



NEWSLETTER

Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc.

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

Member, National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

Affiliate, The Academy of American Poets

Volume 11, Number 3

Ethelene Dyer Jones, Editor
P. O. Box 120, Epworth, Georgia 30541

April, 1990

SPRING MEETING APRIL 21 at MERCER UNIVERSITY, ATLANTA

SCHEDULE

- 9:30 - 10:00 A. M. - Coffee, Registration
10:00 - 11:00 Members' Readings
11:00 - 11:15 Book Reviews
Chapbook Presentation
Introduction of
New Members, Guests
11:15 - 11:45 Contest Awards
including
Youth Awards
Byron Herbert Reece
International Awards
Our Heritage Awards
Melissa Marie Henry
Awards
Short Narrative Poem
Awards

(Note: Awards may have to be concluded
in afternoon session)

- 12:00 Noon Luncheon
1:00 Address Mr. Anthony Grooms
2:00 Announcements
Committee Reports
Concluding Awards (if not completed
in morning session)

Adjournment

The luncheon at Mercer University Student Center will feature roast beef, vegetables, dessert and beverage at a cost of \$9.00 per person. Reservations should be made no later than **April 11, 1990** by calling or writing to:

Helen H. Carnes, 350 Castleridge
Drive, Atlanta, GA 30342, 404-252-1840.

ANTHONY GROOMS IS SPRING MEETING GUEST SPEAKER

Georgia State Poetry Society is happy to welcome Mr. Anthony Grooms as the Spring meeting speaker. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in theatre and speech from the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia and a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. This Virginia native (born in Charlottesville) has been an instructor of English at Macon College, Macon, Georgia and Clark University, Atlanta. He is assistant professor of Creative Writing, the University of Georgia, Athens.

He says of his own creative pursuits: "Although I am best known as a poet, I am also a fiction writer. In fact, fiction was my graduate concentration. I often alternate between working on fiction projects and working on poetry projects. Presently I am finishing a novel manuscript called Lucky to Be Me, and looking for a publisher for it. I am also very interested in the current debate about Master of Fine Arts writing programs and about how creative writing is taught. As a teacher in a creative writing program, I am in close contact with young writers, and I want to learn more about how to encourage them."

Mr. Grooms' short stories and essays have been published in The Chattahoochee Review, Catalyst, DeKalb Literary Arts Journal, Phoebe and Atticus Review.

His poetry has been published in Catalyst, The Chattahoochee Review, Open City, and DeKalb Literary Arts Journal. (to p. 3 for continuation)

**GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY
OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD
1989-1990**

Dr. Frank McKemie.....President
 Dr. Edward DeZurko.....Vice-President
 Neil Fraser.....Secretary
 Harry Shaw.....Treasurer
 Dorothy Williamson Worth..... Reach of Song Editor
 Marthalou Hunter.....Contests Chairman
 Rebekah Stion.....Youth Contests Chairman
 Charles DicksonPublicity Chairman
 Virginia DicksonMembership Chairman
 Ethelene Dyer JonesNewsletter Editor
 Dr. E. Jerome ZellerGSPS Librarian
 Jo Ann Adkins..... Finance Chairman
 Edward Davin VickersHistorian
 Riherd and Edna Green Mailing Chairmen
 Jeanne Osborne Shaw Strophes Reporter
 John Ottley Grants Application Chairman

The Georgia State Poetry Society Newsletter is published quarterly. Address all correspondence and inquiries to:

Ethelene Dyer Jones, Editor
 P. O. Box 120
 Epworth, Georgia 30541
 404-492-3309 (h)

This newsletter is supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts through an appropriation from the General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc. is affiliated with and pays dues to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) and the Academy of American Poets.

Newsletter Information Deadlines:

by February 28 for Spring issue
 by May 30 for Summer issue
 by August 30 for Fall issue
 by November 30 for Winter issue

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

by Ethelene Dyer Jones

Retirement became a reality for me on March 1. I had dreamed of the "time" I would have when I did not have a regular job to attend. A week into retirement, I'm finding that the state is a reward for years of service, but that time is relative and can be used wisely or squandered, depending on priorities and plans. There are no more

hours in the day--working or retired--and they pass rapidly in either case.

