

THE POETRY PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Nr.8

1 Oct.1973

Bill MacKay, Editor
St. Mark's Church, 2nd Avenue
& Tenth St., New York 10003

VIVA ALLENDE!
VIVA NERUDA!
AND WHERE IS NICANOR PARRA???

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A featured reading by Kenneth Koch on September 19 opened the '73-'74 poetry season at St. Mark's. This Wednesday (September 26) New Mexicans Larry Gooddell and Steve Rodefer read.

Other readings scheduled include an omnibus evening of Black American Poetry (October 3), Steve Malmude and Britt Wilkie (October 10), Clark Coolidge (October 17), Diane Wakoski (October 24), and Ed Sanders and Tom Veitch (October 31).

Pregame ceremonies will begin at 8:30 p.m., as usual. A suggested contribution of one measly dollar.

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In the eighth year of the Poetry Project, things keep changing. The Monday night open readings have been revamped to enable writers/performers more time to move inside. Three or four times a month, Ed Friedman will conduct a "performance night" during which several artists will present their work for 15-25 minutes. Only on the first Monday of each month will the regular open reading occur. Kickoff time is 8 pm.

In addition, Bernadette Mayer's workshop has multiplied into two sessions a week, one a conventional (?) writing workshop and the other a lecture. All manner of strange & erudite creatures have agreed to illuminate the workshoppers about matters literary & some not so.

Lewis Warsh and Ted Greenwald will also lead workshops, and several workshop magazines are again expected.

These things are OPEN and FREE. The schedule: Tuesdays, 8 pm (Mayer), Thursdays, 8:30 (Warsh), Fridays, 7 (Greenwald).

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The staff of the Poetry Project consists of Anne Waldman as director, Larry Fagin as assistant director, and Bill MacKay as Tonto. Maureen Owen will host the Wednesday readings. Ron Padgett will not edit the Newsletter, but will serve (thank merciful gods!) as a consulting editor.

The current (September 20) issue of The New York Review of Books, by the way, includes a delightful article by Mr. Koch on "Teaching Great Poetry to Children". Actually, it's a chapter transplanted from his Rose, Where Did You Get That Red, just out from Random House.

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A Memorial Service for Lee Crabtree was held in Springfield, Massachusetts on September 9. The service consisted of Lee's favorite music as well as a tape of his own composition "Virgin Forest". Those who did not hear or could not attend might write Lee's mother, Mary Crabtree, 146 Roosevelt Avenue, Springfield, Mass. 01118.

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Jim Carroll's much-awaited, long-overdue book of poetry, Living at the Movies (Viking), is now at your friendly neighborhood bookshop. Or should be. Larry Rivers did the splashy, attractive collage cover.

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Another bright new release is Andrei Codrescu's The History of The Growth of Heaven, published by Braziller.

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Angel Hair Books (Box 257, Peter Stuyvesant Station, New York City, 10009) just published Recent Visitors by Bill Berkson, adorned with a cover & drawings by George Schneeman.

Also, Joe Brainard's disarming More I Remember More. Each title, two dollars apiece.

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We highly recommend (no kidding) the current National Lampoon.

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Jon Cott's Stockhausen: Conversations With the Composer (Simon & Schuster, \$9.95) should make us all feel stupid, but doesn't. Completely un gimmicky.

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The latest issue of This (#4) contains a fine & lunatic interview with Clark Coolidge, poems by Joanne Kyger, Larry Eigner, Bill Berkson, Lewis Warsh and others equally pleasing. One dollar and fifty from Robert Grenier, Franconia College, Franconia, N.H. 03580.

Globe-hopping Allen Ginsberg mingled with his brethren this summer at the Rotterdam Arts Festival and The London Poetry International '73. In addition, he gave a benefit for the National Youth Theatre in London with "mantra chanting, Blake's songs retuned, Poetry 1968-1973, Blues, Rags, Laments".

For the next three months, Allen will be roaming Wyoming, learning deep inner things in seminars with Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, the Tibetan teacher.

