

THE POETRY PROJECT NEWSLETTER

No. 25

1 May 1975

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

After Lawrence Ferlinghetti's April 30th reading, The Poetry Project regroups in time for John Cage's visit to the Church, Wednesday, May 7, at 8:30 p.m. Then, appearing at intervals of exactly one week, will be Bill Berkson & Lewis MacAdams (May 14); Michael Stephens & Richard Price (May 21); and Paul Metcalf & Ted Enslin (May 28). A dollar contribution is requested.

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Elegant & witty, measured & moving, John Ashbery's Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror (Viking, \$5.95) is as fine a Mayday book as ever was.

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Robert S. Young wants pen pals. He is the Freedom of Information Coordinator of the C.I.A. & a real nifty guy. If you would like Robert to be your friend, write him, telling something about yourself (date, place of birth, nicknames, pseudonyms) & he will send you the contents of the Central Intelligence Agency file on you; perhaps snapshots of you holding placards, fondling foreigners, who knows what else? Robert does, of course, but can't keep a secret. Write him in Washington.

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Big Deal 3 is the best yet, featuring Robert Smithson, Jasper Johns, John Cage, Tom Veitch, Jennifer Bartlett, Jerome Rothenberg, Jim Brodey, Jackson Mac Low, Fielding Dawson, Philip Corner, Larry Eigner, even an interview with 96 year-old Harry Lieberman. Offer editor Barbara Baracks three dollars & a friendly backpat: she did all the printing, typesetting, darkroom & layout work herself. Mail to P.O. Box 830, Peter Stuyvesant Station, New York, N.Y. 10009.

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An exhibition of recent paintings by Ray Kass opens May 3 at the Allan Stone Gallery, 48 E. 86 St., and runs until the month's end.

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Artist-teacher Ann Sciortino requires a loft of her own, preferably below Houston, preferably below \$200. A subdivision will do, but a minimum of 1100 square feet, please. Call Ann at 925-3010.

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This weekend, May 2-4, "Battery", a dance tribute to Susanne K. Langer will be performed at Exchange for the Arts, 151 Bank Street in Westbeth. Participants include Kenneth King, Wendy Perron, & Jane Comfort. Seats are three dollars, two dollars for students; for reservations, dial 691-5035.

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Judge Julius Hoffman confesses he does not speak Sanskrit; the witness describes a wet dream; District Attorney Foran objects to the third "Om" & is sustained. Allen Ginsberg's Chicago Trial Testimony (City Lights, \$2.00) brings us back home, five years later, to an arena more comic, yet more touching than we remembered it. With cover cartoons by Pat Ryan. A treat.

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Also from City Lights, Anne Waldman's Fast Speaking Woman (& Other Chants), Pocket Poets #33, swapped for two dollars, "my teen-age dream come true", says she.

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Kenward Elmslie recently completed his first body art work Dasang Wong Chu which involved a spring trek to Nepal & walking 200 miles in 16 days through mountains ablaze with rhododendren trees garlanded with white orchids.

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John Giorno left yesterday for the very same Nepal.

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On display at the Whitney Museum Art Resources Center, May 1-15, are new paintings by Denise Green. The Center, at 185 Cherry Street, is open Monday thru Saturday, from noon to 6 p.m. Phone 964-4560 for further details.

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The incomparable Stanley Kunitz will read at The Poetry Center on the evening of Monday, May 5, at 8 p.m. The Art Gallery of the Lexington Avenue & 92 St. YIMHA will be the scene of the reading. Admission is two dollars.

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Ivo Sankalden, the mayor of Amsterdam, toured the Church, Pete Stuy's old stomping-grounds, last Wednesday.

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Among poets at the Noho Gallery this month number Lucille Iverson & Michael Graves (May 1); Cassia Berman & Tom Weatherly (May 15), and Celestine Frost & Sara Stringfellow (May 22). These Thursday readings begin at 8:30 p.m. at 542 La Guardia Place. Suggested donation is a dollar. For information, call 473-9619.

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New entries from North Atlantic Books are Wayne Turiansky's Sand Cast and The Year Book by Alex Gildzen. Two dollars & three dollars, respectively, from Route 2, Box 135, Creamery Road, Plainfield, Vermont 05667, or from Book People, 2940 Seventh

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two

Street, Berkeley, California 94710.