Coming just before my retirement was the "Great Flood of February 16, 1990 and Its Aftermath" (as we're calling it here) which devastated McCaysville, Georgia and Copperhill, Tennessee, towns three miles adjacent to Epworth. Many of my friends are temporarily homeless, businesses are in ruin, and three church buildings (one of which is the one I attend) received astronomical damage.

As we've assisted with digging out from the mud and debris, emotions of sympathy, grief and regret have been poured out like an oblation. But paramount among the emotions has been a sense of love. Many people have come to the Copper Basin to assist as needed. Sharing with people in distress, the volunteer workers have given willingly of their time and energy in our crisis situation.

The work has been back-breaking and heart-rending. To hear an elderly widow, looking at her water-logged, mud-crested house, say, "The things I treasured most, like pictures and favorite books, are lost," brought tears and empathy. Then there emerges that strong determination, the effort to keep on keeping on, to rebuild.

Is there poetry in a situation like this? As I watched the flood waters on February 16, seeing but unable then to comprehend the unbelievable situation, and, later, upon viewing the videotapes of the angry waters at peak floodstage and the damage wrought thereby--and, yes, helping to throw away damaged materials from the church library, offices, classrooms, heritage room, and sanctuary, and cleaning the unyielding muddy residue, I thought again, "Where's the poetry?"

We sometimes have the impression that poetry is only beauty, spring flowers waving in the March wind, waters lapping their eternal song against brook stones, or love expressed in inimitable language. But poetry is truth. And whatever that truth, whether pleasing to the senses or revealing desolation and loss, like the Great Flood of 1990, that truth should emerge. Such is the essence of poetry.

Poets, bring one poem to read at the April meeting.

ANTHONY GROOMS (Cont'd. from p. 1)

Forthcoming will be two poems, "Phillis Wheatley" and "Preface" in Black Women Writers in the Sciences and Humanities.

His chapbook Ice Poems was published by Poetry Atlanta in the Signature Series in the Spring of 1988.

Also a playwright, his produced plays include "Accidents," and "Dr. Madlove," both in the William and Mary Premiere Theater, 1975.

He has conducted numerous readings, talks, residences and workshops from 1980 to the present, being much-sought after as a creative writing instructor in college-sponsored workshops. He was an instructor in the 1989 Writers Workshop at St Simons sponsored by the Dixie Council of Authors and Journalists.

Since 1988 he has received nominations for the Pushcart Prize Award and the General Electric Award for Younger Writers, and been the recipient of artist project grants from the Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs, the Georgia Council for the Arts, and the Fulton County Arts Council. He holds membership in Associated Writing Programs, Poetry Atlanta, Council of Authors and Journalists, and Uptown/On-the-Town Performance Readings.

In a review, "Grasping the Familiar," by Robert A. Kelly of Macon College, he views Grooms' nature poetry not in the traditional vein, but approached "with a wary eye," his nature objects "resist a facile symbolism." The poet himself has "the right to convey meaning," because "the meaning of nature is unclear, unreliable, and the poet needs to honor that ambiguity."

Quoting Mr. Grooms in the Knoxville News-Sentinel of May 7, 1989, staff writer Rosaland Tyler quoted him: "Creativity, while undeveloped in most people, is there, no matter the occupation."

At the Spring meeting, GSPS members are surely in for a rare creative treat as they listen to Professor Grooms give his philosophy of creativity and hear his poems.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF MEMBERS

Harriet Stovall Kelley recently read some of her poems at the "Saturday Forum" in Austin, Texas upon the invitation of Peggy Zuleika Lynch. Harriet says, "Poetry is more for me a page pursuit, not a performing art or social or public exercise." She has been named poet laureate for the Stovall family, and poetry editor for the Stovall Family Journal. The Stovalls, descended from Bartholomew who came as a teenaged indentured servant to Virginia in 1684, celebrated the tricentennial by holding a reunion at the site of his original farm in Virginia in 1984. Harriet wrote the commemorative epic for the Stovall souvenir booklet to mark the occasion.

Jeanne Osborne Shaw was poet for the "reading minute" of the Atlanta Writers Club December meeting. A Christmas poem was published in The Builder of Druid Hills Baptist Church and read in one of the classes. A poem she had not heard from in four years was published in Now Magazine of the Durango-Cortex Herald, Colorado. She has completed writing assignments on biographies of Emily Woodward, only woman president of Georgia Press Association, and Mary Gay, Civil War heroine and spy for 100 Famous Georgia Women to be published in 1990 by Agee Publishers, Athens, Georgia.

