
THE POETRY PROJECT NEWSLETTER

No. 21 1 Jan. 1975

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

Mrs. Mabel Myers, aged 80, of Chapel Allerton, claims to have found water on the moon West of the Sea of Tranquility. She uses a Y-shaped twig and a pendulum made from a ball on a nylon cord which she suspends over a map of the moon.

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After the phantasmagoria of the nonstop New Year's Day evening morning benefit reading, The Poetry Project settles down to simpler superlatives. On Wednesday, January 8, Paul Mariah of Manroot fame and the inimitable Jackie Curtis appear, perform. A rare visitation by Ted Berrigan and Anselm Hollo follows, January 15. Gerard Malanga, whose Incarnations pleases and repleases, solos January 22; then is succeeded center-stage, January 29, by crowdpleaser Gary Snyder. Dignitaries scheduled for later readings include Douglas Woolf (Feb. 5) and Reed Whittemore (Feb. 12). Starting time, 8:30 p.m. Contribution, a dollar.

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Allen Ginsberg is collecting money (\$2,000, to be precise) to pay a group of lawyers (including Harvey Silvergate of Boston) to get Timothy Leary in front of a judge with habeas corpus to find out if he's singing under duress.

Allen is also looking for an apartment or loft with rent up to \$200 a month and huge amounts of room to live in forever.

He can be contacted c/o The Project or thru P.O. Box 582, Stuyvesant Station, New York, NY 10009. The Project phone is 674-0910.

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The Newsletter has been awarded a generous grant from The Coordinating Council of Literary Magazines which allows us to continue these shenanigans unabated. For this, we are deeply grateful; not to mention, jubilant.

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We deeply appreciate also the kind words & pretty checks sent by a host of angels who have kept us emotionally & financially afloat all these months. Singling a few from the multitudes: Ada & Alex Katz, Leonard Randolph, Robert Dash, George & Chris Tysh, Ted Wilentz, Randall De Leeuw, Ruth Krauss, W.S. Merwin, and Julie Hayden. Thank you all.

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Glee
Kids, do

Every sensate being who has seen it heartily recommends The Beat Book, Arthur & Glee Knight's loving reunion of those kindred souls who have thrilled us from yesteryear: Kerouac, Cassady, Corso, McClure, Orlovsky, Huncke, Snyder, Solomon, Ginsberg, Bowles, Bremser, Burroughs, Ferlinghetti, Micheline, Malanga, John Clellon Holmes, need I name more? The photos alone are worth the ten dollar price. Available at the usual places (Phoenix Bookshop, Gotham Book Mart, City Lights, Asphodel, Compendium, etc.) or from The Unspeakable Visions of the Individual, P.O. Box 439, California, Pennsylvania 15419.

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The least outrageous thing about Tom Veitch's Eat This! is the title. This 150-page story is available for three dollars at select bookshops or from Angel Hair Books, Box 257, Stuyvesant Station, New York City 10001.

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Edwin Denby has a sweet six-month old female kitty, a "dumb blonde" (he says) who needs a home. Would-be substitute parents should contact Mr. Denby c/o Burckhardt at 473-2687. Blue meanies need not apply.

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Ron Padgett suggests Cecily Mackworth's English Interludes (Routledge & Kegan Paul, \$17), a knowledgeably written and sympathetic account of stays in England by Mallarme, Verlaine, Valery, and Valery Larbaud. "The sophistication of its anecdotes gives you the kind of pleasure available to those who love literature," Ron writes. "The chapter on Larbaud is especially welcome, since he is talked about so little in English." The alarming price of this book might be dealt with by convincing your librarian to order it.

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ZZZ sounds like a snooze, but is actually a magazine. Editor-impressario Kenward Elmslie presents works by John Ashbery, Michael Lally, Joanne Kyger, Lorenzo Thomas, Paul Violi, Douglas Crase, John Wieners, and Peter Schjeldahl, among others. Plus a Donna Dennis cover. Plus 8 multi-colored Dennis "Hotels". Plus the aptly-named Play, a free-flowing farce written by Ashbery, Koch, and O'Hara. All yours for only \$2.50. (If you act quickly and send 50¢, you will receive, absolutely free, a limited edition broadside containing a Frank O'Hara poem and a never-before-published "answer" poem by Patsy Soutgate. So hurry.) Send money & checks, c/o The Project.

