

@poetics

The UB Poetics Discussion Group

Archive of Electronic Correspondence

June 1994

7 messages · Wed 8 Jun 1994 – Tue 28 Jun 1994

An electronic mailing-list archive

University at Buffalo, State University of New York

A reading edition. For each post the author's name, the subject, and the message are foregrounded, and the date is kept but subdued. Machine headers, encoded attachments, and the repeated listserv routing that once framed every message have been cleared away; email addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and similar personal contact details have been redacted.

Editor's Introduction

Kristen M. Fabians

June 1994 is a quiet month, the spring's collective mania spent, and the list settles into the errands of a going concern — a magazine to announce, a competition to note, a newsletter's subscription mechanics to explain. Chris Funkhouser leads with the roster of The Little Magazine's twentieth volume, a long confetti-fall of names, and closes his own contribution on a graver note, offered almost in passing: *"You gain your life only by giving it up"*. The party is over; the shop is open.

The rest is housekeeping raised, here and there, into something better. Loss Glazier posts the plain instructions for subscribing to RIF/T, the list's electronic-poetry offshoot, and Charles Watts turns a passing remark into a small aphorism, catching the season's mood as *"a cliché of our recognitions and condition"*. Under the heading Recovery of the Public World the list even glances, briefly, at the largest questions before letting them go again until autumn.

Fred Wah signs off the month with three words that will do as well as any for the whole of this early, half-formed, generous archive — *"Thanks for the morsel"*. Seven letters, no arguments to speak of, the poets tending the ordinary machinery of keeping in touch. I have set each forward under its author's name, the private numbers returned to the dark, and left the summer quiet where I found it.

— K. M. F.

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Every entry links to its message. 7 in all.

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1. Chris Funkhouser

(no subject)

Wed 8 Jun 1994

THE LITTLE MAGAZINE VOLUME 20 features, front to back,
Katie Yates, Don Byrd, Anne Tardos, Will Alexander, Charles Stein, Marilyn
Crispell, Chris Funkhouser, Katie Yates, Anne Waldman, Sandy
Baldwin, Elizabeth Burns, Jan Ramjerdi, Dave
Coogan & Nancy Dunlop, The Snickering Witches, Amy
Schoch, Jonathan Post, Awopbop, Derek
Owens, Katie Yates,
Awopbopaloobop Groupuscule, Noam
Scheindlin, Leonard Slade, Andrew
Podniek, Joyce Hinnefeld, Mark
Nowak, Eric Douglas,
Chris Stroffolino,
Rebecca Bush, Robert
Grenier, Belle Gironda, Katie
Yates, Mike Condon

Is available Seven Dollars (195pp.) =
bargain. The Little Magazine/English
Department/University at Albany/Albany, NY 12222

For "review" copies (literally) please send email to

from the CALL FOR WORK ():

"WRITING AND ELECTRONIC SPACE/CYBORG PERFORMANCE AND
POETICS. _THE LITTLE MAGAZINE_ is looking for writing and
visual art work which exists in the imagination of media still
uncreated...Although we are interested in adventuresome uses of
technology, it is not technology but vision which is lacking...we are sick...of
the polite, conventional thing literature has become. It is so
comfortably contained in print. It is mediated and remediated
(already); it is the subject of schools. We are not
interested in work which exemplifies the theories
of the past or even the hottest, most
engaging theory of the present. We
are interested in work which
will call forth the media
of the future.

CYBERPUNK GROW UP

The deadline for the issue is December 15, 1994,
but get in touch with us as soon as possible. We will try
to find a way to publish important work even if it does not fit
neatly into the usual literary magazine format. Tell us about your
writing, visual art, sound pieces, videos, multidimensional performances,
network art, and investigation of genres still unnamed..."

There will be a reading at Borders Bookstore in
Albany, 22 June, 6-9 pm, featuring contributors

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2. **Chris Funkhouser** **(no subject)**

Thu 9 Jun 1994

Just received a message from Santa Cruz sharing news of the passing of William
Everson (Brother Antoninus of SF Renaissance group), a friend and
writer/printer.

Inspirations, withanks, flipping thru *_Birth of a Poet_* (Black Sparrow '82):

A knowledge of myth is crucial to a knowledge of vocation.
In some way vocation is an enterprise, an enterprise of ser-
vice or discovery, and the moment it becomes that, it be-
comes mythic. It is this dimension which changes vocation
from career to witness. (53)

* * *

Spontaneous utterance deals with the potentiality of a
tongue but craftsmanship deals with its limitations. You
have to learn to balance yourself between them. Use the
right hand of your power in all its tumultuous pouring
forth, its torrential sound, its waterfalls of dissonance and
assonance, its cascades of tonality and inflection. But never
forget the left hand of craftsmanship always has the last
word. It defines the line beyond which you have not gone,
and are prevented from going. (89)

* * *

Go now into the great latitude that awaits you out there,
the reality that is not closing but opening. Seize it in your
two hands even as you embrace it and wrestle the meaning
from it in your thirst. But never forget that only the accep-
tance at the close will yield the mystery of wholeness to

you, the thing you desire most of all. You have to lose your life in order to save it. You have to expend yourself in order to find yourself. You gain your life only by giving it up. (193)

William Everson, 1912-1994

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3. **Joe Ross**

Re: Poetry Competition

Sun 12 Jun 1994

NEW AMERICAN POETRY SERIES COMPETITION

Over the past years, it has become increasingly apparent that poetry is undergoing a renaissance in the United States. More poets are writing original and exciting new works of poetry than there are publishers willing to publish their work.