Charles Dickson received one first, one second, one third and three honorable mention awards at Mid-South Poetry Festival, Memphis. He judged the annual Merit Book Award for the Haiku Society of America. He won the annual Lyric Memorial Award of \$100 from Lyric Magazine for the second consecutive year. At the request of the editors, he wrote two book reviews for frogpond, one for Modern Haiku, and one for Mirrors. An article on haiku appeared in Woodnotes. Poems were accepted for publication by Crazyquilt, Orphic Lute, Alura, The Plover (Okinawa), and Tandava. A belated first place inadvertently omitted from the winners' list was sent from the Florida State Poetry Society for the Fall, 1989 contest.

Marel Brown has been chosen by **WXIA-TV** as one of the 1990 winners in its 15th annual Community Service Awards for her work with the Metro Atlanta Boys Clubs. Awards presentations will be televised over Channel 11.

FRONT AND CENTER

Introducing New Members

by Virginia Dickson, Membership Chair

Since its inception a few issues ago, this column has been devoted to introducing new members. It has been called to the membership chairman's attention that one or two of the newcomers have wondered why their names have not appeared. The answer is simple. We have been fortunate to attract 49 new members for the current year, and since space in the newsletter is limited, we can include only a few each quarter. Please be patient.

Margery V. Carlson, a homemaker living in Snellville, has written poems, stories and articles since childhood. Born and reared in South Africa, she has lived in the Middle East and in West Germany. Her other interests include painting, sewing, gardening and swimming.

B. A. Jefcoat is a child support recovery agent for the State of Georgia. His poetry has yet to appear in print, but he reports that he is striving to improve his work to the point that he will begin to receive acceptance slips from editors. He says he considers his interests to be eclectic.

Scarlet Hay of Fort Valley has a strong interest in writing free verse with emphasis on the fantastic and romantic. In addition to writing, she has always been interested in art and is becoming "much more" active in sketching and drawing. Scarlet is a protege of **William A. Simpson**, another GSPS member, who is helping her sharpen her poetic skills. She has one daughter.

Peter Dean, a restaurant manager living in Decatur, has an impressive list of publications: DeKalb Literary Arts Journal, Orphic Lute, The Poet, Alura Quarterly, Chronoscope, Poetry Magic and others. He also writes science fiction and fantasy and is seeking a publisher for his first sci-fi novel.

Judith A. McCourt of Atlanta is "interested in writing in general--poetry in particular." She has worked as a staff writer on a trade publication and is interested in technical writing. She is a former teacher looking for a new career field.

Lt. James L. Green of East Point is a retired educator and Army officer. He writes narrative poetry based on his experiences in the mountain wilderness of North Georgia. Besides his army career, he was employed by the Fulton County School Board.

Pat Dozier, a retired accountant living in Montezuma, writes that her number one pastime is reading. She loves poetry but has also had an active political life. She is a former mayor and has been a delegate to the National Democratic Convention three times. She is on the boards of Head Start and Little League and is a member of the Sumter Players.

Lore Ann Jackson, a sophomore at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, is the daughter of **Pat and Jerry Zeller**. She is an English major who is just beginning to write poetry.

ABOUT JUDGES FOR GSPS CONTESTS

(**Editor's Note:** Upon queries from contest sponsors as to why the GSPS Executive Board ruled that members could no longer judge GSPS Contests, Charles Dickson, who made the motion that passed, wrote this explanation. It is offered here as a rationale for using "outsiders" instead of members as judges.)

Since I am the one who made the motion that members be excluded from judging GSPS contests, I would like to explain why this rule was adopted.

Many of us who live in Atlanta attend critique groups and become familiar with poems that will be entered in our contests. The last time I judged, I found myself confronted with three poems whose authors were known to me. Several of our sponsors attend one or more of these critique groups. So it was decided that members will no longer be allowed to judge GSPS contests. Incidentally, I am, or have been, a member of at least eight state poetry societies and not one of them allows their own members to judge their contests.

For a similar reason, we decided to try to get judges who live outside Atlanta and preferably outside the state. This is also a policy of most state poetry societies. Some of our members take

ON JUDGING POETRY CONTESTS (Cont'd.)

creative writing classes on our local college campuses. Some of these instructors become familiar with poetry they may be asked to judge.