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Due momentarily from Z Press South (104 Greenwich Avenue, New York City 10011) is Trevor Winkfield's story Nativity, graced by a color illustration by English Topiary Gang-member Karl Torok. One fifty.

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Trip Out & Fall Back by Joanne Elizabeth Kyger is splendid to read & to look at. Gordon Baldwin did the artwork; Arif Press, the printing. Two twenty-five. Orders to Book People, 2940 Seventh St., Berkeley, Calif. 94710.

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Glen Baxter recommends Ulrik Neumann's "Ping Pong" backed by "In Bad I Taagen". Kids, don't take drugs.

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A Thursday evening poetry workshop is being conducted by Fanny Howe at Columbia. People who might want to join can reach Ms. Howe, c/o School of General Studies, W. 116 & Broadway.

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The Japanese Notebook Ox by Gregory Corso comes in a box, unfolds into drawings & poems; not surprisingly, editor Michael Andre has nicknamed it The Model Airplane Ox. If you call it a book, it is Corso's first in 4 years, only his second in 13. In any case, it's already a collector's item, whether in the \$20 limited signed edition, the \$4 trade edition, or the \$2.50 second edition. Unmuzzled Ox, to confuse matters further, costs \$4 for 4 numbers. Send money to Box 374, Planetarium Station, New York City 10024.

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Michael Brownstein recommends Journal of a Hermit by Janine Pommy-Vega, recently published by Cherry Valley Editions (Box 303, Cherry Valley, N.Y. 13320), \$1.00: "It looks to me like a classic of sorts, written with an intensity of feeling I'd almost say is old-fashioned only because of its rarity these days."

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Mulch 5 features poems by John Wieners & Diane DiPrima, prose by Donald Phelps & Michael Stephens and a remarkable 1741 letter on hunting witches among slaves. One dollar at bookmarts or from P.O. Box 426, Amherst, Mass. 01001.

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The six pound eight ounce inhabitant of the nursery at 251 W. 92 St. has been identified as a baby, Jill Elizabeth, daughter of Paula & Charles North. Congratulations, mom, dad!

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An exhibition of artists' toys runs January 1-25 at the Clocktower, 108 Leonard Street (corner Broadway), 233-1096.

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Blue Wind Press, publishers of Merrill Gilfillan's Skyliner, mentioned last newsletter, has been transplanted to 1206 Spruce, Berkeley, Calif. 94709. The book is still three dollars.

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The Grass Harp, a musical play with book and lyrics by Kenward Elmslie and music by Claibe Richardson, based on the novel by Truman Capote, will be revived for the first time in New York since its brief Broadway run in '71. It will be produced Off-Broadway under the auspices of the Octagon Theatre Club, and will be directed by Mitch Douglas, opening at the Bert Wheeler Theatre (W. 44 St.) on Thursday, January 30, following two previews. All tickets: \$2.50.

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Col
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N.Y. 13

A film about Matisse is being screened at the YMHA at 344 E. 14 St. (at 1st Ave.)
Program begins at 8:30. Bring a date; it's free. On January 29.

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The basketball adventures of Anne Waldman & Bernadette Mayer continued: In quest of the perfect interview, reporters Anne & Bernadette (with Ron Padgett accompanying them as chauffeur) drive out to the Nets' office in the Marine Midland Bank in Nassau & grill general manager Dave DeBusschere for 1 1/2 hours. The ex-Knick admits he played his last season in constant physical pain, sees basketball as more heroic than rock'n' roll: seven broken noses. He admires Harry Truman. Notes are taken, books autographed, exchanged. Later, at the game, they sit at the press table, rubbing elbows with Moses Malone, Dr. J.

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John Perreault has two wishes. First: "I want to go to Easter Island for Easter. That is my dream." John explains, "Easter Island is the navel of the world and the body of land farthest away from any other body of land." Second: A summer teaching job, "preferably poetry but even art would do." Patrons of voyages, school administrators can reach John c/o The Poetry Project.

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The American Abstract Tradition (Braziller, \$12.50) contains Frank O'Hara's art criticism, illustrations of his art.

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Rebecca Brown recommends the U.S. Government Bookstore and the Brooklyn Bridge as places to visit. Honest. "They are within a few blocks of each other, the Bookstore in the Federal Building (giant building oposite the Federal Courthouse) and the Bridge is visible from the plaza. They have gardening booklets and various technical and legal books; at the Bookstore, not the Bridge."