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Charles Plymell's compelling Over the Stage of Kansas might be purchased at bookshops, or from Telephone Books (412 W. 110th Street, N.Y.C. 10025.) A dollar fifty.

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Oink 7 (\$1.00; c/o Paul Hoover, 748 W. Webster, Apt. 6, Chicago, Illinois 60614) presents work by Bill Knott, Gerard Malanga, Ron Padgett, Lewis Mac Adams and a dozen more.

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Michael Brownstein has completed a 310-page novel equidistant between the pornographic and the pastoral.

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Parnassus: Poetry in Review weighs a couple of pounds, costs \$3.50, and digests scores of poets an issue. The two hundred page Spring/Summer number includes Sorrentino on Wieners, Sutherland on Ponge, Eshleman on Vallejo, not to mention glimpses of Vergil, David Shapiro and Swahili Love Poetry.

At your local bookstore or from 216 W. 89th, New York, N.Y. 10024.

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A rare interview with Jackson MacLow highlights the Spring issue of the New York Quarterly. Two dollars. Everywhere.

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Dreams (Angel Hair, \$2.50) by Peter Schjeldahl is slender, graceful and characteristically witty. Jim Rosenquist provided a fine cover.

The new issue of American Poetry Review (July/August) will please & outrage everyone with its diversity. Poems by John Ashbery and Michael Brownstein are sandwiched between articles by Robert Coles and Vance Bourjaily, a funny column by Donald Hall and a dialogue between Huey Newton and Erik Erikson (!). All yours, with much more, for a dollar. Dept. S., 401 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19147.

Kenward Elmslie wrote the libretto for "The Sweet Bye & Bye", opening at Kansas City's Lyric Theatre September 18. Jack Beeson composed the music.

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Barry Gifford and Marshall Clements (with camera) take a slow walk through Lowell in Kerouac's Town, a tiny but attractive Capra chapbook (\$2.50 from Capra Press Press, 631 State, Santa Barbara, California 93101).

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Something Else Press (P.O. Box 26, West Glover, Vermont 05875) offers John Giorno's just published Cancer in My Left Ball: Poems 1970-1972. Clark Coolidge's The Maintains is under contract.

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Why has no one mentioned Penguin's delightful "Poet to Poet" series, in which a modern writer introduces and selects the work of an older one? Best so far are Robert Creeley's Whitman, and Hugh MacDiarmid's Henryson.

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Also lost in the bookstore shuffle is David Meltzer's anthology Birth (Ballantine), a subtle mix of myth and medicine.

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The Salmagundi double issue on "Contemporary Poetry in America" includes a long appreciation of John Ashbery by Harold Bloom.

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Jim Brodey has settled in Santa Barbara after traveling through the South West this summer. In July, Jim read at the Intersection Poetry Series with Ebbe Borregarde. Mulberry Magazine Books promises a Brodey poetry book with an introduction by Clark Coolidge. Stay tuned.

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Gerard Malanga has joined Bockris-Wylie as a columnist on the "alternate" Philadelphia newspaper, The Drummer.

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Caterpillar 20, just issued, completes the set. The issue includes nice things by Gary Snyder, Paul Blackburn, Fee Dawson, Jerome Rothenberg,

David Antin, George Quasha and others. Copies of the final issue can be obtained at most reputable bookstores for \$2.00. Now-unemployed-editor Clayton Eshleman cautions that back issue orders should be sent to Serendipity Books, 1790 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, Ca. 94709.

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Poetry Project pappa Joel Oppenheimer nurses the Mets through The Wrong Season, a Bobbs-Merrill hardcover. The book, by the way, is not about just baseball. But then, neither is baseball. P.S. Oakland in six games.

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Venom honors this month go to the blurb-writer on the backside of The Immanentist Anthology: The Art of the Superconscious (honest!): "'The New York School'", for instance, being mainly distinguished by motley common intercourse in Literary Affairs--where success to puny talent is like the strong pull of a small dog."