Marthalou Hunter, our contest chairperson, is now provided with a list of out-of-state judges which came from the Florida State Poets Association, with a few additional names provided by Alabama and others. Basically, this is the list that Florida uses and contains about 90 names of experienced judges of poetry who are themselves published and prize-winning poets. They do not charge for this service. There are several on the list who judge NFSPS contests and one will be featured speaker at the next NFSPS annual convention in Madison, Wisconsin June 21-25, according to Strophes. So far, those Lou has needed to contact have readily agreed to serve.

If any of our members would like to propose a non-member, preferably out-of-state judge to add to the list, I would suggest that the name and qualifications of this person be sent to Lou. I trust our sponsors will be understanding and continue their much-needed support.

-Charles Dickson
February 7, 1990

YOUTH AWARDS IN ELEVENTH YEAR

In April Georgia State Poetry Society will be awarding recognition to youth in schools in Georgia who have attained notable achievement in poetry.

The Youth Awards have grown in number of participants year by year, an encouraging sign for the future of poetry in Georgia.

Following is a list of persons who have served as Youth Awards Chairmen since 1979:

1979-1981 - Irma Smith-Dowis
1981-1982 - Ethelene Dyer Jones
1982-1985 - Dr. E. Jerome Zeller
1985-1986 - Emily Blake Vail
1986-1987 - Richard M. Rodgers
1987-1990 - Brenda Darcy

Thanks for this service from GSPS.

WINTER CONTESTS WINNERS, 1990

by Marthalou Hunter, Contests Chair

The Elis Atkinson McDonald Contest (Ann George, Judge)

First - "Love Poem" - Charles Dickson
Second - "On the Glacier" - Dorothy Williamson Worth
Third - "The Red-Tailed Hawk Still Soars" - Charles Dickson

Amalie de Launay Thompson Award (Dr. Cecile G. Gray, Judge)

Winner - "Letter to My Cousin" - Memye Curtis Tucker

Honorable Mention:

"Cradle Stones" - Harriet Stovall Kelley
"In Lopsided Light" - June Owens
"The Blossoming" - Dorothy Williamson Worth
"Pauley's Island - To My Daughter" - Connie J. Greene

E. M. Tanner Award (Tom Hendricks, Judge)

First - "Appalachian Farmer" - Ethelene Dyer Jones
Second - "Hands On" - R. Riherd Greene
Third - "Simon, the Maker of Bells" - Patsy Anne Bickerstaff

Marel Brown Award (Leslie Mellichamp, Judge)

First - "The Horse of Time" - June Owens
Second - "Ascent from Hades" - Charles B. Dickson
Third - "The Final Slip" - Charles B. Dickson



GSPS NEWSLETTER CONTEST

Winter, 1990

by Julia Evatt

We offer three (first, second and third) places from the entries in the Winter, 1990 GSPS Newsletter Contest. Please keep the entries coming for this on-going quarterly contest.

(1) THE GREEN CADILLACS ON 301 by Thomas Theus

Big cars in drill-tight migration
Racing north on the summer run
Through Georgia faster than
Any car I had ever known
Made it seem audacious
For me to interrupt
The jetstream in
My tiny Ford
On U. S.
301
But
Once there
Suction kicked in
Truer than any overdrive
And I was drafted in the vacuum
Back to the relative serenity
Of another week of camp
In basic training
Fort Jackson.

The green Cadillacs on 301
Before the interstate days--
Drivers fixed on Miami and back,
Dispassionate faces both ways--
Were simply speeding culture:
How slow can youse guys get?
We do it dis way in New Joisey
And you ain't seen nuttin yet.

(2) THE FACES OF SUMMER by Ethelene Dyer Jones

Summer shows her smiling face
in lilies turned to soak the sun
splendored for their day of glory;
in pools reflecting happy scenes
of picnickers ingesting fun;
in golfers seeking a hole-in-one
on fairways manicured to perfection;
and children dazzled by the sight
of fireflies winking in the dusk.

Summer shows her angry face
with lightning sending jagged spears
to splinter stately centennial oak

and thunder belching cannonades;
with full moon moving lunar waves
to stir instincts crouching for a crime
and heat with undulating strain
as poor and old succumb to death.

