

THE POETRY PROJECT NEWSLETTER

No. 26 1 June 1975

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

This Wednesday, June 4, Ron Padgett & Bill Zavatsky will appear at St. Mark's reading from their own work as well as from their gorgeous translations of Valery Larbaud. Other June bugs include John Koethe & Rebecca Wright (the 11th) Siamese-twins Bockris-Wylie (the 18th), and Yuki Hartman & Bob Rosenthal (the 25th). Curtains rise at 8:30; bring a buck for the kitty, if you can.

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Jonathan Cott's City of Earthly Love (Stonehill, \$7.95) is warm, mercurial; an engaging first book of poetry.

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Allen Ginsberg suggests you beg, borrow, or photocopy the May 30th issue of New Times, which offers inspiring examples of government & big business working hand & glove; namely, Robert Sam Anson's "The CIA and the Mafia" and Michael Drosnin's "A Rogues' Gallery of Refugees". Both evidence to Allen that the multi-nationals, organized crime, & the intelligence community sleep together in the worst way.

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Jackson Mac Low, whose heart thrilled to the IRT uptown, finds himself ecstatic, sometimes speechless, visiting, reading in friendly England.

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Barbara Baracks, Rebecca Brown, Larry Eigner, Ted Greenwald, Allen Katzman, Terry Reilly, and hoards of babbling Sufis share the pages of W.B. 1, Pat Jones' not unpleasing magazine. Worth a dollar fifty from the editor at 188 E. Third Street, New York 10009, or at lucky bookshops.

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Well, you goddamned Cambodians, we showed you: Gerry Ford knows how to make war. Whatever the circumstances.

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Listen by Asa Benveniste consists of ten prose poems, comes to you in the morning mail for two dollars, from Ray DiPalma at 133 1/2 East Wooster/ Bowling Green, Ohio 43402.

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Mary Stewart, at the edge of the expanding universe, Steve Raven's Time/Art show, at the Church, May 15, returned to tell:

"Ralston raving, the F. is for fingers, red, yellow, and white. They fall off in the suitcase light. The audience is dark and above a bald head shines, out of which protrude two legs, thus forming a dialogue. But it's Steve Raven's monologue, with borrowed hands.

"The tapping gets louder and moves inside, the table shakes harder, peaches float in their own sweet time, twice as fast out of the can, faster than the speed of catch-up, able to leap tall tables, more powerful than powder. You see him, you think you see him, you think you see him as some one else, maybe you do. He's behind a cloud of smoke, constant, nothing, and everything you just forgot, like And Most of All I Remember, turn it over and it reads LS/MFT. Put it in your pocket and walk out. For days you wait for the show to end."

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If I were a carpenter, I would give myself, hammer, awl, & chisel, to the service of the Poetry Project lending library. Book cases and/or shelves are urgently needed to accomodate the burgeoning influx of mental fodder. Donors & volunteers should contact librarian Regina Beck c/o the Newsletter.

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The Coldspring Journal No. 6 sports cover, inside photos of Neal C., Allen G., Lawrence F., a Bockris-Wylie interview, pretty poems by Aram Saroyan, James Grauerholz, John Giorno, Jack Hirshman, rare snapshots of Bobbie Bristol, a critical article on Rod McKuen by Charlie (Trashing of America) Plymell, letters, outrages, all yours for a dollar fifty, or else, from Box 303, Cherry Valley, N.Y. 13320.

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Among Noho Gallery readers number Alan Kaplan & Jill Underhill (June 12) and Fred Bauman & Ivan Arguelles (June 19). Noho is at 542 La Guardia Place; the contribution is a dollar. Phone 473-9619 for reassurance.

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Now at the 5 Spot, 2 St. Mark's Place, is Don Cherry. Ornette Colman's quintet just ended a two week stint there, preceded by Allison Mills, accompanying her own songs on piano; a beguiling young black lady with a voice like Billy Holliday on helium.

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Adventures in Poetry has just published Tony Towle's Lines for the New Year: Poems 1963-65. They say either you can throw the fast ball or you can't. Apparently, Tony always could; his early work is confident, measured, exciting. With a cover horoscope of the author to explain how he got that way. Two dollars from 437 E. 12 St., New York 10009.

