimi in Peru

from travel notes

Next morning we took a plane to Cusco. Soon above the cloud cover and then through holes bare brown mountains and valleys in unending succession, then clouds again and suddenly breaking through the sea of cotton a fierce snowpacked peak right under us.

After banking over yellow and brown fields in a great valley spread the pink roofs of Cusco, Imperial city of the Incas, Capital Arqueologica de America, altitude 3580 metres.

Slowly (as we had been warned to) we walked up a street toward the Sunday market. Under an overcast sky everything was hushed. Pink or sea green walls alternated with unpainted ones the red brown color of earth. Women sitting with oranges and small yellow grapefruit arranged on blue sheets of plastic. No loud talking, no competing, if something is sold it usually costs a Sol (2 1/2 cents). Beautiful straight black hair over golden brown faces with almond eyes that have few expressions and no nervous contortions. Their sense of color is the best maybe anywhere. Colors in order of preference: Red blue orange pink yellow purple and very little green. They're bright, deep, rich and never a wrong one. In that Sunday market time slowed down in a stoned happy calm.

I felt faint several times and back at the hotel began a headache that got bad during the night and slowly wore off the next day. It was my case of sorroche.

--Rudy Burckhardt

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TO -----  
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