Summer shows her wrinkled face
in sweat-drenched farmer tilling soil,
and factory worker mesmerized
by monotony of job and heat and clock;
in tasks that only summer brings:
grass growing higher from the rains,
weeds creeping like pestful plague
and lethal sting of poison bees.

Summer shows her varied face,
one for each mood the lady wears:
this season grown to womanhood,
sporting narcissistic beauty,
decolette, demure, or wanton,
striking chords both clear and brash,
sometimes rebelling, leaving strife,
inviting all to take their flings
with all the faces summer brings.

(3) THE OUTING by Lillian Klein Webb

Three children went to the beach one day.
Mother went, too, to watch them play,
Wearing a voile dress trimmed in lace,
With a broad brimmed hat to shade her face.
The boy wore knickers and high white socks.
The two little girls wore sleeveless frocks.
They gave their shoes to Mother to keep,
And went into the ocean--ankle deep,
Wriggling their toes in the cool wet sand.
Mother sat under the pier and fanned.

Now here is the ocean and here is the shore,
Scalloped with seafoam like before,
But where are the children who came that day,
And Mother who sat and watched them play?
Although I search with my dimming eye,
There's only the lonely beach and I.

(The GSPS Newsletter Contest is **for members only** [\$1.00 handling fee per poem]. Send entries for **Summer Contest** by May 16 to Julia Evatt
P. O. Box 751
Ellijay, Georgia 30540
Members vote on "best poem" of the year from those printed in the newsletter.)

"The fragrance of what you give away stays with you." - Dr. Charles L. Allen



Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc.

Founded August 30, 1979 Incorporated June 11, 1981 Atlanta, Georgia
Member, National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.
Affiliate, The Academy of American Poets

CONTESTS

GENERAL CONTEST RULES

All poems entered in Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc. contests must be original and unpublished. The same poem cannot be entered in more than one contest at a time. Poems must not be currently submitted for publication or entered in any other contest. They must not have won any award other than "honorable mention" in any previous Georgia State Poetry Contest.

Type all poems single or double-spaced on one side of an 8½ x 11 inch sheet of paper. Submit **two** copies. On both copies put the **contest name** in the upper right corner. Put your **name and address** under the contest name on **one copy only**.

Georgia State Poetry Society will publish money-winning poems in its annual anthology unless "Do not Publish" is written under the contestant's name on the identification copy. However, all publishing rights to winning poems remain with the authors. No manuscripts will be returned. Copies of non-winning poems will be destroyed.

Winners will be announced at the meeting of the Georgia State Poetry Society following the contest deadline. Winners not present will be notified by mail. Those desiring a list of winners must enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) with entries.

Make all checks for entry fees payable to Georgia State Poetry Society.

Entries (except for the Newsletter Contest and other specified contests) should be mailed to:

Marthalou Hunter, GSPS Contest Chair
303 Vickers Drive, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30307

GSPS NEWSLETTER POETRY CONTEST

Continuing the GSPS Newsletter Poetry Contest begun in the fall, 1988, the second year contest began with the fall, 1989 entries. Each quarter's entries are judged and the best of that quarter printed in the newsletter. At the end of the year (currently with the summer, 1990 contest), members will vote on the "best of the year" award from those that won quarterly and were printed in the newsletter.

Send entries, following the general contest rules, with \$1.00 per poem handling fee, to:

Julia Evatt
GSPS Newsletter Poetry Contest
P. O. Box 751
Ellijay, Georgia 30540

Deadlines: February 14 (Spring); **May 16 (Summer)**; August 16 (Fall); and November 16 (Winter). By entering, poets give their permission for winning poems to be published in the newsletter. Show your interest by entering. Line limit: 40; **for members only**.



Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc.

Founded August 30, 1979 Incorporated June 11, 1981 Atlanta, Georgia
Member, National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.
Affiliate, The Academy of American Poets

GSPS ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS

Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc. announces two annual competitions in commemoration of the founding of the Society in 1979. These are the **Eleventh Anniversary Awards: Category I - Traditional Form**, and **Category II - Contemporary Form**. Winners in each category will be announced at the Society's summer meeting to be held at Truett McConnell College, Cleveland, Georgia, August 11, 1990.

