

KENTUCKY POETRY PROJECT

MSS # 237

**Arranged and described by Molly Dohrmann
August 2006**

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
The Jean and Alexander Heard Library
Vanderbilt University
419 21st Avenue South
Nashville, Tennessee 37240
Telephone: (615) 322-2807**

Scope and Content and History Note

In 1964 Lawrence S. Thompson of the University of Kentucky Library put together “a little exhibit” soliciting manuscripts from over 600 poets and getting excellent results, judging from the list of poets who responded. The collection was brought to Vanderbilt by Deanna Marcum, a Vanderbilt Librarian, and given to Special Collections in 1975. The collection was reduced from eight linear feet to the present size (.84 linear feet) with the assistance of members of the Vanderbilt English Department.

The following information is taken from a note in the collection dated December 5, 1980:

“The Kentucky Poetry Project was an attempt to put together an exhibit of manuscripts of modern poets. Mr. Lawrence S. Thompson, Director of the Libraries at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, was responsible for the project. He had good success, and many poets responded to his request for a manuscript. As far as we can tell, he did actually display many of the poems he received. For some unknown reason, the project was brought to Vanderbilt and left in the care of the Head of Special Collections. The project was then reduced from eight linear feet to a small Hollinger box of three inches (.21 linear feet). The Vanderbilt English department helped the Special Collections staff weed the collections of manuscripts. The samples which were kept were those by poets of some prominence.”

The present collection is (.84 linear feet). 135 poets and their work are represented in individual folders. There is also the original letter from Lawrence Thompson requesting manuscripts and the list of the over 600 poets who were initially asked to participate.

Box Listing

Box 1

- 1. Adams, Leonie**
- 2. Aiken, Conrad**
- 3. Antoninus, O.P.**

The Wood
Three Voices at the Meridian
Missa Defunctorum

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| 4. Barker, Eric | Childhood |
| 5. Barnstone, Willis | I Seek |
| 6. Beloof, Robert Lawrence | Son |
| 7. Berrigan, Daniel | The Spirit that Speaks in Us |
| 8. Bevington, Helen | A Change of Sky |
| 9. Booth, Philip | A Refusal of Still Perfections |
| 10. Brooks, Gwendolyn | from A Street in Bronzeville |
| 11. Carrier, Constance | Lisa |
| 12. Carruth, Hayden | The Wild Swans at Norfolk |
| 13. Ciardi, John | Gulls Land and Cease to Be |
| | An article from the <i>Saturday Review</i> on Robert Frost |
| 14. Clemens, Cyril | Picture of A.E. Houseman, Autograph of C.C. |
| 15. Coblenz, Stanton A. | As Years Go By |
| 16. Conquest, Robert | Byron's Sex Life |
| | Generalities |
| 17. Coxe, Louis | Barred Owl |
| 18. Cunningham, J.V. | When Shall I be without Report |
| 19. Davenport, Mariana B. | Suspended Moment |
| 20. Dehn, Paul | Kaminos Rhodes |
| 21. Derleth, August | English Violets |
| | Sugar Bush by Moonlight |
| 22. Deutsch, Babette | Lizard at Pompeii |
| 23. Dickey, James | At Darien Bridge |
| 24. Dugan, Alan | Variation on a theme by Stevens |
| 25. Dyment, Clifford | The Raven |
| 26. Engle, Paul | You Can't Be Wise |
| 27. Feldman, Irving | The Prophet |
| 28. Ferlinghetti, Lawrence | Fragment of a Poem 8/62 |
| 29. Fitzell, Lincoln | O'Clock |
| 30. De Forde, Miriam Allen | Coronation |
| 31. Francis, Robert | Museum Vases |
| | Old Man's Confession of Faith |
| 32. Frost, Robert | photocopy of Extrication |

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| 33. Gershwin, Ira | Love is Sweeping the Country |
| 34. Gibbs, Barbara | New Green Chapel |
| 35. Gidlow, Elsa | Christmas on Druid Heights |
| 36. Ginsberg, Louis | Autumn Leaf |
| | Attic |
| 37. Gransden, K.W. | An Interview |
| 38. Greene, Paul | The Seekers |
| 39. Guest, Barbara | Piazzas |
| 40. Gullans, Charles | Epigram: Third Generation |
| 41. Gunn, Thom | Flying Above California |
| 42. Hamburger, Michael | Emblem |
| 43. Hendry, James Findlay | Love's Winter |
| | Hero and Leander |
| 44. Hesketh, Phoebe | Heron |
| | The Fox |
| 45. Hine, Daryl | Plain Fore |
| 46. Hoffman, Daniel Gerald | In that High House |
| 47. Honig, Edwin | The Marriage |
| 48. Hope, A.D. | The Lamp and the Jar |
| 49. Howes, Barbara | Troy Weight Taken |
| | The Critic |
| 50. Hughes, Langston | Small Memory |
| 51. Hugo, Richard | The Gold Man on the Beckler |
| 52. Ignatow, David | Sunday at the State Hospital |
| 53. Johnson, Geoffrey | Partition |
| | At One |
| 54. Justice, Donald | Three Dreams of Water |
| 55. Kinnell, Galway | Flower Herding on Mount Monadrock |
| 56. Knight, G. Wilson | Dawn |
| | In Tewkesbury Abbey |
| | On the Limitation of Democracy |
| 57. Kumin, Maxine | Morning Swim |

