



# Georgia State Poetry Society

Organized and Chartered, August 30, 1979, Atlanta, Georgia  
Affiliate, National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

Edward Davin Vickers, Charter President      Sandra Lee Prillaman, Editor  
Post Office Box 8129 Atlanta, Georgia 30306      Volume I, Number 2

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## SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING -- WINTER 1980

FEATURES: "THE ROAD TO PUBLICATION",

A WORKSHOP BY BETTIE M. SELLERS

"MR. BEN W. FORTSON, JR. MEMORIAL AWARD",

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

DATE: Saturday, January 12, 1980

SCHEDULE: 10:00 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting

10:30 a.m. Workshop -- "The Road to Publication"

11:30 a.m. Registration

12:00 noon Lunch

1:00 p.m. Program

COST: Five dollars (\$5.00)

PLACE: Atlanta Woman's Club Building  
1150 Peachtree Street, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

RESERVATIONS: Must be made by Wednesday, January 9, 1980

Call GSPS Treasurer Jo Ann Yeager Adkins (404) 939-1924

or send to: GSPS Reservations  
Post Office Box 8129  
Atlanta, Georgia 30306

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## WORKSHOPS

"The Road to Publication", our January Workshop, should be of interest to all members. For future workshops, we plan to have individual sessions along with general programs given by several poets. We will send instructions and details on how to submit poems in advance of our next meeting which we have scheduled for Saturday, April 12, 1980.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As of October 30, 1979, exactly two months after our organizational meeting on August 30, we are pleased to report GSPS' membership has doubled. We extend a very warm welcome to Harvey Dan Abrams, Aurelia Austin, Lilla W. Bonner, James Rowland and Martha Stallings Burgess, Irma Smith Dowis, Veone R. Johnson, Harriet S. Kelley, Patricia Kirby, Verna Castleberry Ohlhaber, Barbara Calvert Respass and Marion Thompson Schaefer, all of Atlanta; Lucille C. Bennett of Gainesville; Katie Johnson Blanton of Bainbridge; Imogene McAfee Buder, Alvin Barkley Conyers and Dorothy W. Worth, all of Decatur; Mary Ann Coleman and Ralph Stephens of Athens; M. Kay DuPont of Doraville; Thelma R. Hall and Evelyn Hoge Pendley of Rome; Michael C. Johnson of Snellville; Vivian D. Jones of Columbus; Robert McCutchen of Winder; Jannelle Jones McRee of East Point; Marie Wikstrom Ovrevik of Brooks; Clyde Lovejoy Stevens of LaGrange; Amelie de Launay of Elberton and Betty Abernathy Wallace of Hampton.

## MORE

Since October 30, 1979, we have the following new members: Catherine Blossman and Ruth Cox Lantz of Atlanta, James C. Bryant of Decatur, Michael Thomas Butler of Tifton, Leonard Buck Dills of Blairsville, Cosmas J. Dokos of Columbus, Wauneta Hackleman of Washington, D.C., Colleen Harris of Valdosta, Ruth T. Marshall and Maria D. Williams of Bainbridge, Helen Keanum Shores of Chamblee and Donna N. Shriver of Statesboro. Welcome!

## A GIFT IDEA

Charter Membership in the Georgia State Poetry Society.

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"The Real Miracle"

He comes  
in the winter  
of your world.

(from Echo in the Woods by Edward Davin Vickers)



"MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR"



## GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY HOLDS FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING

The Georgia State Poetry Society held its first quarterly meeting on Saturday, October 20, 1979, in Atlanta at the Atlanta Woman's Club on Peachtree Street. After extending a welcome to members and guests and introducing GSPS officers, President Ed Vickers presented information relating to the Society's first poetry contest. The competition will honor the late Mr. Ben W. Fortson, Jr., Georgia's beloved Secretary of State for thirty-three years and will have as its subject the state he served and loved -- Georgia in any of its aspects.

GSPS Librarian David Ogletree outlined the establishment of the Georgia State Poetry Society Library built through the contributions of both the work of the membership and of the work of other poets but especially the work of Georgia poets. Mr. Ogletree then announced that he was donating his private collection of works of seventy-five volumes. In closing he suggested a future competition to design a bookplate to be placed in all books owned by the Society.