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James Tate's Hottentot Ossuary is a pleasing collection of prose poems and wry short stories. It is the first in a series of books to be edited by Bill Corbett and published by Temple Bar Bookshop, 17 Boylston St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138. Copies, \$2.95.

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The abundance & excitement of Richard Grossinger is apparent in his new The Windy Passage from Nostalgia, a long prose work. Readers should search bookstores; that failing, should send \$5 posthaste to North Atlantic Books (Route 2, Box 135, Creamery Road, Plainfield, Vermont 05667). Request a catalogue listing recent Io treats, installments in the Cranberry Island saga.

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Gregory Corso is thriving in Provincetown, fit as the proverbial fiddle.

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1st Ave.)

Coldspring Journal No. 4 brings together Claude Pelieu (a dozen-page poem translated by Mary Beach), James Grauerholtz, editor Charles Plymell, Peter Frank, Hilton Obenzinger, Michael Andre and others. Cherry Valley Editions (Box 303, Cherry Valley, N.Y. 13320) also offers African Journals by attentive Nidra Poller. Each a dollar.

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New releases from Telephone Books (Apt. 42, 412 W. 110 St., New York City 10025) are The Bicycle Trip and Poems by Rebecca Brown, Regina Beck's Looking at the Sun, Hinge Picture by Susan Howe, Pool by Joshua Norton, and Sandy Berrigan's Daily Rites, with cover & drawings by mama Paula North. One bill apiece.

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Carlos Feliciano spent Christmas in prison. Ignoring the 17 month incarceration Feliciano underwent prior to the trial because he was bailless, Judge Arnold Fraiman remanded the Puerto Rican activist to custody, Friday, December 13. As a result of this double-sentencing, Feliciano faces a 1-4 year jail term. Attorney William Kunstler has appealed, but writers-people can do something too: Write, telegram Judge Arnold G. Fraiman (State Supreme Court of New York, 60 Centre Street, New York) to urge him to release Feliciano based on the prison term he has already served, & the issue of this kind of discrimination against the poor.

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Surrealist, speaker-in-tongues Edouard Roditi stands behind Emperor of Midnight, a collection of forty-years labor, just out from Black Sparrow. Also new is the prolific Joyce Carol Oates' first drama, Miracle Play. Each is four dollars from bookshops, pretzel vendors and Black Sparrow Press, P.O. Box 25603, Los Angeles, Calif. 90025.

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Duncan Hines recommends: "Amarcord"; Montblanc pens; The Poems of Alfred Starr Hamilton (Jargon); Roswell Rudd (w/Sheila Jordan on weekends) at St. James Infirmary (7th Ave. So. & Leroy); Oyster Bar; view of Chrysler Bldg. from top of Chanin Bldg. (kattycorner); artists' toys at The Clocktower; Helen Adam's Selected Poems & Ballads (Helikon); DeRoberti's ice cream sodas (esp. strawberry); The Real World; Chopin's Preludes (Eschenbach on DGG); Speakeasy Antiques; Cafe de Sport.

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The Sweet Bye and Bye, an opera composed by Jack Beeson, with a libretto by that Green Mountain Boito, Kenward Elmslie, surfaced in '73 at the Kansas City Lyric Theatre; the excellently sung K.C. production has been recorded by Desto Records (DC 7179/80: two discs: \$11.96) and is already in its second pressing. Paul Kresh of the Stereo Review chose it as a "Recording of Special Merit," finding it an "operatic thriller with an enormous potential for wide popularity..." and praising the libretto for being "fast-moving and eminently singable." According to John Freeman of Opera News, "Elmslie knows the fine art of not putting too much into a libretto, and his grasp of dramatic pacing is expert." On the other hand, one J.R. of High Fidelity found the libretto "crippled beyond redemption by the hoary flatness of its central dramatic conflict." Can't win 'em all. The libretto, published by Boosey & Hawkes with a striking orange cover by Joe Brainard, is included in the album.

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Vida Blue the defendant in a paternity suit? Isn't baseball enough?

An exhibition of photo-boothpieces by Jed Bark opens Saturday, January 4, at Bykert-Downtown, 484 Broome, 226-8797.

Monday night performances continue in the parish hall under the auspices of stage-manager Ed Friedman. On the agenda are a January 6 open reading ("One of my favorite things," genial Ed confesses); Guy Gautier & William Talen starring January 13; moonlighters Barbara Baracks and Laurie Spiegel the 20th; and Tom Savage, Annabel Levitt & Sharon Mattlin, January 27. Roll-call begins at 8:15 p.m.

