

THE POETRY PROJECT NEWSLETTER

No. 12                      1 Feb. 1974

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

The newsletter appeal for funds did not go unanswered. One hundred twenty crisp American dollar bills floated in, not to mention assorted nickels, dimes, quarters & even a few goddamn subway tokens. For all this, we are grateful.

Particular thanks go to special angels Andreas Brown of the Gotham Book Mart, Elias Wilentz of the Eighth Street Bookshop and June Fortress of the YMHA Poetry Center.

(P.S. Readers who contributed stamps will continue to receive benefits in the afterlife.)

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Also, the Poetry Project is pleased to announce a grant from the Alexander Houghton Foundation which will enable us to continue our scheduled reading & open reading programs as originally projected. Coupled with a gift from a private patron and our NYS Arts Council grant, this keeps us above water through the remainder of the season.

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Jerome Rothenberg & George Quasha's America A Prophecy (Random House, \$3.95) is a rare anthology, one with a structure, a body, not just a gathering of "fine" poems which happen to inhabit the same pages. The subtitle, "A New Reading of American Poetry from Pre-Columbian Times to the Present", should tell the story, but doesn't quite. Festive reading. Already, the first printing of the hardcover edition is exhausted.

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Future readings at the Church feature Charles Plymell (Feb.6), John Wieners (Feb.13), Kenward Elmslie & Trevor Winkfield (who will deliver a lecture on Bernard Buffet) (Feb.20), Gregory Corso (Feb.27), Barbara Guest (March 6), and Allen Ginsberg & Michael McClure (March 13). Curtain time is 8:30.

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Gordon Baldwin reports snow on Mount Tamalpais for a week, "unheard of, or unseen before". We report his fine exhibit, "Twenty-four Drawings" at the Shepherd Gallery, 21 E. 84 St., from January 29 to March 2.

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Copies of  
be seen around  
you around th  
A dollar  
Street Booksh  
N.Y.C. 10003)

John Giorno returned from his four-month Indian visit bright-eyed, as energetic as ever. Settled into this urban madness with new meditations, writing, splices for a second record album. Also, plans are afoot to revive his Dial-a-Poem for at least a month.

Meanwhile, copies of "The Dial-a-Poem Poets" double album are still available from Giorno (222 Bowery, New York, N.Y.) for only \$5.95, insignificant to the joy of holding the voices of Burroughs, Ginsberg, Ashbery, a dozen others, captive in your own livingroom. Cuts from the album were a big hit on KPFA in San Francisco. New York radio stations, please copy.

\* \* \* \* \*

Yvonne Jacquette begins a one-woman show at the Fischbach February 13. The address is 29 West 57th. Her past performance warrants your attendance.

\* \* \* \* \*

Singer-poet, poet-singer Patti Smith was dynamite at the Metro, where she shared billing with Artie & Happy Traum. Earlier, sandwiched between Christmas & New Year's at Max's, she pleased & baffled upstairs audiences, thus making even glitter city safe for poets.

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Due any day now, Telephone #9 offers an incredible cover by Paula North, brush & ink drawings by Lauren Owen, and works by Charles North, Anne Waldman, Lyn Hejinian, Joe White, Merrill Gilfillan, Keith Abbott, Susan Quist, Ted Greenwald, Regina Beck and Rebecca Brown. A dollar fifty at bookstores everywhere (?) or from editor Maureen Owen, 412 W. 110 St., N.Y.C.

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This month's Paula Cooper Gallery reader is Jennifer Bartlett. The reading, Friday, February 15, will begin at 8:00 p.m. 155 Wooster is where it's at.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jack Spicer is the focus of a projected issue of Manroot. People with memories of, responses to, recreations of Spicer the man, the poet, the linguist, the baseball fan and pinball wizard should mail them to Box 982, South San Francisco, Ca. 94080.

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The new paintings by John Seery now on display at the André Emmerich Gallery (41 E. 57, 752-0124) are characteristically exuberant & colorful. Worth a visit.

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Vort #4 spotlights the work of Fielding Dawson and Jonathan Williams with lively interviews, diverting articles & amusing photos. Contributors include Robert Creeley, Donald Phelps, Paul Metcalf, Eric Mottram, Larry Eigner, Robert Kelly, editor Barry Alpert, and the subjects themselves. Two dollars, from Alpert, 1703 Tilton Drive, Silver Springs, Md.

