

THE POETRY PROJECT NEWSLETTER
No. 6 1 May 1973

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

Bockris-Wylie has followed his block-busting interview with Muhammed Ali by interviewing Gregory Corso (in THE DRUMMER, 4221 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19140, 25¢ per copy). Bockris-Wylie is in the process of putting together a book of interviews called A SONNET OF INTERVIEWS, to be published later this year as a big Telegraph Book.

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There are strange and interesting rumors floating around concerning the formation of a new big-little publishing company.

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Adventures in Poetry Books has just released THE FUNNY PLACE by Richard Snow, a long poem about Coney Island, with a cover by Red Grooms, and THE KHAKE by Glen Baxter, with cover and illustrations by the author, and A SONG AND A SORY FOR A by Richard Elliott, with a cover by Edward Gorey. All three are terrific books and sell for \$1.50 (Adventures in Poetry, ed. Larry Fagin, Apt. 18, 437 East 12th St., NYC 10009).

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Grossman Publishers has dissolved its relationship with Goliard/Santa Fe books. One wonders what the fate of Goliard will be.

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Morris Golde has just returned from a trip to India and Mexico. The Berrigan family is on its way to London. Dick Gallup has won a CAPS grant.

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Larry Bensky, who a few years back was Paris editor of THE PARIS REVIEW, and who now graces the California air waves at KPFA, came up with the following terrific KPFA fund-raising idea: a mammoth collaborative poem written by listeners. For \$1.25 a line the listener could call in any line he wished, and for \$2.50 the listener could strike out any line already written and substitute another. The poem turned out very interesting, like Benjamin Peret on roller skates.

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The sixth title in a series edited by Robert Durand (Yes! Press) and Noel Young (Capra Press) is David Meltzer's BARK, a Polemic on the canine world. One line concerning a stinky dog reads, "Out damned Spot." Available through Book People.

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THE SPICY MEATBALL No. 2, an 88 page magazine of upper classmen writing at elementary school 75 in New York City, is available from Phillip Lopate, c/o Teachers and Writers Collaborative, P.S. 3, 490 Hudson St., New York City 10014, for \$1.

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Gripe of the Month: that neither James Schuyler's THE CRYSTAL LITHIUM (Random House) nor John Ashbery's THREE POEMS (Viking) were even nominated for the National Book Award in Poetry.

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Donna Dennis is having a show of paintings called HOTELS at the West Broadway Gallery, 431 West Broadway, NYC, April 21 through May 10.

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Black Sparrow Press recently published Clayton Eshleman's new book of poems, COILS. \$4 paperbound, signed cloth edition \$15. According to John Martin, director of the press, Black Sparrow will publish a new book by Charles Reznikoff.

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The East Side Book Store carries a lot of the publications mentioned in this newsletter. It has been pointed out to us that one of the most decent political acts one can perform is to direct his business toward those stores that seem to be serving an honorable public function. In other words, if you can buy a book at a store you admire, buy it there instead of at a bookstore you don't admire, though that bookstore might be just a step away. Many people admire the East Side Book Store because it has for years been an outpost of civilization; bookshops such as Eighth Street, Gotham, Discovery, Phoenix, Compendium, Cody's, etc. are examples of other such outposts.

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John Giorno's THE DIAL-A-POEM POETS album has appeared, a 2 record stereo album featuring Ted Berrigan, Joe Brainard, Michael Brownstein, William Burroughs, John Cage, Jim Carroll, Kathleen Cleaver, Clark Coolidge, Robert Creeley, Diane DiPrima, Allen Ginsberg, John Giorno, Brion Gysin, David Henderson, Lenore Kandel, Bernadette Mayer, Taylor Mead, Frank O'Hara, Ed Sanders, Aram Saroyan, Harris Schiff, Bobby Seale, John Sinclair, Anne Waldman, Philip Whalen, Emmett Williams and Heathcote Williams, an interesting combination of Movement People, Art for Art and Fart's Sake Types, and various Bomb-o Individuals. 1 hour and 50 minutes of Solid Gold Dynamite for only \$5.98 from Giorno Poetry Systems, 222 Bowery, New York City 10012.

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Peter Schjeldahl has been awarded a grant for Art Criticism from the National Council on the Arts and Humanities.

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The Loose Change Press (c/o Bradford Stark, 57 Kneeland Ave., Binghamton, NY 13905) has recently published ALCOHOL POEMS by M.G. Stephens. No price given.

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The Paris Review will celebrated its 20th anniversary with a Spring Revel to be held at the South Street Seaport (Pier 16) on Sunday, May 20, from 8 p.m. until 3 a.m. The Revel includes bands, bunks, a big top, various entertainments, Ferris wheel, fifties jukebox, gaming rooms, harbor lights, midway, motion pictures, movies, films, open bar and buffet, promenades, pyrotechniques (fireworks), rides and shipboard intrigues. Dress is optional. Tickets \$25 per person (it is a benefit) from Miss Molly McKaughan, Paris Review Revel, 541 East 72 St, NYC 10021. Tel. 861-0016.