In order to help rectify this situation and to encourage other organizations upon similar courses, The Contemporary Arts Educational Project, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, and its publishing program Sun & Moon Press announces a new poetry competition.

Beginning in 1995, The contemporary Arts Educational Project will annually publish two books in its Sun & Moon Press New American Poetry Series, chosen through a national poetry competition.

Original manuscripts, which have not previously appeared in book form, are eligible. Between May 1, 1994 and December 31, 1994 the competition will consider typed manuscripts of poetry (between 50 and 200 pages in length). Manuscripts should be accompanied by a cover letter, listing the author's name, address and telephone number; but no name or address should appear on the manuscript itself. All types of poetry written by all ages are eligible, but the national judges, who will read the manuscripts without knowing the names of the authors, have been charged to give particular interest to innovative and original compositions. Manuscripts should begin with a title page, followed by a table of contents and the text. A \$25.00 application fee (in the form of a check made out to The Contemporary Arts Educational Project, Inc.) for handling and judge's costs must be included with the manuscript. Manuscripts submitted without following the guidelines above will be returned. Please send all manuscripts to the New American Poetry Competition at the address below.

All entrants will be notified of the final selections by April 30, 1995; however, no manuscripts shall be returned. By entering this competition, the applicant agrees that, if chosen, he/she will allow Sun & Moon Press to publish the

manuscript according to the terms of the Sun & Moon Press contract, which pays 10% royalties on all copies sold.

For further information or to enter, please write to the following address:

The Contemporary Arts Educational Project, Inc.
Sun & Moon Press New American Poetry Competition
6026 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90036
[REDACTED] FAX: [REDACTED]

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4. **Loss Glazier**

How to Subscribe to RIF/T (Informational)

Wed 15 Jun 1994

In response to some questions about how to subscribe to RIF/T, I post the following information for those who might need it. This is an informational posting.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO RIF/T

(An Electronic Journal of Poetry, Poetics, and Writing)

[REDACTED]

Leave the "to" and "subject" lines of your e-mail message blank.

In the body of the e-mail message type:

subscribe e-poetry Firstname Lastname

where "Firstname" and "Lastname" correspond to your actual name.

You will receive a message confirming your subscription in short order.

Thanks for your interest in RIF/T,
Loss Glazier
for Kenneth Sherwood & Loss Glazier

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5. **Charles Watts**

"Recovery of the Public World"

Wed 15 Jun 1994

ANNOUNCING "THE RECOVERY OF THE PUBLIC WORLD": a Conference in Honour of the Poetry and Poetics of Robin Blaser; to be held in Vancouver, Canada, June 1st to 4th, 1995.

"Poets have repeatedly in this century turned philosophers, so to speak, in order to argue the value of poetry and its practice within the disturbed meanings of our time. These arguments are fascinating because they have

everything to do with the poets' sense of reality in which imagery is entangled with thought. Often, they reflect Pound's sense of 'make it new' or the modernist notion that this century and its art are simultaneously the end of something and the beginning of something else, a new consciousness, and so forth. It is not one argument or another for or against tradition, nor is it the complex renewal of the imaginary which our arts witness, for, as I take it, the enlightened mind does not undervalue the imaginary, which is the most striking matter of these poetics; what is laid out before us finally is the fundamental struggle for the nature of the real. And this, in my view, is a spiritual struggle, both philosophical and poetic. Old spiritual forms, along with positivisms and materialisms, which 'held' the real together have come loose. This is a cliché of our recognitions and condition. But we need only look at the energy of the struggle in philosophy and poetry to make it alive and central to our private and public lives." (Robin Blaser, from "The Violets: Charles Olson and Alfred North Whitehead," in LINE No. 2, Fall 1983)

This conference will address many of the concerns voiced by Robin Blaser's work in poetry and prose over nearly fifty years' writing, teaching, speaking and living an evolving poetic thought. There will be six panel sessions, each exploring a realm of this thought; there will also be a seventh, convivial session which will give us an opportunity to speak about companionship in poetry and poetics.