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Copies of Workshop, experiments in writing, for us, in reading, can still be seen around the city, Einstein's face staring out from the cover. It follows you around the room, sits up, rolls over, performs small miracles.

A dollar at places New Yorkers should frequent (Gotham Book Mart, Eighth Street Bookshop, East Side Bookshop) or from Nick Piombino (17 St. Marks Pl., N.Y.C. 10003).

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Editor Anne Waldman assures us that The World #29 is taking shape, awaits only last-minute entries, monies forthcoming to bulls-eye its March 1 target-date. This review/commentary issue promises to be exciting and controversial. Of course, the opinions stated therein are not necessarily, etc., etc.

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Plot-starved novelists will find material enough for two or three books in Bockris/Wylie's interview with Taylor Mead, which appears in the January 22 Drummer. Habitual undergrounders might like this Philadelphia newspaper, published at 4221 Germantown Avenue. The zip is 19140. Single copies a quarter.

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The Red Grooms exhibition at the John Bernard Myers Gallery was a pleasure, a panoply of Ruckusiana mit zing und pfiff !!!

\* \* \* \* \*

The first issue of Broadway Boogie is subtitled "chaotic breakfast", a fact made somewhat understandable by the table of contents. The list of contributors includes Bill Zavatsky, Herman Melville, Gerrit Lansing, Paul Metcalf, Hugh of St. Victor, Civ Cedering Fox, Philip Lopate, and Emily Dickinson. Underline the name that does not fit. The editor, Mark Weiss, can be reached (if at all) at 2680 Broadway, N.Y.C. 10025. Copies are \$1.50@.

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Paris Review. The story so far: George Plimpton plays touch football, reads his magazine. The candy cotton hits the fan. Maxine Groffsky resigns. The Paris office closes. Tom Clark receives a letter, becomes an "advisory editor." Meanwhile, our hero, The Paris Review, eludes U-boats, crosses the Atlantic & sets up shop in Manhattan. Michael Benedikt is named poetry editor. Stay tuned.

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Ed Friedman's Monday night performance schedule plans an open reading (Feb. 4), Jerry Oleaf, Gary Patick, Bob Cooperman, & John Freeman (Feb. 11), Ed Bowes, George Canaris, & Mel Freilicher (Feb. 18), and John Boileau & Franz Kamin (Feb. 25). 8:15 p.m.

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The lecture  
the Church cont  
Galen Williams  
"Publishing & G  
ing time.

Issue 22, published via Poetry Project, edited by Kenward Elmslie, will hit the stands by February 15th. Issue includes work by James Schuyler (first chapter of a novel called What's For Dinner?), long poems by Ron Padgett and Lewis Warsh, an entry from his Vermont Journal by John Ashbery, and a big sample of drawings and stories by Glen Baxter. 148 pages. \$2.50 from the Poetry Project.

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The U.S. Committee for Justice to Latin American Political Prisoners is sponsoring the Chile Emergency Exhibition, a benefit art show, to aid victims of the Chilean military junta, at 383 W. Broadway, on March 2-16. Also, a telegram and letter campaign has been launched to free Manuel Cabieses Donoso, writer and editor of leftist publications; Punto Final, a journal, and a daily paper who is being held in a concentration camp in Northern Chile, and other writer/prisoners whose whereabouts are uncertain. Demands, appeals should be directed to Gen. Augusto Pinochet, c/o Chilean Embassy, 1730 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington D.C.

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Rochelle Owens' The Karl Marx Play recently returned from an American Place Theatre sponsored tour of Paris, Berlin, Frankfurt, Zürich, Brussels and Amsterdam. E.P. Dutton is publishing her second collection, The Karl Marx Play And Others.

\* \* \* \* \*

An Anthology of New York Poets, edited by David Shapiro & Ron Padgett, has consumed its first edition and gone out of print. Sales totalled 9500 copies.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Donnell Library Center (20 W. 53) will present a "First Farewell to Pablo Neruda", Monday, February 11. Robert Bly, Lewis Haynes, Galway Kinnell and others will read translations from Neruda's work. For information, call 988-6783.