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In Loka: A Journal from Naropa Institute (Doubleday, \$4.00), editor Rick Fields gathers a fine frenzy of poems, lessons on drawing the Buddha's head, meditations on

the preparation of tea, mind ecology, chatting with Ginsberg: clear, tense exchanges between John Cage & his audience. Everyone is here: Ram Dass, Chogyam Trungpa, Gregory Bateson, Giorno, Schwerner, Waldman, Ouasha, Mac Adams, Mac Low, Di Prima. Enlightening, as they say.

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By the way, the Poetics School of Naropa U. reconvenes June 9 in Boulder. On the Academy reading agenda are William Burroughs (June 11), Philip Whalen & Allen Ginsberg (June 18), Diane Di Prima (June 25), Lewis Mac Adams, Joanne Kyger, & Anne Waldman (July 2), and Ed Sanders & gimpy Michael Brownstein (July 9). More in the works.

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A program of Edwin Denby poems was recently broadcast in Australia. In gratitude, Mr. Denby hummed "Waltzing Matilda" while showering for nine successive mornings.

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All the poets collected in Spicy Meatball attend elementary school. Their work is invigorating, fun; a tribute to their teachers, themselves. A dollar from Teachers & Writers Collaborative, 186 W. 4 St., New York 10014.

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Is Jackson Mac Low an elitist anarchist? Would David Antin own a metronome? Does Armand Schwerner consider Wallace Stevens the greatest Buddhist poet of the twentieth century? Does Jerome Rothenberg advocate yiddish vaudville surrealism? All these questions are broached, somewhat answered, in Vorts #7 & #8, Barry Alpert's mutant offspring; salads of interviews, articles, poetic responses harboring beings as dissimilar as Hugh Kenner & The Black Tarantula. Three fifty for each number (Antin & Rothenberg; Mac Low & Schwerner, respectively) from bookshops, Book People, or editor Alpert at 1708 Tilton Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902.

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Mushka Kochan, the musical coordinator at St. Mark's, offers voice lessons (classical theory) to all serious students. For an appointment, dial 477-3892.

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New from Two & Two Press are Women Poems Love Poems by Susan Sherman, Harry Lewis' Spring, and Women & Children First by Martha King. Each, neat & clean, for a dollar twenty five. Send the postman to 326-A Fourth Street, Brooklyn, New York 11215.

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Monday, a one-shot magazine, bears fruit from Charles North's Project work-shoppers: Yuki Hartman, Michael Slater, Michael Sappol, Chris Grattan, Janet McLeod, Judith Ghinger, Harriette Sherman, Barry Biazeau, additional. Send \$1.50 c/o the Newsletter for a sample copy.

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Elias Wilentz, of our beloved Eighth Street Bookshop, has been appointed by Mayor Beame to serve a three-year term as a member of the New York City Arts Commission. We can think of no better choice.

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Joel Oppenheimer, Louis Simpson, & Eve Merriam headline the Ramapo Poetry Festival, June 12-14, at Ramapo College, near Mahwah, New Jersey.

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The Poetry Project has decided to pool its energies & resources to investigate the life & work of Lucia Zarate, the one foot 3 inch linguist, born in 1851. Scholars with material on the achievements of this neglected literary figure are encouraged to send them to the Project c/o the Director.

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Bill Berkson is responsible for 100 Women, a dollar & 25, from Simon & Schuchat, 1324 E. 52 St., Chicago, Illinois 60615.

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Melodic Ed Friedman promises a banner month of Monday night readings. After topsyturvydom of a June 2nd open reading, the calendar settles into multi-syllabic madness with Edward Kulkosky & Walter Tomaszewski on June 9. Robin Messing & company perform June 16, followed by Diane Raintree, Marj Finnell & Rita Valentino (June 23), and Jim Burton & friends (June 30). It all begins at 8:15 in the parish hall.

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The hearty editor genuinely recommends Three Wogs, a novel by Alexander Theroux. This Rube Goldberg word machine costs \$3.95, arrives from David R. Godine, 306 Dartmouth Street, Boston, Mass. 02116.

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The paltry contribution of .0074¢ per word gains admission to the 112 Greene Street Gallery as Barbara Baracks, Patricia Jones, Annabel Levitt, Sharon Mattlin, & Laurie Spiegel share "20,000 Words", Sunday, June 15, at 3 p.m. Pocket calculators optional.

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The seventh installment of Out There reaches pinnacles that would dizzy a Sherpa. Participating campus cuties include John Godfrey, Anselm Hollo, Maureen Owen, Bob Rosenthal, Charlie Vermont, Alice Notley, Steve Hamilton, Josephine Clare, Al Ginsberg, & Billy Burroughs. A couple of bucks to editor Neil Hackman, 8334 Ridgeway, Skokie, Illinois 60076.