The panels, with possible topics for discussion:

POETICS, THEORY AND PRACTICE: presentation & representation - self & other - the play of absence - parataxis & hypotaxis - the serial poem - dictation - the poem as field - the poem thinking - the poem as argument - theory and practice of language - augury - the visionary & the prophetic - the construction of modernity - mythopoiesis - grammatology - logography

PAINTING, MUSIC, SCULPTURE, POETRY: no break with tradition, but a continuous gathering - continuous breakages and ruptures with academicisms and canon-makings - field in painting, music, the plastic arts - Rimbaud's 'dérèglement de tous les sens' - 'the painter of modern life' - revolution of the word - Duchamp & poiesis - l'avant-garde - Bach's belief &/in the era of Boulez and Cage

HETEROLOGIES: 'religio', a 'tying back to' & vision vs. religiosity - futurity as indeterminable vs a settled & expected transcendence - dangerousness of the latter - rethinking the cosmos in the 19th century (Poe, Emerson, Melville, Dickinson) - Blake & cosmos - 20th century turns - "we are 'ventured' by language" - Olson, Whitehead - science as thought & unthought (Einstein, Foucault) - 'scientific angelism' (Girard) - Merleau-Ponty - Leibniz, Bach, probability, monadology - Deleuze, 'the fold' - heterodoxies, heterologies (De

Certeau) - 'God, self, history, and book' (Taylor) - importance & implications of cosmology/cosmogony as modes of poetic discourse in relation to the contemporary dominance of philosophies of language & psychoanalysis - muthos/logos - Plato & the preface to Plato & the postface - the 'other' of philosophy & poetics

ETHICS AND AESTHETICS: modern 'isms' and persons - self, other - Hannah Arendt & the recovery of the public world - the scapegoat, sacrifice of the other - Marx, Freud, materialisms, positivisms - Foucault (madness & civilization, archaeologies of knowledge, the public institution) - the postmodern condition - poet & ideology - Benjamin, Adorno, Bloch, and others - outsiders (Hans Mayer) & 'the practice of outside' - Nietzsche, the birth of tragedy, the gay science - 'the fragility of goodness' (Nussbaum) - repression & freedom - Hermes & the parasite (Serres) - the practice of everyday life - (De Certeau) - nomadology - ethical poetics

EROS AND POIESIS: desire & freedom - eros & agape - self, other - homoeros, sexualities, 'heterodolities' - 'sodometries' - the creative/the destructive, the prolific/the devouring - sexual politics - the poetics of love

TRANSLATION: 'De vulgari eloquentia' - Mallarme, 'correspondances' - dictation - mimesis - imitation &/or carrying over - Pound - Nerval, Duncan, Blaser - music the 'upper limit of speech'? - translation & the sacred - 'originality'/'derivation' - 'quotation' - Octavio Paz - before, during, and after Babel (George Steiner) - ethnopoetics, culture studies, linguistics & translation

COMPANIONS: breaking bread with - a feast of companionship - 'the great companions: Pindar, Dante, Whitman, H.D., Duncan, Spicer, Olson, Pound, Yeats et al - the everyday & miraculous affection - 'the truth is laughter' - Boston, Berkeley, San Francisco, Vancouver - teaching/learning - generosity of scholarship - order/strife & human fulfillment - truth & life of myth

The 'Companions' session will be celebrated as a feast.

Obviously, the 'topics' outlined above have hardly the stability of categories, and can easily, and relatively promiscuously, slip from one session to another; "the map is not the territory," and conference participants will find their own territories/unterritories to speak from. One very valuable guide is Robin Blaser's *The Holy Forest*, "a collected poems, that is, as far as I've gone today, 6 May, 1993" (Toronto: Coach House Press, 1993), available from Coach House, 50 Prince Arthur Avenue, Suite 107, Toronto, Canada M5R 1B5, and from Small Press Distribution, 1814 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley CA 94702, Fax [REDACTED].

A CALL FOR PROPOSALS: "THE RECOVERY OF THE PUBLIC WORLD": A CONFERENCE ON THE POETRY AND POETICS OF ROBIN BLASER, June 1st-4th, 1995, EMILY CARR COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN, VANCOUVER, B.C.,

CANADA. CRITICISM * THEORY * BIOGRAPHY * LITERARY HISTORY * POETRY * WELCOME. PANELS AND SEMINARS WILL BE HELD ON POETICS, THEORY AND PRACTICE * PAINTING, MUSIC, SCULPTURE, POETRY * HETEROLOGIES * ETHICS AND AESTHETICS * EROS AND POIESIS * TRANSLATION * COMPANIONS.

Please submit two copies of a 500-750 word proposal by 30 September 1994 to "Toward the Recovery of the Public World," c/o The Institute for the Humanities, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. Canada V5A 1S6

Conference organizers are Ted Byrne, Tom Grieve, Tom McGauley, Miriam Nichols and Charles Watts. For additional information about the conference, please write to the Institute for the Humanities, or telephone [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]; or fax [REDACTED]. My e-mail address is [REDACTED]

Charles Watts for the conference organizers.

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6. **Fred J. Wah**

Re: chappies

Mon 20 Jun 1994

Thanks for the morsel. We're off to Germany in the morning, tired out after the Learned's here in Calgary last two weeks, plus all the fighting bout the race conference (but it's going ahead with lots of donations anyway). I haven't been able to get to the D book at all - feel bad about that but will have to wait until Sept now.

Was good to see you in TO, hope yr ok and the summer works. I'll be off of this, except for a couple of days in July, until late August.

take care,

Fred--

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7. **Alan Loney**

Poetics Notebook

Tue 28 Jun 1994

Wystan Curnow has just told me (with a heap of enthusiasm and of course a glittering intelligence) of your poetics discussion group, and I'd like to join. May I?

[REDACTED]

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