PRIZES: In each, **Traditional** and **Contemporary:** First, \$25.00; Second, \$15.00; third, \$10.00.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to GSPS Members only who may enter one poem in each category.

SUBJECT: Any.

FORM: Contemporary: any modern form; **Traditional:** only recognized standard traditional form (poet should state form used).

LINE LIMIT: Maximum, 40 lines; no minimum.

FEES: None; members-only contests. (Follow general contest rules for submission)

EMILY DICKINSON AWARDS

The Emily Dickinson Awards sponsored by member Mary Ann Coleman of Athens, has as its purpose keeping alive the tradition of American poet Emily Dickinson.

PRIZES: \$25.00; \$15.00; \$10.00.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to all.

SUBJECT, FORM and LENGTH: Any subject, free verse form, any length.

FEES: One entry free to GSPS members; non-members \$1.00 per poem; members, \$1.00 each for all poems entered above one.

DR. JOHN RANSOM LEWIS (GEORGIA POET LAUREATE) AWARDS

Member Mikki Morris is sponsoring the Dr. John Ransom Lewis Awards to give GSPS members an opportunity to show their appreciation to Poet Laureate Dr. Lewis for his time and talents so generously shared with others.

PRIZES: \$55, \$35, and \$25.

ELIGIBILITY: GSPS members only, one poem each, no entry fee.

SUBJECT: "Memories We Keep"

FORM and LENGTH: Any form, 40 lines maximum length, no minimum.

DEADLINE FOR ALL CONTESTS LISTED ABOVE: June 15, 1990. Follow general contest rules carefully. Entries not submitted by guidelines will be discarded.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER MEETING

Mark your calendar for August 11, 1990 for the GSPS Summer Meeting. The place is Truett McConnell College, Cleveland, Georgia. The meeting will begin with registration and coffee at 9:30 A. M.

Invited speaker (not yet confirmed at press time, so there may be a change) is Dr. Paul Ramsey, born in Atlanta, but more recently a teacher of creative writing at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Author of seven books of poetry and five books of scholarship and criticism.

Officers for 1990-91 will be installed at the summer meeting. Members will have opportunity to read a poem.

Make August 11 a must for summer events and go to the lovely mountains of North Georgia for a poetry experience.

JANUARY MEETING IN RETROSPECT

Anthony Harrington led an interesting and helpful workshop in the morning session on January 20 entitled "Verse as the Ground of Poetry."

He emphasized the importance of knowing and practicing the foundational elements of poetry, those characteristics which set it apart as a literary form. He reviewed participants on poetic feet: iamb, trochee, anapest, dactyl, spondee and pyrrhic. He offered one of his own poems as an example of light verse, but also as an illustration for verse, the ground of poetry:

ON BEING INVITED TO A GALLERY OPENING FEATURING TWENTY-THREE ARTISTS 1/20/89

by Anthony Harrington

How greatly does the poet
Painful pangs of envy feel
For the painter at his easel,
For the potter at her wheel.

Such artists, they have galleries,
Champagne to speed the sale,
While the lonely homebound poet
Makes do with beer and mail.

Ah, for painters and for potters

Let seas of bubbly flow,
For what they offer patrons are
Triumphal things to show--

While poets, those wretched beings,
Spotted with spattered ink,
All that they can miserably make
Are things that make you think.

A poem is a verbal contraption. How does it work? What does it tell me about the guy who made it?

Auden: "I like to hang around words and see how they work."

George Barker: "A poem begins as self-expression; moves on to manipulation of words as an art form."

Blackmur: "The poem begins on the page, persists in the ear."

Robert Frost: "Even poets forget words exist in the mouth, not on the page."
"Poetry is the one form of discourse where ambiguity is allowed, where you can say one thing and mean another."

Harrington concluded by stating that 98% of the poets who become classics and are remembered for their work are formalists. Verse is from the root word meaning row or furrow. Poems are made with words.

BETTIE SELLERS addressed the group in the afternoon. She read poems from her works that indicated how an experience becomes a poem. Then she told of a trip on an eighteen wheeler throughout the United States with one of her students, a young lady who attended Young Harris College, and drove a transfer truck to earn money for college.

The experience with the driver on the cross-country run, though yielding page after page of journal entries and insights into a way of life which heretofore had not been a part of Ms. Sellers' knowledge, had not, to the date of the speech, yielded even one verse or poem.