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Mr Trevor Winkfield has arrived for a several months' stay in New York. Winky has recently completed editing a small edition of rare and/or unpublished works by Lewis Carroll, His translation of Raymond Roussel's HOW I WROTE CERTAIN OF MY BOOKS appears in the new (Translations) issue of THE WORLD.

This issue (No. 27) includes works and translations by Valery Larbaud, Vort Oxo, Bill Zavatsky, Hiro Sato, Horacio Quiroga, Attila Jozsef, Eric Sat e, Ruth Kruass, E.M. de Melo e Castro, Tom Clark, Max Jacob, Anne Porter, David Ball, David Shapiro, Fairfield Porter, Yoshiro Ishihara, Giuseppe Ungaretti, Bockris-Wylie, Raymond Roussel, Serge Gavronsky, Anne Waldman, Francis Jammes, Cesar Moro, Steven Silberblatt, Frances LeFevre, Tom Lowenstein, Lorenzo Thomas, Eskimo People, Arthur Rimbaud, Henri Michaux, Scott Cohen, John Batki, Peter Frank, Frank O'Hara, Saint Pol Roux, Clayton Eshleman & Jose Rubia Barcia, Anne LeGrand, David Rosenberg, Stephen Stepanchev, Arthur Cravan, Herbert Marks, Dr. Serner, Ron Padgett, Teo Savory, Paul Eluard, Ted Berrigan, Rilke, Cocteau, Jose Luna, Nguyen Khuyen, Jean Ikelle-Matiba, Michael O'Neill, Pierre Bourgeade, Arlette Smolarski, Keith Cohen, Paul Celan, Dean Faulwell, Ted Greenwald, Rene Char, Stephane Mallarme, Hoelderlin, Celia Coolidge, Apollinaire, Kenneth Koch, Nicole Ball, Bill Berkson, John Ashbery, George Schneeman, Christian Morgenstern, Andre Breton, Anna Balakian, Trevor Winkfield, Yvette Bider,

Paul Scheerbarth, Rory McEwen, Heine, Catullus, Michael O'Brian, Gerard de Nerval, Andrew Hoyem, Guillevic, Michael Brownstein, Inny Mota, Charles Cros, Paul Violi, Edgard Debris, Lajos Elkan, Rebecca Brown, Vladimir Mayakovski, Trostan Tzara, Robert Desnos, Cesar Vallejo, Charles Baudelaire, Pedro, Chicken Tandori, Vaslo Popa, Michel Leiris, Marcel Duchamp, Leon-Paul Fargue, and Pierre Reverdy, 110 blockbusting pages, edited by yours truly and available from The Poetry Project or literature bookshops for \$1.

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The new issue (no. 5) of BIG SKY has just appeared, with work by Joanne Kyger, Johnny Stanton, Tom Raworth, James Schuyler, John Wieners, Philip Guston, Lewis Warsh, Bill Berkson, Aram Saroyan, Hilton Obenzinger, Michael Brownstein, Tom Clark, Jim Gustafson, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Gerard Malanga, Ted Greenwald, Anne Waldman, Lewis MacAdams, Tom Veitch, Larry Fagin, Arthur Okamura, Joe Brainard and George Schneeman, who designed the devastatingly beautiful cover. BIG SKY, edited by Bill Berkson, Box 272, Bolinas, Calif. \$1.50.

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A tip of the Hatlo hat to those of you who sent money and/or stamps to help support the NEWSLETTER. Next month's issue (June) will be the last before the vacation; entires for it should arrive at the Poetry Project by May 21. Publication of THE NEWSLETTER will resume in September.

Poetry workshops at the Poetry Project will continue through June, on Tuesdays with Bernadette Mayer, Thursdays with Steve Malmude, and Fridays with Ted Greenwald, all at 8:30 p.m. Open readings are continuing through July on Monday evenings at 8:15 in the Parrish Hall, with Bill MacKay as M.C. Regularly scheduled Wednesday night readings at 8:30 are continuing through June. Consult back page of VILLAGE VOICE for schedule, or call the Project.

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It is said that Anne Waldman and Kenward Elmslie were "dynamite in drag" in the recent musical extravaganza THE PALM CASINO REVUE.

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A special giant new issue of TELEPHONE (no. 8), with more than 60 contributors, has just appeared. It looks like another rocken sockem issue from editor Maureen Owen, a young writer/editor whose star grows ever brighter. TELEPHONE is available from the editor at 412 W. 110, NYC 10025, or from Gotham, East Side, Phoenix, 8th Street, Discovery and New Yorker, for \$1.

