

THE POETRY PROJECT NEWSLETTER

No. 13

1 March 1974

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

"Light clarity avocado salad in the morning". The Selected Poems of Frank O'Hara (Random House, \$3.45) is a feast, disarmingly beautiful. Once again, the loving, invisible fingers of editor Donald Allen leave their mark, but no stain. A generous & varied collection, graced by a fine cover collage by Larry Rivers.

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Meanwhile, "Frank O'Hara, A Poet Among Painters" continues at The Whitney Museum until March 17. Not a sentimental hodgepodge or just a who's who of modern American art (Albers, Johns, Kline, de Kooning, Pollock: nearly all the names are there), but a tasteful exhibit placing O'Hara among the painters & sculptors whose energy & friendship he shared. Not to be missed.

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Just this week, the Project received a contribution, "in memory of Frank O'Hara".

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An exciting month of readings at the Church: Barbara Guest on March 6, followed, on the 13th, by a blockbuster evening with Allen Ginsberg & Michael McClure. Bill Corbett & Fanny Howe will read March 20 and on the 27th Tom Clark is tentatively slated to make his first New York appearance in seven years. Wilderness Preservation Band and Jerome Rothenberg will probably induce trances and foot-stomping with their April 3rd performance.

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On a date with Yoko Ono, Allen Ginsberg took her to meet William Burroughs. The evening ended with the trio holding hands & talking about emptiness in New York City. Oh yeah?

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By the way, Mr. Burroughs is currently, temporarily residing in our fair city & is known to generate thought-transference among CCNY students.

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Just out, Jim Harrison's Letters to Yesenin (Sumac, \$2.45) was overdue, but worth the wait. Letters, then postscript, then poems. It lingers.

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Oth
by H. V.

The Museum of Modern Art is sponsoring a poetry reading series this spring. Hostess Lita Hornick offers an impressive line-up, leading off April 4 with Larry Fagin, Tony Towle and Michael Brownstein. Bernadette Mayer will handle introductions & keep the peace. Later readings feature the likes of Peter Schjeldahl, Paul Violi, Ted Greenwald, Ron Padgett, Dick Gallup, and John Ashbery. Watch these pages for further details & winning lottery numbers.

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Bonnie Bremser, whose wild & footloose life makes me feel a little more like Silas Marner each day, has written another book of memoirs. Called Artista, this autobiography has been circulating in mss., exciting everyone who reads it. Clearly, the time is ripe for some publisher to pluck the book from its author's hands (with her permission, of course) & set it in type, straightaway. Inquiries, c/o The Project, will be forwarded.

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The Byrd Hoffman School of Byrds have flown to Sao Paolo to perform "The Life & Times of Joseph Stalin". Bye bye byrdies. (Meanwhile, workshops & events will continue at their loft at 147 Spring St. Open house Thursdays at 8:30.)

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John Godfrey's workshop now meets at the Church, Monday evenings, 8 p.m. Recent visits showed that things are still popping in the groups conducted by Bernadette Mayer (Tuesday, 8 p.m.) and Lewis Warsh (Thursday, 8:30 p.m.). For information, call 674-0910, Monday 10-5, Wednesday 2-5, or Friday 10-2.

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The Friday lecture series arranged by Ms. Mayer has two installments scheduled for March. On the 15th, David Antin will address the multitudes. Hannah Weiner will be the featured speaker on the 29th. Posttime is 8:30.

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Thinking people now have a new friend. The Translation Center, jointly sponsored by the Writing Division of the School of the Arts at Columbia U. and the P.E.N. American Center, has offered itself as a clearing house for translators and publishers. The Center plans to call the attention of publishers to works that should be translated and to provide them with names of qualified translators in various languages. On the other hand, the Center intends to inform translators of projects under way in various publishing houses for which suitable translators may be required. This ambitious project deserves our plaudits, gold stars, but more importantly, our help. Translators, publishers, and just plain folk should contact Ms. Constance Hirsch, Translation Coordinator, 307A Mathematics, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. 10027. And spread the word.

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At this very moment, Larry Fagin is in his wretched hovel typing frantically, spending the last vestige of his sanity as he attempts to meet a March 30 publication date for Adventures in Poetry #11. If Larry's typing is half as good as the poetry, the issue will be a classic. Featured are long works by Coolidge, Dawson, McClure, Padgett, Schuyler, Towle, Waldman, Wieners, and others. One dollar and fifty at the usual bookstores.

is spring.
with
handle
-chisel-

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Other Adventures in Poetry books due soon include Bright Lights! Big City! by Hilton Obenzinger (\$1.50), Admonitions (\$2.00), Jack Spicer's long-awaited book, and The Drunken Boat (\$1.50), a translation of Rimbaud by Ted Berrigan, drawn by Joe Brainard. As if these were not enough, Adventures offers Hymns to St. Bridget (\$2.00), collaborations by Frank O'Hara & Bill Berkson, with a cover by Larry Rivers, and The Girl With The Pale Cerulean Eyes/ The Man With The Grey Hair (\$2.00), "a mystery novel" with cover collage by author Fielding Dawson. Also in the works is a catalogue listing all the Adventures in Poetry magazines & pamphlets: in and out of print & featuring elegant drawings by Bill Brodecky. Orders & requests to 435-437 E. 12 St., New York, N.Y. 10009. Check your bookshop first.

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The School of Visual Arts Amphitheater will be the scene of a Tuesday poetry series beginning March 19. Joe Brainard & John Giorno will share the stage and microphone the first reading. Subsequent readers include Larry Fagin & Lewis Warsh (March 26), Michael Benedikt & Jack Anderson (April 2), and Anne Waldman & Michael Brownstein (April 16). Each event at the stroke of noon.