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Broadway Boogie #3, subtitled "Private Parts", focuses on those distended members & inviting orifices we all know & love. Among the contributors to this earthly celebration are Joel Oppenheimer, Siv Cedering Fox, George Economou, Fielding Dawson, Gerard Malanga, Joachim Neugroschel, Harry Lewis, Victoria Sullivan, & editor Mark Weiss. Two dollars from 2680 Broadway, New York 10025. Delightful.

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Speaking of which, this month's Newsletter one-word poetry prize goes to Ms. June Winchell of Seattle, Washington for "SMORGASBORGASM".

\* \* \* \* \*

Robert Kelly (May 3), Diane Wakoski (May 10), and John Eskow, Louis Phillips & William Lane (May 17) occupy the Saturday afternoon agenda at Dr. Generosity's, Second Avenue & 73 St. Readings commence at two o'clock sharp.

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Editor Bill Zavatsky launches his Sun Book series pleasingly with Lauds: Poems by Harvey Shapiro. A dollar ninety-five. Due by late May are Carolanne Ely's Love Wounds & Multiple Fractures (\$1.50); Trevor Winkfield's enchanting translation of How I Wrote Certain of My Books (\$1.50) by Raymond Roussel, with notes & a bibliography; and Zavatsky's own Theories of Rain and Other Poems (\$4.95/\$1.95). Available at 456 Riverside Drive, 2C, New York 10027.

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The Kulchur Foundation has just published Charlie Plymell's The Trashing of America (\$7.00/\$3.50), a book of poems as irreverent & exciting as its maker. Cover by Les Levine. At bookshops or from 888 Park Avenue, New York 10021.

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Cecile Abish recently completed an outdoor-on-site work, "Shifting Concern", measuring fifty feet by fifty feet, at Chapel Drive Park, Douglass College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J. The work will be on view until June 1.

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Paladin Press offers The U.S. Army Sniper Training Manual, "the bible of the famed Army snipers in Vietnam who killed 1187 enemy in 5 months with a bullet expenditure of only 1.37 rounds per kill at an average range of 450 meters!" Send \$7.95 to Box 1307, Boulder, Colorado 80302, and rid your neighborhood of those pesky Viet Cong.

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The Theatre Genesis calendar shows performances of Daffi's Asterian Canticles, May 8-11, and Lonely Lives & Whor Strol by 14 year-old Hector Roderiguez, May 15-18 & May 22-25. Also, a children's show, Richard Brown & the Dragon by Michael Winsett, is tentatively scheduled for midmonth weekend afternoons. Info & reservations

at 533-4650 after 3 p.m.

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Titles notwithstanding, David Ball's Praise of Crazy & The Mutant Daughter are healthy, exuberant pamphlets. The first, three quarters to Diana's Bimonthly, 71 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02926. The second, a buck fifty to Buffalo Press, 249 Blecker Street, New York 10014.

\* \* \* \* \*

Poets reconstitute themselves weekly in workshops at the Church. Wordsmiths Charles North (Mondays, 8 p.m.), Bernadette Mayer (Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m.), & Lewis Warsh (Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.) try to tame the lightning. The workshop room is at the left of the Church's main entrance. Admission is free. Further details can be gathered by dialing 674-0910 Mondays (10 a.m.-2 p.m.), Tuesdays (2-8 p.m.), Wednesdays (2-5 p.m.), & Thursdays (10 a.m.-2 p.m. & 4:30-6 p.m.).

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Rocky Dies Yellow is the title of Michael Lally's new book of poems, available for \$2.50 from Blue Wind Press, 1206 Spruce, Berkeley, California 94709.

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Ubiquitous Rolando resurfaces momentarily, pleading for participation in the Richard Farina Memorial Conceptual Art Project. It's simple, he says. First, send a postcard to the Director of The Museum of Modern Art, merely stating that the C.I. A. killed John Kennedy. Then solicit ten friends to do the same & multiply.

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By the way, the first New York City Post Card Show occurs May 19-31 at N.Y.U.'s Loeb Student Center.