Lewis Warsh (who has a Massachusetts license) was stopped in Soho for lack of an inspection sticker. The constabulary made a few phone calls & also the cryptic remark, "I have an erection in the sky for Massachusetts." Lewis sped away.

The Silver Bee by Walter Hadler has opened at Theatre Genesis. It will run for four weekends, Thursday through Sunday nights at 8:30 p.m. A two dollar contribution is asked. Phone 533-4650 after 3 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday for reservations.

Ed Friedman wants, needs a place in the sun, an apartment, to rent, to share, with a long lease, at least a year, \$100-150, in Soho or the West Village, or the East Village, or anywhere but the Bronx. Call 226-2478 in the mornings after 8 a.m.

Meanwhile, Bernadette Mayer requires a two-month roommate to share her spacious Second Avenue apartment. Nocturnal Bernadette requests only evening callers to fill this January-February vacancy, OR 4-8136.

Three workshops occur weekly at St. Mark's: Charles North's (Monday, 8 p.m.), Lewis Warsh's (Thursday, 8:30 p.m.) and the rotating, revolving, pulsating, poetic imitation of Musical Chairs (Tuesday, 8:30 p.m.) The door to the workshop room is at the extreme left in the front of the Church.

The Les Levine show at Stefanotty (50 W. 57 St., 586-5252) is bright & witty.

Has anyone seen "Cocksucker Blues"?

Regina Beck recommends Glen Baxter's Drawings as "daring, diversified - doles out drama and dreams - a worthwhile dilemma" from Adventures in Poetry, \$1.50.

Ed Baynard's exhibition of still lifes at the Vick Gallery of Fischbach (314 So. 16th St., Philadelphia) runs through January 22. Recommended.

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A show called "Illustrations for Books" runs from Tuesday, January 7, through Saturday, February 1, at the Carlton Gallery (127 E. 69 St., near Hunter College). Featured are artists (Column A) Joe Brainard, Alex Katz, Fairfield Porter, Yvonne Jacquette, Red Grooms, showing illustrations for books by (Column B) Maureen Owen, James Schuyler, Edwin Denby, Kenward Elmslie, Michael Brownstein, Kenneth Koch, Ron Padgett, David Shapiro, John Ashbery, Anne Waldman. Call 249-9880 for details.

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Our secret gallery-goer writes that the Larry Rivers opening at Marlborough (41 E. 57 St., Pl 2-5353) "seemed like everyone was carrying their corpses around. Painting (modeled on the Japanese from his daughters' coloring book), a bit slick; but the drawings, simply gorgeous."

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Meanwhile, The Washington Post raved about Joe White's show at Jane Haslem's in the Capitol City. "These pictures have enormous presence," they enthused. "They devour walls."

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The editor recommends Dore Ashton's A Joseph Cornell Album (Viking, \$15).

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W. S. Merwin will appear at the Guggenheim (Fifth Avenue at 89 St.), Tuesday, January 28 at 8 p.m. Admission is two dollars. Richard Howard will introduce.

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Artist House (131 Prince St.) will be the scene of a group reading, Sunday, January 12, at 1 p.m. Among the poets featured will be Lee Breuer, Allen Katzman, Lewis MacAdams, Terry Reilly and Hannah Weiner.

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Saturday readers at Dr. Generosity's Poetry Pub (2nd Ave at 73 St) include Adrienne Rich & Susan Sherman (Jan. 4), Helen Adam (Jan. 11), Galway Kinnell (Jan. 18), and Rosemarie & Keith Waldrop (Jan. 25). Things begin at 3 p.m.

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This Tuesday, January 7, Richard Vetere, Jack Donahue, Ruth Lisa Schechter, and Aaron Kramer will read at the Donnell Library Center.

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Jack Benny R.I.P.

For Rachel

Hello Mr. Mirror, where is Mrs. Mirror?

On the other side.

Oh, thank you. Hello Mrs. Mirror,
where is Mr. Mirror?

On the other side.

Oh, thank you. Hello Mr. Mirror.

Hello Mrs. Water,
where is Mr. Water?

In the sink with me.

Every day some of us goes down the drain,
to a new house, the big river,
and to a dark new house, the dark ocean,
where from the top we splash the blue family of sky
and look everywhere back through ourselves for the rest of us,
and see us.

Tony Towle

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TO

Philip Whalen !!

Zen Center

300 Page Street

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



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