\* \* \* \* \*

A benefit reading for The Committee for Puerto Rican Decolonization will be held February 21 at 8 p.m. at the Ethical Cultural Society, 2 W. 64th St. Participants include Ossie Davis, Anne Waldman & the cream of young Puerto Rican poetry. Be there.

\* \* \* \* \*

A Saturday afternoon workshop conducted by John Godfrey will begin February 2, Groundhog Day, at the Church. Starting time is 2 p.m. Godfrey's credits include the beautiful 26 Poems (Adventures in Poetry, \$3.00) and poems in Another World (Bobbs-Merrill, \$2.95). Continuing workshops are led by Bernadette Mayer (Tuesday, 8:00 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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I hit the  
Chapter  
Lewis  
ample of  
y Project.

The lecture series conducted by Bernadette Mayer in the workshop room of the Church continues. The February schedule includes Vito Acconci (Feb.8), Galen Williams (Feb.12) and Harold Rothbart (Feb.22). Ms. Williams' talk on "Publishing & Grants" will begin at 8 p.m., an hour before the regular starting time.

\* \* \* \* \*

A bundle of Black Sparrow releases: The Sun Rises Into The Sky, fifteen years of stories by Fielding Dawson, and a wide & pleasing range it is. Dancing on the Grave of a Son of A Bitch by Diane Wakoski recounts, recoups. The Boy Who Set the Fire by Paul Bowles & Mohammed Rabet, draws you into its lungs, won't let go. South of No North by Charles Bukowski, crazy, witty, profane, in some states, a misdemeanor. And finally, The Escaped Cock, a promising, uneven story by a raw young talent, D. H. Lawrence. Each book, four dollars.

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Houston Grand Opera will present the world premiere of The Seagull, an opera composed by Thomas Pasatieri, with a libretto by Kenward Elmslie, based on the Chekhov play. The new work will be given for four performances beginning March 5th, at Jones Hall, Houston.

The opera will be staged by Frank Corsaro, designed by Allen Charles Klein and conducted by Charles Rosecrans. The cast includes four Met stars: Evelyn Lear as Arkadina, Frederica von Stade as Nina, John Reardon as Trigorin, and Richard Stilwell as Constantine.

Radio buffs in the San Francisco area will be able to hear a broadcast of the premiere performance.

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On March 7th, a double-bill reading of two plays will be given in Houston, sponsored by Rice University, and arranged by Harris Posenstein, venturesome director of the Institute of the Arts. The plays are City Junket, by Kenward Elmslie, and The Heroes, a one-acter by John Ashbery. The cast will consist of the two poets, who'll appear in each other's plays, and Ruth Kligman, Clarice Rivers, Harry Mathews, Diane Molinari, and Larry Rivers, who'll create visuals for the occasion.

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"Marcel Duchamp and Raymond Roussel" is the announced topic of Ron Padgett's lecture at The Museum of Modern Art, Thursday, February 7. 6:30 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

A special issue of Toothpick magazine, edited by Bruce Andrews & Michael Wiater, is now out. It contains poetry, performance events, scores, & conceptual art by 33 humans, including MacLow, Higgins, Coolidge, Eigner, LeWitt, Acconci, Mayer, Perreault, Lally, Corner, DiPalma, Barracks, etc. Three dollars from Wiater, 922 E. Alder, Seattle, Washington 98122.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Latest,  
Lorenzo Thomas,  
editor Alice Not  
A dollar & stamp

The Gay Rights Action Coalition will hold a benefit poetry reading at NYU Main Building, February 15, at 7:30 p.m. Poets participating include Joe Brainard, John Giorno, Anne Waldman.

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As if we didn't know already: Ane Waldman was tabbed as one of the world's sexiest woman in the January 11 Women's Wear Daily.

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Bob Wilson desperately needs a new location for the Phoenix Bookshop, currently at 18 Cornelia. Poetry buffs knowing of a reasonably-priced West Village storefront should contact Bob, pronto, at OR 5-2795.

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Talk is that the Byrd Hoffman School of Byrds will appear at St. Mark's Church in early March. Keep posted.