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Two numbers of The Cold Spring Journal have appeared almost simultaneously; #5 featuring Jack Collom, Peggy Garrison, Charles Plymell, Anne Waldman, Louis Ginsberg, lotsa new faces; and #6, in an enlarged, improved format, starring Bockris-Wylie, James Grauerholz, John Giorno, Claude Pelieu, Charlie Vermont, Aram Saroyan, others. A steal at \$1.50 from Cherry Valley Editions, Box 303, Cherry Valley, N.Y. 13320.

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Be a borrower & a lender at the Project mini-library, tended by friendly Regina Beck, Tuesdays 7:15-8:30 p.m. Correspondence, c/o The Project.

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Holocaust, a harrowing book of poems by Charles Reznikoff, and John Ashbery's The Vermont Notebook, with handsome cover & drawings by Joe Brainard, are welcome additions to the Black Sparrow list. Four dollars & three fifty, respectively, from P.O. Box 25603, Los Angeles, California 90025.

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Radio post  
Reznikoff (May  
(May 27). Hoste

Radio poetry emanates from WBAI (99.5 FM) this month in the form of Charles Reznikoff (May 13), John Ashbery (May 14), W.S. Merwin (May 15), and Anne Waldman (May 27). Hosted by energetic Susan Howe, the readings begin at 8:45 p.m.

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Cezanne, She Was A Great Painter is Carolee Schneemann's new book; moody, raucous, original. Three dollars where you can find it, or from Ms. Carolee at 114 W. 29 St., New York.

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Dancing at St. Mark's this month will be the Natural History Improvisation Company (May 6, 8:30 p.m.); Barbara Dilley (May 13, 8:30 p.m.); Sara Rudner, Wendy Rogers, Risa Jaraslow, & Wendy Perron (May 20, 5-10 p.m.); Nancy Topf & Friends (May 27, 8:30 p.m.). On June 3, Arawana Hayashi & City Dance Theatre of Boston make an 8:30 appearance. A two dollar contribution.

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Rudy Burckhardt's photographs remain in view at Brooke Alexander, 26 E. 78 St. until May 24.

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The "Rencontre Internationale de la Contre-Culture" held in Montreal April 21-27 was a week of "atelier-débat: diffusion, récupération et actions possibles" with Marxists, local poets, writers, economists, psychiatrists, electricians, filmmakers, plus import contingents of poets & writers from Paris & Fortress America. William Burroughs felt the radioactive vibes, wasn't surprised when Claude Pelieu & Mary Beach left huffing it was all stale flower power. Ed Sanders took a slow trip down memory lane, lingering in old Fugs haunts, while Allen Ginsberg espied a Kerouac in every Kebekian. Token shamaness Anne Waldman returned home glowing with reports of John Giorno's subtle knee actions & Allen's glossolalian chants. With Anglos gobbling jobs & power, North-of-the-borderers were immersed in talk of "La Langue": Charlie Plymell, for his part, said he would take questions after a trip to the pissoir & everybody seemed to understand. Kebek poets in attendance included soft-spoken Paul Chamberland, hippie Denis Vernier, & sound poet trumpeter Raoul Duguay, a combination Stockhausen, LaMonte Young & Chet Baker. Imagine that.

\* \* \* \* \*

A May 5th open reading leads off the Monday night performance schedule. John Beaulieu & Franz Kamin appear May 12, followed by John Marron & A. A. Pritchard on the 19th, and Pat Jones, Maggie Staiger, Wally Abntrod, & Caryl Slaughter on the 26th. Admission is free, post-time is 8:15 p.m., the place is the St. Mark's parish hall.

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Ken Kesey makes a rare Eastern appearance, reading at St. Mark's, Monday, May 12, 9 p.m. A \$2.00 contribution. !?###&\*

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Watch Vida go.

\* \* \* \* \*

Hibernation

Deeper than sleep, but in a room as narrow  
The mind turns off its longings one by one,  
Lets beautiful black fingers snap the last one  
Remove the self and lie its body down.  
The Future chills the sky above the chamber.  
The Past gnaws through the earth below the bed.  
But here the naked Present lies as warmly  
As if it rested in the lap of God.

- Jack Spicer

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

TO Philip Whalen  
Zen Center  
300 Page Street  
SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA



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