So poets, take heart. Not every encounter, however different or noteworthy, can yield a poem. It was Ciardi who said, "A poem should not mean, but be." Likewise, some experiences should simply mean --not be a poem.



Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc.

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

Member, National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

Affiliate, The Academy of American Poets

Atlanta, Georgia
February 16, 1990

Dear Poet:

As your Editor of **The Reach of Song, A Book of the Tenth Year**, I want to bring you up to date on the book. I have mailed the manuscript to the publisher, and within a few weeks the galley proofs will be returned to me. At that time I will mail them to those of you who have poems included, so that you will be able to do your own proofing.

The cost of publishing our most recent book was about \$4,300.00. The next publication will cost more due to an increase in printing costs. Since we did not receive a grant from Georgia Council for the Arts for this year, we must ask each of you to place your book orders before publication so that we will have the money to pay the publisher. Books will cost us approximately \$9.00 each to publish, so that is our new price. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to fill book orders after our printing date, so please let us know how many books you want and send your check. Remember, the Executive Committee voted to cease sending a free book to each member this year.

The prize-winning chapbook will come from the publisher within a very short time, and the author has kindly consented to let GSPS sell copies to help raise money to pay for the publishing. This chapbook, **Shadowdrifters: Images of China**, may be ordered at the same time you order your other books.

Please also give some thought to purchasing books to put in your local library. Mikki Morris has put our books in libraries of Brunswick, Georgia from the time we began publishing, and I received an order recently from Rhoda Rainbow in New York for 15 books for the libraries in her area. It is wonderful to know that our books are in Brunswick and in New York libraries, and we thank these two women for their generous action. It is my hope that this will happen across our state, so please let me hear from you.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Yeager Adkins
2826 Evansdale Circle, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30340
Telephone: 404/939-1924



Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc.

Founded August 30, 1979 Incorporated June 11, 1981 Atlanta, Georgia
Member, National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.
Affiliate, The Academy of American Poets

GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY, INC. BOOK ORDER FORM

February 15, 1990

<u>No. of Books</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Price</u>
_____	The Reach of Song, Book 1	\$ 6.95
_____	The Reach of Song, Book 2	6.95
_____	The Reach of Song, Book 3	6.95
_____	The Reach of Song, Book 4	6.95
_____	The Reach of Song, Book 5	6.95
_____	The Reach of Song, Book 6	6.95
_____	The Reach of Song, Book 7	6.95
_____	The Reach of Song, Book 8	6.95
_____	Poems of Daniel Whitehead Hicky	6.95

The above books may also be ordered until
June 30, 1990 at this special price: 3 for 18.00

_____	The Reach of Song, A Book of the Tenth Year August 30, 1988-1989	9.00
_____	Shadowdrifters: Images of China GSPS Prize-Winning Chapbook	5.00

Please include \$.95 postage for the first book, and
\$.25 postage for each additional book. Checks should be
made to Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc.

Send order to: Jo Ann Yeager Adkins
2826 Evansdale Circle, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30340.

Mailing Address for books:

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

(For renewal of membership, fill out, clip, and mail with dues - \$15.00 individual, \$25.00 family, to:)

Virginia P. Dickson
GSPS Membership Chairman
3012 Bren Mar Way
Doraville, GA 30340

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Amount Enclosed _____ Check _____ M. O. _____

Contribution \$ _____ for _____

(Sponsoring contest, matching grant, other)

Suggestions: _____

I volunteer for _____

SUMMER WEEKEND IN MAINE PROPOSED

In a recent letter to all Georgia State Poetry Society members, B. I. Garland proposed a weekend tour of Southern Maine. The itinerary, from Atlanta by plane on Saturday, August 25 at 8:00 A. M., will land at Portland, Maine, have a bus waiting for a scenic ride to York County for an oceanside lunch, a night at a scenic motor lodge, a tour by President Bush's summer home, and a meal at Cape Porpoise. Other points of interest are also on the agenda.

To make the trip a reality, Mr. Garland needs 40 to commit definitely to the trip. Cost will be \$400.00 per person. Contact him immediately:

B. I. Garland
1302 Sunland Drive, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30319
404-231-4183

Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc.
Newsletter
P. O. Box 120
Epworth, Georgia 30541

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage **PAID**
Permit # 12
Epworth, Georgia 30541