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TWO-FISTED ZOMBIES by Tom & Rick Veitch, and SLOW DEATH 5 by Veitch and others, two new grisly and gristly underground comix, have recently clawed their way into existence. THE SAN FRANCISCO PHOENIX (Vol. 1, No. 17) includes an article by Tom Veitch on his philosophy of the comix. 25¢ from THE PHOENIX, 79 Beaver St., San Francisco, Calif. 94114.

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A CHANGE OF HEARTS is Kenneth Koch's new collection of plays, films and other dramatic works, published by Random House, with a cover by Larry Rivers. It is a lovely book in every way. It includes all the work in BERTHA, which had gone out of print at Grove, plus new works. Random House will soon issue Koch's new book on teaching kids, ROSE, WHERE DID YOU GET THAT RED? If it's even half as good as WISHES, LIES AND DREAMS it will be a masterpiece.

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Anyone interested in writing short critical pieces on Fielding Dawson, Armand Schwerner or David Antin for VORT magazine (mentioned in a previous issue of this newsletter) should contact Barry Alpert, VORT editor, 615 Central, New Haven, Conn., 06515. Alpert is devoting special issues of VORT to these writers.

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Panjandrum Press, 99 Sanchez St., San Francisco, has published David Gitin's GUITAR AGAINST THE WALL, for \$2.

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The recent reading/performance by JohnnyStanton and his Siamese Banana Goon Squad at the 98 Greene St. Loft was a riot, figuratively and almost literally. Stanton read one of his inimitable stories while the Siamese Banana Gang acted out and illustrated parts of it. Never in the course of history was so much owed to so few.

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Teachers and Writers Collaborative has been sending writers into schools to work with kids for the past seven or so years. This pioneering program has sponsored the work of Kenneth Koch, Joel Oppenheimer, Bill Zavatsky, Phil Lopate, Dick Gallup, Ron Padgett, and many, many other writers whose names would be less familiar to readers of this NEWSLETTER, but who have made very valuable contributions to the Teachers and Writers Collaborative Program. The Collaborative is now finding itself in precarious, if not disastrous, financial straits.

For years the Collaborative has published a TEACHERS AND WRITERS COLLABORATIVE NEWSLETTER which summarizes the experiences of writers working in their program. This publication, and especially the latest issue, THE WHOLE WORD CATALOGUE, has proved to be invaluable to teachers, students, and anyone interested in poetry. Subscriptions to the T & W COLLABORATIVE NEWSLETTER are a bargain: \$5 for 4 issues (80-160 pp. each). Anyone interested in subscribing, or in making a direct financial contribution to the Collaborative, should contact Steve Shrader, Director, Teachers & Writers Collaborative, c/o P.S. 3, 490 Hudson St., New York City 10014.

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The third issue of MULBERRY magazine will be devoted to the work of Bill "Wild Bill" Zavatsky, 56 pages of zany Zavatsky effervescence: 40 poems, long and short, diaries, drawings and translations. It will be totally great. \$1 from David Pollens, Editor, MULBERRY, 1152 Yale Sta., New Haven, Conn. 06520.

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Michael Lally writes that Washington, D.C. has at last generated a good together "other" poetry scene. A sort of poetry project called Mass Transit, operating out of The Community Book Shop (2028 P Street NW), sponsors weekly open readings at 8 on Mondays, publishes an occasional magazine, and has given rise to the Some of Us Press, which has published four books of poems: SOUTH ORANGE SONNETS by Lally, THESE DAYS by Lee Lally, BONING UP by Terry Winch, and BLOCKS by Ed Cox, all of which sell for \$1 (from Some of Us Press, 4110 Emery Pl. NW, Washington, D.C. 20016). The press is planning to do books by Bruce Andrews, Susan Baker, Simon Schuchat and others. The best bookshop for poetry in D.C. is Discount Book Shop, 1342 Connecticut Ave. NW; interested parties contact Terry Winch there.

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Macmillan has just issued VISIONS OF AMERICA BY THE POETS OF OUR TIME, an anthology edited by David Kherdian, with poems by Jack Kerouac, Gary Snyder, William Carlos Williams, Gregory Corso, Paul Blackburn, Kenneth Patchen, William Stafford, James Wright, Diane Wakoski, Frank O'Hara, Imamu Ameer Baraka, Jerome Rothenberg, Kenneth Koch, A.R. Ammons, Philip Whalen, Lew Welch, Allen Ginsberg, Charles Reznikoff, Ed Dorn, David Maltzer, Richard Brautigan, and we're running out of space, lots of others. 96 pp., hardcover, \$5.95.

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A Kenneth King dance program will be presented by the Poetry Project sometime in late May.

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

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First Class Mail