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At 5 a.m., I dance.

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A science fiction allegory entitled "The Black Hole in Space" by poet-playwright Murray Mednick opens June 19 at the Gate Theatre, Second Avenue & 10 Street. Information, reservations:

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Bill Duke's Sonata runs June 21 thru July 6, Thursdays thru Sundays, at St. Mark's Theatre Genesis. 8:30 p.m. Call 533-4650 after 3 p.m. for more data.

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Burning Deck nominates The Garden of Effort by Keith Waldrop. Three dollars from 71 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02906.

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What famous local poet has had recent bouts of morning sickness? Hint: Her work appears in The Anthology of New York Poets.

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A benefit reading for Indigena, Thursday, June 5, at Berkeley, beams wordsmiths Michael McClure, Gary Snyder, Joanne Kyger, Anne Waldman. The reading, beginning at 8:30 p.m. at Martin Luther King Jr. High School, attempts to underwrite one of the few magazines that reports thoroughly & intelligently on the struggles in South America. Go out of your way to go.

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There are eight million stories in Naked City & unless her typewriter ribbon gives out first, Joyce Carol Oates is a cinch to tell them all. The remarkable J.C.O. uncoils her adrenalin this time with The Seduction & Other Stories, four dollars from Black Sparrow, P.O. Box 25603, Los Angeles, California 90025. (For more modest budgets, Sparrow 31, "Creating a Personal Myth" by Diane Wakoski is a fifty cent treat.)

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Clark Coolidges splendid prose poem piece makes the rest of This 6 extra marashino cherries. Not to be sneezed at though: Robert Creeley, Anselm Hollo, Michael Palmer, Barbara Baracks, David Gitin. A dollar & 1/2@ from editor Barrett Watten, 235 Missouri Street, San Francisco, California 94107.

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Philip Hackett & the Laguna Poets, not to be confused with the rock group of the same name, sponsor their third annual international poetry festival in Laguna Beach, California, during July & August. Poets, string-alongs should apply to Mr. Hackett, c/o Fahrenheit 451 Bookstore, 509 South Coast Highway, Laguna Beach, California 92651 for details, tide tables.

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Perhaps a bit too far off the beaten path, The Small Press Book Fair nevertheless ran a busy and hectic three days, June 25-27, at the Customs House in Battery Park, overseen now by stupendous Reginald Marsh murals, in a building

where a Mr. Herman Melville picked up his monthly government paychecks.

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The new number of Alcheringa: Ethnopoetics inhabits a wild shelter full of primitives, poems as direct as lightning or Hiroshima. When they're right, Snyder, Quasha, Jaime de Angulo, Rothenberg, say it that plainly. Three fifty to Subscription Dept., Boston U. Scholarly Publications, 775 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass. 02215.

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Ralston Farina tackles more time/time problems, Monday, June 15, at 9 p.m., in the Idea Warehouse, 11 John Street. Call 233-1096 for directions.

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West End costs 75¢, folds into your pocket, contains works by Hilton Obenzinger, Margaret Randall, Lyn Lifshin, Kip Zegers, others. Inquire in Box 354, Jerome Avenue Station, Bronx, N.Y. 10468.

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Kerouac addicts might value the Ithaca Press reprint of Visions of Kerouac by Charles E. Jarvis. Two forty-five at bookstore or the Lowell, Massachusetts, publisher.

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Duncan Hines raves about these dozen LP's: Beethoven: Kreuzer Sonata, Ashkenazy & Perlman (London 6845); Monty Python's Previous Record (Famous Charisma CAS 1063); Son House/Blind Lemon Jefferson (Biograph 12040); Ravel: Introduction & Allegro/ Poulenc: Trio for Oboe, Bassoon, Piano, Melos Ensemble (Angel 36586); The Swan Silvertones; Ella Fitzgerald w/Joe Pass, Take Love Easy (Pablo 2310702); Duke Ellington, The Pianist (Fantasy 9462); Haydn: Symphonies 95 & 96, Jochum, London Phil (Deutsche Grammophon DG 2530420); 1969: Velvet Underground Live (Mercury 2-7504); Wolf: Spanisches Liederbuch, Jan DeGaetani (Nonesuch 71296); Lee Konitz w/Red Mitchell, I Concentrate On You (SteepleChase SCS-1018); Schoenberg: Piano Music, Paul Jacobs (Nonesuch 71309); Music & Dances of Occidental Africa (Olympic 6110).