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Latest addition to the attractive little "Curriculum of the Soul" series is Ed Sanders' Egyptian Hieroglyphics, which could make even King Tut titter with aesthetic delight. Sixteen other titles are in print already, including Dance by Lewis MacAdams, Woman by John Wieners, Visions by Drummond Hadley, and Sensation by Anselm Hollo. Projected are titles by Creeley, Duncan, McClure, Dorn, and others. Two dollars @ from The Institute of Further Studies, Box 482, Canton, New York 13617.

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Paintings by Joe Brainard will be exhibited at the Fischbach (29 W.57, 959-2345), beginning April 6. Worth a notation on any calendar.

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Poems letters stories articles by to about him: Charles Bukowski encompasses the latest issue of Second Coming. Other contributors include Harold Norse, Jack Micheline, Linda King, but clearly Buk, bearded, hair-slicked-down, beer bottle in hand, is the man they all came to wrestle. The whole carnival for two dollars, at bookstores or from P.O. Box 31246, San Francisco, California 94131.

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The Boston Eagle #2, edited by William Corbett, Lee Harwood & Lewis Warsh, with work by John Wieners, Fanny Howe, Gerard Malanga, Jonathan Cott, Paul Evans, Michael Palmer, Larry Fagin, Pat Nolan and the editors, is available at 9 Columbus Sq., Boston, Mass. 02116. Fine & dandy. A dollar fifty.

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A show by Hannah Wilke will be on view at Ronald Feldman Fine Arts (33 E. 74, 249-4050), March 16-30.

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Next in line at the Paula Cooper Gallery (155 Wooster, corner Houston) is Michael Brownstein, who will read from his sinful novel Country Cousins. That's Friday, March 15, 8:30 p.m.

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The contributors' list of Two Charlies Number Three reads "Charles Amirkhanian, Charles Baudelaire, Charles Bukowski, Charles S. Clifton, Charley George", etc. Beginning to detect a pattern? That's right, kids, everybody's named Charlie (except maybe Carlos Reyes, but why stickle?) However tenuous this common denominator, the magazine it glues together is fun. Worth a buck + stamp from Two Charlies of Oregon, Box 361, Scappoose, Oregon 97056, or from Two Charlies of New Mexico, Box 493, Placitas, New Mexico 87043.

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Literally hundreds of artists, including Robert Motherwell, Willem de Kooning, Vito Acconci, Jennifer Bartlett, and Yvonne Jacquette have donated work to the Chile Emergency Exhibition (383 West Broadway) which runs March 2-16. Every penny raised at the Exhibition will be used to aid victims & prospective victims of the Chilean terror. Your attendance is urgently requested.

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Nathan Whiting, the roadrunner of New York poetry, moves gracefully through city streets in Distancing (New River Press, \$1.25). Distributed by Serendipity Books, 1790 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, California 94709.

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Walter Lowenfels is collecting poems for an anthology to be entitled For Neruda/For Chile. Poems can be submitted to him at Boulder Drive, Peekskill, New York 10566.

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What was Patterns has become Stone Country. Editor-Publisher Judy Neeld longs for good mss., artwork. Submissions & inquiries to 20 Lorraine Road, Madison, N.J. 07940.

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Burning Deck (71 Elmgrove, Providence, R.I. 02906) keeps cranking out pretty letterpress pamphlets. The latest are Bruce Andrews' Corona, Ron Silliman's Nox, Andrew Crozier's The Veil Poem and publishers Rosemarie & Keith Waldrop's Words Worth Less. Two dollars, fifty cents.

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If you catch the Alice Neel portrait show at the Whitney, it may grab you right back. Arresting. Through March 17.

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Ruth Krauss' This Breast Gothic (Bookstore Press, \$2.95) is a simple joy. At select bookstores, or from Bookstore Press, Housatonic St., Lenox, Mass. 01240.

to rot
Jimmy S

ZZ, Kenward Elmslie's elegant magazine, is truly out, chockfull of goodies to rot your teeth & sharpen your mind. Everyone will have his/her own favorite: Jimmy Schuyler's vivid "What's for Dinner?", the lively Padgett-Zavatsky Larbaud translations, John Ashbery's notebook selections, etc. Two dollars at book venders or c/o The Project.

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Obviously, the Soviet Union already realizes how important its writers are. Perhaps some day soon the Kremlin will understand how its writers are important.

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Everyone, gay, straight, celibate, should experience Gay Sunshine (Box 40397, San Francisco, California 94140), if only for its amazing interviews, fine poetry. Contributors to the Jan./Feb. issue, for instance, include Gerard Malanga (featured with a cover interview & poems), Joe Brainard, John Giorno and John Wieners. At sixty cents a steal.

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Swap shop: Ron Padgett has an extra copy of Art & Literature #3, needs #7 to complete his set. Write Ron at 342 E. 13, N.Y.C., N.Y.

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Fairfield Porter opens a one-man show at the Hirschl & Adler Galleries, (21 E. 67), March 2. It closes the 23rd.

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Ed Friedman's unpredictable Monday night performance series continues as follows: March 4 - open reading, March 11 - Richard Vetere, Olean Bess, Shirley Powell, March 18 - Neil Hackman, Leonard Neufeld, Allen Sondheim. 8:15 on the dot.

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Spring training! O Vida, there were times I thought Winter would never end!

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Survivor

Coded; spaced out;
transvestited; in doubt
invert; Emily's skirt

no felled behavior
Travelled the border;
as exhibition's route,

p. 22.

8 verses

To spiel pawn future
up north Lake Superior?
lazy South moss pillar.

Could she loan wet boudoir
garrulous billpen procedure,
surely our Western hemisphere

Asked more than mere cook's tour:
Bull-pan; ball-pin; buswind.

-- John Wieners.

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TO _____

First Class Mail