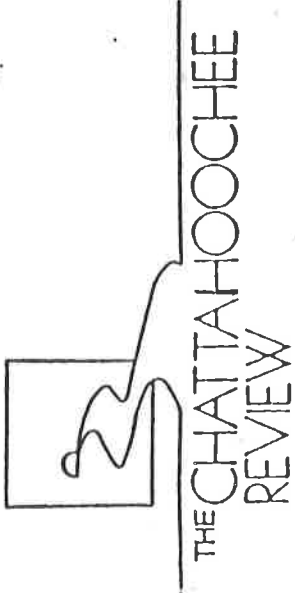


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EDITOR of

LAMAR YORK

April 23, 1983



Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc.

Founded August 30, 1979 Incorporated June 11, 1981 Atlanta, Georgia

Member, National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

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GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY

Nancy Maxwell Goldberg
2548 Mercedes Drive, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

MEETING INFORMATION

ATLANTA WOMEN'S CLUB
1150 PEACHTREE ST., N.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

10:00 A.M. UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1983

SEVEN DOLLARS

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Deadline for next issue is JULY 3, 1983

Newsnotes received after that date will

appear in the next issue. (The Editor)

WILL THESE MEMBERS PLEASE STAND UP AND TAKE A BOW

MARY ANN COLEMAN: Taught a poetry workshop (winter term) at The University of Georgia's Continuing Education Center; read her poems and lectured at a library media sponsored program at Jekyll Island, Ga.-- a program on Noted Southern Authors and Journalists. Mary Ann has published poems in NATIONAL QUORUM, POETRY NOW, PANDORA and THE GEORGIA JOURNAL.

CHARLES DICKSON: Had a poem, "INTERLUDE," accepted for publication in the SUMMER, 1983 issue of EXPANDING HORIZONS, a biannual literary magazine published in Forest Hills, N.Y.

NANCY MAXWELL GOLDBERG: Was interviewed by Susan Stamberg of " ALL THINGS CONSIDERED," on Wednesday March Sixteenth; " ALL THINGS CONSIDERED" is a news program aired on NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO. Her poem, "SYNONYMOUS WITH MARSHALL," will be published in the Spring issue of THE CHATTAHOOCHEE REVIEW.

LAURRAINE GOREAU: Had a premier performance of her folk opera, " THE BALLAD of CATFOOT GRIMES," on February 20th in New Orleans, La.; the opera is based on a poem by the Mississippi journalist, Hodding Carter. Laurraine wrote the biography of Mahalia Jackson and composed and wrote the musical, " JUST MAHALIA BABY."

BETTIE SELLERS: Will be a guest reader for APPALACHIAN HERITAGE DAY at DeKalb Community College, North on May 12th at 10:00 A.M. and will also be reading at the Conference on Christianity & Literature at Montreat, N.C. as well as S.W. Virginia Community College in Richlands, Va.

(see p. 11)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

HOWARD NEMEROV is coming to Atlanta on April 12th for a special reading at Oglethrope University at 7:30 P.M. in the auditorium. The Georgia State Poetry Society is quite proud to be a part of this program and will sponsor a reception for Mr. Nemerov immediately following his reading.

JERRY ZELLER, OUR VICE-PRESIDENT, has been hard at work on the YOUTH CONTEST. Much credit is due Jerry and those who have assisted him in this formidable task. It is a task that requires handling thousands of entries: You have our gratitude, Jerry. The YOUTH CONTEST WINNERS will be announced at the April luncheon.

THE BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS is enclosed: Anyone wishing to write-in a different candidate, or candidates, is encouraged to do so. This is your chance to make your wishes known.

THE STROPHES CONVENTION is in Scottsdale, Arizona this year. Anyone interested in attending should contact Chuck Bruehler at (404) 355-7444. Last year those who attended had a marvelous time, and learned something as well.

WE EXTEND OUR THANKS AND APPRECIATION to TONY HARRINGTON, author of TERSERY VERSERY, for making our January meeting so lively but thought provoking, too. A line from one of Tony's poems, " VOYAGE, " reads: " This is the way we shall all come to port:/ Salt-stained, nosing in with the great brother wounded; " I think that line says a lot about Tony Harrington's sensitivity.

LAMAR YORK and THE CHATTAHOOCHEE REVIEW

Three years ago , Lamar York, a professor at DeKalb Community College, North Campus, created a new publication called The Chattahoochee Review. In those three years, The Chattahoochee Review "has continued to expand and progress." It is published three times a year: Fall, Winter and Spring, giving the writing student ample opportunity to publish his work. But Lamar York calls The Chattahoochee Review a "writer's community press," because it reaches out to include writers who are not enrolled at DeKalb Community College.

Because of Lamar's farsightedness, in including the writing community, the Review has been able to feature such writers as: Coleman Barks, Ann Deagon, Andrew Lytle, Paul Hemphill, Dr. John Stone, Zell Miller, Marion Montgomery, Anne Rivers Siddons, Madison Jones, Larry Rubin, Van Brock and within the Poetry Society: Carol Bivins, Hoyt Coffee, Nancy Maxwell Goldberg, Joan Loeb, Letitia Sweitzer and Dorothy W. Worth.

York is not only the founding editor of the Review, he is also an award winning professor (Teacher of the Year for two consecutive years) who believes that he should be "a teacher first. " In fact York's reason for the Review was to give the student "access to print. " According to York, " the Review is a good way for the teacher to encourage writing...encouraging the student to see the rewards of literature."