\* \* \* \* \*

Lorenzo Thomas is currently writer-in-residence at the Ethnic Arts Program of the Black Arts Center in Houston, Texas. He recently edited a magazine entitled Semasifu Words, which includes work by himself & junior high school students in the Houston area.

\* \* \* \* \*

Rudy Burckhardt fans will surely enjoy the vintage Burckhardt movies about New York to be screened at the Film Forum, 256 W. 88, on Thursday, February 28, thru Sunday, March 3, & on Thursday, March 7, thru Sunday, March 10. All showings at 8 o'clock.

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Sixpack editors Pierre Joris, Victoria Smitter, and W. R. Prescott announce a special Paul Blackburn issue & invite essays, critical comments, poems on/for Paul, notes, photos, etc. Deadline, February 15. Send to Joris, 19 Deal Road, London SW 17.

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Bernadette Mayer will read and the Charlie Morrow Band perform on February 26, 7:30 p.m., at the Washington Square Methodist Church, 135 W. 4 St.

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Trevor Winkfield, who is meticulous & clean, desires an apartment to let or sublet until June. He may be contacted c/o The Project or at 104 Greenwich Avenue, WA 9-5777.

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ing at NYU  
Joe Brain-

The Latest, "European edition" of Chicago features interesting things by Lorenzo Thomas, Allen Ginsberg, Philip Whalen, Ted Berrigan, George Oppen and editor Alice Notley. Not to mention basketball covers by George Schneeman. A dollar & stamp money from 29 Belle Vue Road, Wivenhoe, Essex, England.

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Joel Oppenheimer's The Wrong Season (Univ. Pub., \$1.25) is scheduled for paperback release, imminently.

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I am tempted not to return the copy I borrowed of Beyond the Looking Glass: Extraordinary Works of Fairy Tale & Fantasy (Stonehill, \$12.95). Sorry, Anne. Honestly, Jonathan Cott's collection of Victorian children's stories & poems is utterly beguiling. If not at your local bookshop, create a scene or write Stonehill, 38 E. 57th, New York, N.Y. 10022.

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Jonathan Cott, versatile & prolific rascal that he is, is also responsible for He Dreams What is Going on Inside His Head: Ten Years of Writing (Quick Fox, \$3.95).

Mulch 4 is a pleasant evening's reading. Allen Ginsberg's "The Visions of the Great Rememberer" alone is worth the price of admission. A Paul Pines translation, a Harry Lewis story, Theodore Enslin poetry & a whole fistful of reviews also crowd the issue. \$1.75 at dime stores or bus stations or from P.O. Box 426, Amherst, Mass. 01002.

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Hilton Obenzinger rides again in The Day of the Exquisite Poet is Kaput (Fits, \$1.00).

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On February 10, 1863, Mercy Lavinia Warren Bumpus became Mrs. Tom Thumb. Unable to attend the ceremony at Grace Church, President and Mrs. Lincoln sent the newlyweds "a gorgeous set of Chinese fire screens".

At The Controls

Though I'm not a woman  
falling in love overnight  
leaving nothing for the children to quarrel over,  
L equals the old El, rattling through my dreams,  
O equals multiple-choice olive grove,  
V equals vicuna we snuggle over and under, got shredded,  
E equals eggs in the morning, yarths, baths, pyramids,  
scrambled eggs, hallway, smelly eggs, morass, bus,  
bus depot eggs, grease-monkey always smiling up at  
me eating my eggs, on my pants, field, dinosaur  
eggs, flying down to Rio, handsome, huevos, g'wan,  
the siding, open transom eggs, Dwan, sunny side up,  
showered at the Y, second balcony, rooftop, back of  
truck, scrambled egg sandwich, oeuvres, gallery eggs,  
Bogota, dried wartime eggs, car, rented car, hotel  
eggs, motel eggs, motel eggs, hotel eggs, Harlem,  
boxcar, yachts riding out the storm, eggs on the  
rocks, crack, sleep, cracks, bed, bed eggs, sleep  
eggs closing out intruders.

Kenward Elmslie

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TO

Phil Whalen

40 Zen Center

300 Page Street

SAN FRANCISCO,

First Class Mail