The membership was reminded of how rich a collection of Georgia poets would be by the reading of three of their fellow members -- each from her own prize-winning writings. Bettie Sellers of Young Harris read "For Rebecca with Tempered Sadness", "A Room in the Rose and Crown", and "Three Songs Heard at Brasstown" from her book, Spring Onions and Cornbread; Jeanne Osborne Gibbs, author of Unravelling Yarn, read "Butterfly on a Boat" and "On Listening to a Telephone Call Via Early Bird Satellite"; Julia Evatt read "Exchange" which recently won first place in Writers' Digest's national competition.

Featured speaker for the event was Poet Laureate of Georgia Dr. John Ransom Lewis, Jr. who spoke of the duties and pleasures of being Poet Laureate. He recounted his experiences in speaking to various school groups and gave sparkling examples of how he has been able to introduce poetry and the love of poetry to school children. He read from his well thumbed poetry anthology poems he would use to illustrate a point to an audience.

The meeting which had already had so many high points had yet one more festive note to offer. Roderick Glen of Columbus sang and played several lively ballads to the obvious delight of all.

## GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY LIBRARY

A collection of approximately seventy-five volumes of Georgia poetry has been presented to the library of the Georgia State Poetry Society by charter member and GSPS Librarian David Ogletree. Built over a period of years, this gift contains both single volumes and poetry journals and anthologies containing works of Georgia poets. Noteworthy among these are works by all of Georgia's poets laureate including signed copies by Frank L. Stanton, Ollie Reeves and Agnes Cochran Bramblett. Also represented by signed copies of their works are such Georgia poets as Charles Hubner, Byron Herbert Reece, Daniel Whitehead Hicky, Cecil Cobb Wesley, Kate Fort Codrington, Janef Newman Preston and Agnes Kendrick Gray.

A very special part of the collection consists of material relating to poet Anderson M. Scruggs. There are autographed copies of his books, poems in manuscript, numerous clippings, correspondence, plus a scrapbook of his sonnets. The Scruggs material also contains books from his personal library, his Rhymers' Lexicon, anthologies and periodicals containing his work.

There are copies of "The Oglethorpe Book of Georgia Verse" edited by Thorwell Jacobs; "The Atlanta Argosy", edited by Ruth Suddeth and "Georgia Poets" edited by Mary Brent Whiteside.

One very interesting and rare volume is Benjamin Musser's book "The Passion Called Poetry" published in 1930 by Ernest Hartsock's Bozart Press. There are signed copies of "Narcissus and Iscariot" and "Romance and Starlight" by Ernest Hartsock. The latter volume was published in a limited edition of only 500 copies.

How can we thank David!? We are indeed fortunate. We especially desire that all published works by our members and other Georgia writers be represented. We can thank David by adding to and by sharing our ideas for the growth, use and protection of the Georgia State Poetry Society Library.

On November 5, 1979, Jess Perlman of New York sent as a gift to the GSPS Library a copy of his book, Poems Past Eighty (Selected by the poet in his 88th year). We are pleased to add this volume to our Library.

### REMINDER

Entries for the Mr. Ben W. Fortson, Jr. Memorial Award must be received by Monday, December 31, 1979.

### GSPS NEWS

Please clip news items concerning GSPS and send to Historian Lois Zachary at our above address. We would like to know which media are carrying our notices.



# Georgia State Poetry Society

Organized and Chartered, August 30, 1979, Atlanta, Georgia  
Affiliate, National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

Post Office Box 8129  
Atlanta, Georgia 30306  
February 25, 1980

Edward Davin Vickers,  
GSPS Charter President

Dear GSPS Members and Friends,

Greetings! This is to inform you of developments since our January 12 meeting; our regular newsletter which will be mailed after April first will provide the complete details for the items mentioned below.