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Invisible City (75¢, The Red Hill Press, 6 San Gabriel Drive, Fairfax, California 94910) features some interesting translations and original work as well. Jack Hirshman and Franco Fortini are among the contributors.

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Robert Creeley is at his naked best in His Idea (n.p., The Coach House Press). Photographs by Elsa Dorfman.

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Joe Brainard's invigorating New Work (\$3.00 p.b. \$15.00 signed cloth) tops the new Black Sparrow list.

Other recent publications include David Meltzer's Hero/Lil (\$4 & \$15), and Diane Wakoski's Greed, Parts 8,9 & 11 (\$3 & \$15).

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Seventy poets, including Anne Waldman, Joanne Kyger, Diane di Prima, Rochelle Owens and Gertrude Stein, are represented in the pages of Rising Tides: 20th Century American Women Poets, edited by Laura Chester and Sharon Barba. Another new paperback anthology is No More Masks: An Anthology of Poems by Women (Doubleday), edited by Florence Howe and Ellen Bass.

Peter Orlovsky was watching his garden grow. Then Fall came. Now he yodels indoors mostly, patiently reading the seasons, savoring next year's corns, pea pods, and tomatoes. And keeps his tractor clean.

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The publication of Ring of Bone: Collected Poems 1950-1971 by Lew Welch clarifies our loss once more. Even now, Lew's work is underrated, seldom-read. Donald Allen does his usual skilful, unobtrusive job arranging and introducing this book (Grey Fox Press, Bolinas, \$2.95).

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Unicorn Press (P.O. Box 3307, Greensboro, N.C. 27402) offers copies of Jerome Rothenberg's Esther K Comes to America (\$3.00 p.b. \$7.00 hd.c.) with photographs and Warsaw ghetto overtones. Ritualistic in the best sense.

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Paul Spike's Photographs of My Father (Knopf) simply leaves one speechless.

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Intrepid fans will ransack bookshops to get #23/24 (\$2.00, P.O. Box 1423, Buffalo, N.Y. 14214), which not only includes work by Charles Bukowski, Eric Mottram, Kenneth Rexroth, Louis Ginsberg, and others, but contains an index to Intrepid Nos. 1-20.

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The latest, double issue of Unmuzzled Ox is the best yet. Featuring over sixty pages about or by Gregory Corso, the magazine also includes work by Gary Snyder, Hugh Seidman, Rochelle Owen, Michael Brownstein et al. The photos of Gregory as a child alone are worth the price of admission, \$1.25 from Box 374, Planetarium Station, New York, N.Y. 10024.

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John Ashbery just got a job at Brooklyn College, but is taking a year's leave of absence. That's moxie.

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Whatever the Times book reviewer said to the contrary, Fielding Dawson's A Great Day for a Ballgame (Bobbs-Merrill) is a wonderful book, gentle, moving and smooth.

Adventures in Poetry #10 is an issue so devoted to anonymity that many people don't know they have already read it. It is packaged between eye-filling "School Days" covers & contains work by everyone famous.

Larry Fagin (437 E. 12th Street, N.Y.C. 10009), the man responsible for this needless madness, also offers The Flying Glove by Mary Ferrari, cover & illustrations by Susan Hall, and Making a Living by Ted Greenwald, with cover by Gordon Matta-Clark. One dollar & fifty cents each.

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People with crowded apartments might send excess stamps & spare change to the Newsletter to help defray mailing costs. Thanks.

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Lewis and Phoebe MacAdams have a new baby boy entitled William Blaise!

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The immortal New American Poetry, 1945-1960 (edited by Donald M. Allen) is now in its 18th printing and STILL only would you believe \$2.95!?!

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W.H. Auden is dead at 66. He was a former parishioner of St. Mark's Church, and lived for many years on St. Mark's Place. We will miss his new work, while we re-read the old. Requiescat in pace.

Poem
Screeching NYC
macaws
clothesline to oblivion

Move to Hollywood

get up in the morning
jump into your overalls
chop down your own fruit trees

- Larry Fagin

THE POETRY PROJECT
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TO

Phil Whalen

c/o Zen Center

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