When one visits Lamar at the College, his office is always filled with students or admirers in need of advice, moral support or counselling in regard to their writing career; he gives all of this willingly. Lamar has a fierce belief in the written word and when he speaks of poetry or novels it is always with a deep sense of soul. He is an essayist who does not talk about his essays, nor does he speak much of himself; but he gives the writer within him full rein when encouraging a student or a writer, neatly sidestepping any conversation about himself.

Lamar York is a talented teacher, essayist and editor who is devoted to his students, but he is a man with a passion for the english language who does his level best to instill that passion into his students.



To the Poets

Song sparrow's limited creativity,
 Three eighth-notes and a trill all summer long,
 The falling second of the chickadee--
 It's a pretty humble business, singing song.

Howard Nemerov

The last of August in Vermont can be quite cold in the mornings, but the tall, grey haired man in the blue sweat top with the hood pulled up over his head managed to take a turn around the porch every morning before breakfast. The mist would roll back from the meadow across the road in front of the Breadloaf Inn, where two hundred writers and instructors were spending twelve days immersed in writing and literature, and Howard Nemerov would silently watch the mist rise. He managed a quick grin that came with each low pitched, drawn out "hello," as writers jostled for position around him.

During lunch the first day six of us sat at one table: My roommate, a young lawyer from Chicago; another friend, a Shakespearean actress who was living in Seattle and then Nemerov joined us with two poet friends. He sat down across from me and smiled, the giant in poetry who had just had a national television show broadcast about him and his writing. We introduced ourselves and where we were from, then my friend from Seattle turned to Nemerov:

"And what do you write?" she asked. I gasped. But Nemerov's face never changed as he leaned over to speak slow and softly just to her. "I'm here as a poet, they say." He gestured to the room at large. "Poetry," repeated my friend. "I don't understand poetry or poets at all." Her statement was final but nice. "Neither do I," Nemerov said. "Neither do I."

The Harvard graduate whose poetry, novels and essays have spanned the years since 1947, had won my heart at Breadloaf through his poetry and peacefulness. He now teaches at Washington University in St. Louis and has taught at Brandeis and Bennington. He has served as a Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress. His books include: The Image and The Law, Gnomes and Occasions, The Western Approaches, The Collected Poems and Sentences (poetry), The Melodramatists, Stories, Fables and Other Diversions (fiction) and Figures of Thought (essays). He has received Guggenheim Fellowships, a National Book Award for Poetry and Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, and was awarded the Bollingen Prize for Poetry in 1981.

When I left Breadloaf and was changing planes in New York for Atlanta, I felt a hand on my shoulder. I panicked. I knew I should not have transferred in New York. Turning, I found Nemerov keeping pace with me down the aisleway. He was on his way back to St. Louis. Walking side by side down the crowded New York terminal and chatting about what we want to do when we get home was a perfect way for me to have left the twelve days in the Vermont mountains.

Leara Rhodes

GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY

GEORGIA SEMIQUINCENTENARY (CONTEMPORARY)

FIRST PLACE

My Father's Place On the Porch

He never got to Georgia.

It was the third of his three dreams.

He took a winning photograph, a sunset on the Hudson.

But he never got to Georgia—

to the frame house on the edge of the pecan grove

with its porch ready against August's wavy heat,

to the dusty road that cuts red to the horizon,

the children calling Grandpa.

Carol Bivins

SEMIQUINCENTENARY AWARDS

Contemporary:

1st place—Carol Bivins

" My Father's Place On the Porch "

Special Recognition:

William L. Davenport

" Chronicle In the Georgia Soil "

Dorothy Worth

" Sunday at Andersonville "

Evelyn Hoge Pendley

" The Gunsmith "

Traditional:

1st place

Pat Kirby

" Nescit Cediri "

Special Recognition:

Memye Tucker

" Woods, College Park "

Dorothy Worth

" McIntosh "

Chairman, Julia Evatt

Judge, Ron Hendricks

Our thanks to both Julia and Ron.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION (from 3)

FAREWELL, TENNESSEE WILLIAMS: Born Thomas Lanier Williams in Columbus, Mississippi. Mr. Williams had no peer in the South as playwright, and he was acclaimed in American theater as well as European theater as spokesman for the seamier side of southern life. Williams enthralled American theatergoers with A Streetcar Named Desire in 1947, earning the title of "lyric dramatist." Williams continued writing up until the time of his death. (1914-1983)

IN AUGUST a major writer's conference will take place at LONGBOAT KEY, FLORIDA. This is the second year for this conference, and it promises to be an exciting one. It will be hosted by the University of Missouri-Kansas City and will have as conference director, Dan Jaffe. Some of the authors and poets who will lecture are: JOHN CIARDI, GEORGE CUOMO, HARRY CREWS, SYLVIA WHEELER, JANET BURROWAY, PETER MEINKE, JOHN KNOEPFLE and JAMES MCKINLEY, just to mention a few. The date of the conference is August 7th to the 13th. Those of you who wish to attend may contact the Editor at 325-4578, in Atlanta.

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(from p.2)

MEMYE CURTIS TUCKER: Read her poetry on February 11th at Georgia State University. Georgia State has a continuing poetry reading series.

EDWARD DAVIN VICKERS: Was written up in "Who's Who" in The Village Writer. (We've always known how great you are, Ed.)

DOROTHY WORTH: Won two first prizes and two honorable mentions in the WRITER'S UNLIMITED INTERNATIONAL CONTEST in January, and won first place for Serious Poetry and a second place for a Short Story in the ATLANTA WRITER'S CLUB contest held in December. Dorothy also won first place for Lyric Poetry in the NATIONAL POETRY CONTEST sponsored by the Louisiana State Poetry Society.