Dates of our Spring Quarterly Meeting are Friday evening, April 25, and Saturday, April 26, (tentative date was the twelfth). The meeting will be held in Athens, Georgia, in conjunction with the city's cultural affairs event, "Renaissance '80 Festival". A reception is planned Friday night for the Georgia State Poetry Society and will honor our member and Georgia's Poet Laureate, Dr. John Ransom Lewis, Jr. Saturday includes a book fair, poetry reading, autograph session and poetry workshop.

The Workshop: "IF You Write a Poem" -- conducted by MareJ Brown, noted for her outstanding instruction and warm inspiration and who, by the way, is the author of nine (9) books. PRESENTING Georgia Poets was published last Fall. (A personal note of thanks here to Bettie Sellers... members are still raving about our Winter workshop, and now there's more!)

GSPS Contest: Winners in our second competition, the Dr. John Ransom Lewis, Jr. Award will be announced. See back of this page for rules. (Please provide your local papers with this contest news if they do not have it.)

Accommodations: Special rates are available to GSPS members and information will be mailed to you directly from Athens.

Congratulations to the winners for the Mr. Ben W. Fortson, Jr. Memorial Award! They are Patricia P. Kirby, Dorothy Williamson Worth, Marie Wikstrom Ovrevik, Patricia Robinson-King, Keith Melton and Charlotte Moore Perkins.

Closing date is April 1 for NFSPS National Contest. The brochure was mailed to all members before New Year's; however, if you need another, please send a SASE. GSPS members who joined prior to February 10 may enter categories #2 thru #49 for handling fee of one dollar (\$1.00); membership list has been sent to NFSPS Contest Chairman.

STROPHES, Volume XVI, Number 3, enclosed, contains details of the National Convention to be held in Orlando, Florida, June 27-30. If you can attend, please let me know.

Bettie Sellers will conduct a weekend writing workshop March 28-30 at the John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, North Carolina 28902. Write to Director Esther Hyatt.

We are deeply saddened by the death of Doris Purcell Random, who served as GSPS Contest Chairman, on Friday, February 22. We extend our sincere sympathy to Harold who is recovering from surgery and hopefully will be home soon at 1212 Lanier Blvd. (zip 30306).

We trust the above information will answer recent inquiries. Thank you for your support and suggestions.

Sincerely,

*Ed*



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## DR. JOHN RANSOM LEWIS, JR. AWARD

The second poetry competition sponsored by the GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY will honor Georgia's Poet Laureate, Dr. John Ransom Lewis, Jr., in recognition of his work with young poets and his dedication to bringing poetry to the people of the state.

One hundred dollars (\$100.00) in cash prizes will be awarded as follows:

GENERAL CATEGORY -- open to anyone.

PRIZES: FIRST.....\$50.00  
THREE SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS, each.....\$ 5.00

YOUTH CATEGORY -- open to students thru high school.

PRIZES: FIRST.....\$25.00  
TWO SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS, each.....\$ 5.00

SUBJECT: Any.

STRUCTURE: Any form, not over fifty (50) lines.

FEES: For the general category, an entry fee of one dollar (\$1.00) must accompany each poem, but there is no limit to the number of entries. Make checks or money orders payable to GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY.

For the youth category, there is no entry fee; however, there is a limit of one poem per student.

MANUSCRIPTS: Manuscripts should be typed and double-spaced on one side of 8½ x 11 paper. Submit two (2) copies (clear xerox copies, acceptable) of each entry with name, address and telephone number on one copy only. Students must add age, grade and school to copy with name information. Poems submitted must be original and unpublished.

JUDGES: Judges will not be directly affiliated with this contest. The decision of the judges will be final. Winners will be announced at the Spring meeting of the GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY which is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 1980, in Athens, Georgia.

RIGHTS: The GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY shall have first rights to publish (or not to publish) prize-winning poems under its imprint in any way deemed advisable. Following such publication, rights shall revert to the poet. Keep copies of poetry submitted, since positively no manuscripts will be returned.

DEADLINE: Entries must be received by March 31, 1980.

INQUIRIES: When making inquiry regarding contest, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

MAIL TO: GSPS Contest Chairman  
Post Office Box 8129  
Atlanta, Georgia 30306