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Arawana Hayashi & the City Dance Theater of Boston appear at the Church, Tuesday, June 3, at 8:30 p.m. The following Tuesday, June 10, Sara Rudney, Wendys Perron & Rogers, and Risa Jaraslow will present a five hour performance, beginning at 5 p.m. A dollar contribution.

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All New York is talking about Larry Fagin's appearance on ABC-TV last Friday, May 30, at 6:30 in the a.m. His boyishly handsome mug, his friendly, toothy grin filled the pre-breakfast boob tube with abundant light as Larry mouthed his "jerk" poems & answered Professor Donald Hall's thorny questions on "Poets Talking". The series features half-hour takes on individual poets (e.g. Robert Bly, Louis Simpson, Galway Kinnell, Jerome Rothenberg, Gregory Orr, Joyce Peseroff, Howard Norman,

Marvin Bell, Carolyn Kizer, Robert Hayden, Larry Rabb) & is aired at various ungodly hours in as many unsavory cities.

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Ken Kesey was here. May 12, to be exact. It was his New York premiere & his last appearance anywhere: "I'm breakin' up the act", he vowed between totes. After Paul Krassner's sardonic intro, Mr. K came on like Danny Kaye on a benny kick, a tornado fusion of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce, Harriet Beecher Stowe, & Dick Butkus.

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In Cleveland, Carol Turoff & Company celebrated the animal kingdom in dances snapping with wit & majesty.

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Our neighbor, The Third Street Music School Settlement, 235 E. 11 St., invites the community to celebrate the dedication of its new building with a week of free concerts. For a calendar, visit, or call 777-3240.

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Allen Ginsberg learned that "Speaking Freely" with Edwin Newman is sometimes a very private affair. First, NBC-TV slotted the tape for broadcast at 1 a.m. Saturday morning, hardly prime time, to protect noninsomniacs from Allen's list of pleasurable psychedelics. Then, the network denuded the show of Ginsberg's references to C.I.A. spiderman Lucien Conein, mention of William Colby's leadership of homicidal Operation Phoenix; even clipped the entire last stanza from his poem, "CIA Dope Calypso". With kind permission of the poet & publisher Full Court Press we reprint the lines stricken from the song:

OPERATION HAYLIFT OFFISIR WM COLBY
SAW MARSHAL KY FLY OPIUM MR MUSTARD TOLD ME
INDOCHINA DESK HE WAS CHIEF OF DIRTY TRICKS
"HITCH-HIKING" WITH DOPE-PUSHERS WAS HOW HE GOT HIS FIX

SUBSIDIZING THE TRAFFICKERS TO DRIVE THE REDS AWAY
NOW COLBY IS THE HEAD OF THE WHOLE WORLD C.I.A.

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On the evening of June 17, his birthday, Ron Padgett will plug in his radio carefully tune its dial to 99.5 f.m., and, in the comfort of his E. 13 St. apartment, listen as it broadcasts his voice. This is a miracle, made possible by the discovery of magnetic tape & the industry of Susan Howe, who hosts the WBAI poetry program. Listen in, too, every Tuesday, at 8:45 p.m. John Hollander reads June 3.

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Finally, bouquets & happy birthdays to Ron P.; Allen G. (June 3); Ellen P. (June 22); and a happy birth to Lauren S. (May 14).

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IN JUNE

For George and Katie, Yvonne and Rudi, Hugh, Ted, Carol,
Rebecca, Patrick, & Ulysses, Lauren, & Yuriko, Ron, & Patty,
Tessie, for David and Turon, Barry and Sylvie, Hiro, Anne
and Michael, Billy, Linda, Alice, Peter and Brooke, Chuck
and Cherry, and Larry, Miriam and Zachery, Ruth, Dolly,
Thomas and Mimi and Alio and Paul, Michele and Chris and
Lee, Bill and Claude, Ed, Bernadette and Lewis, Susan,
Rachelle, Steve and Joanne and Anna, Charlie and Charles
and Paula and Pam and Elizabeth, Anselm and Bill and John,
Ron and Evelyn and Ted and Joan, Dick and Joe and Eugene

I love a day
when you can go out
& the beauty of your friends
astounds you
There are these people
in frilly nightgowns
eating breakfast
painting pictures
mailing books
they are there
& growing
all around you

- Maureen Owen -

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



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