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| 58. Layton, Irving | On the Assassination of President Kennedy |
| 59. Lee, Laurie | letter |
| 60. Lehmann, John | In the Museum |
| | Sunnir: Amalfi |
| 61. Levi, Peter | letter |
| 62. Lindsay, Jack | William Blake After Two Centuries of Life |
| 63. Logan, John | On Reading Camus in March |
| 64. Lowenfels, Walter | From a Letter to the President |
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| 65. McAuley, James P. | St. John's Park, New Town |
| 66. Madge, Charles H. | Travel Poem |
| 67. Mannes, Marya | Death of an Astronaut, or Requescat in Orbitum |
| 68. Mayo, E.L. | Wagon Train |
| | Joy of Man's Desiring |
| 69. Meacham, Harry M. | Mobile; photo of Ezra Pound |
| 70. Merchant, Jane | American Lament |
| 71. Merriam, Eve | Some Uses for Poetry |
| | Inside a Poem |
| | The Words and Music of My Mother |
| 72. Merrill, James | Sundown and Starlight |
| 73. Middleton, Christopher | Song about Liebknecht in Brixton |
| 74. Mills, Clark | The Green Gown |
| 75. Moore, Marianne | O to Be a Dragon |
| 76. Morgan, Edwin | The Death of Marilyn Monroe |
| 77. Moss, Howard | The Pruned Tree |
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| 78. Nash, Ogden | A Man Can Complain Can't He—A Lament |
| 79. Nemerov, Howard | One of the Predecessors of Perseus |
| 80. Nicholson, Norman C. | Five Minutes |
| 81. Nims, John Frederick | The Boathouse |
| 82. Nitchie, George W. | Expressway |
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| 83. O'Connor, Norreys Jephson | Meditation |
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| 84. Pack, Robert | The Farm Dream: Expecting a Child |
| 85. Pennant, Edmund | Elegy for Clown |
| 86. Pinto, Vivian de Sola | Dawn in Flanders |
| | In a Green Grocer's |

87. Pitter, Ruth

The Ermine

Box 2

88. Plimpton, Harriet

To Migrating Duck and Mole
Tryplych (from Out of the North)
Design
For Johnny

89. Press, John

90. Pudney, John

91. Rawlings, Margaret

92. Read, Herbert

93. Redgrove, Peter

To a Friend
Any Crucifixium
The Young Forester Protests
Mother
Spring
Outlook Uncertain
A is for Apollo

94. Reid, Alastair

95. Roseliep, Raymond

96. Sackville-West, V. (Hon.)

97. Sansom, Clive

98. Sarton, May

This is the Only Way to Keep a Diary
The Woman of Samaria (from The Witnesses)
The Beautiful Pauses
Song (from the Law of Silence)
Little and Lonely Under the Evening Star
Mens Disconsolate
Out of Old Records
The Sea-Dwellers
I Remember
Something as been Teased from me
The Inner Part

99. Saul, George Brandon

100. Schevill, James

101. Sergeant, Howard

102. Sexton, Anne

103. Silkin, Jon

104. Simpson, Louis

105. Singh, Dr. Karan
(His Highness Maharajah)

In Memoriam
Poem in Dogri

106. Smith, Iain Crichton

107. Snodgrass, W.D.

108. Sobiloff, Hyman J.

109. Spingarn, Lawrence P.

The Bore
The Men's Room in the College Chapel
My Mother's Table
Walrich

110. Stafford, William

111. Stallworthy, Jon

112. Stanford, Derek

113. Stephens, Alan

114. Stevenson, Lionel

115. Summers, Hal

116. Swartz, Robert Teale

The Picnic at Aghia Marina
Ozymandias's Brother
During the Evening News
Here Comes Sir George
Peter
A Clear Night Sky
The Meridian of Greenwich
Train Halt
letter

117. Tagliabue, John 23 poems (list included on p. 8)

Box 3

118. Tate, Allen The Meaning of Life
119. Tate, Isabella Gardner Letter from Slough Pond
120. Thompson, Dorothy M. Request
Meeting
121. Tomlinson, Charles In Longfellow's Library
122. Tonks, Rosemary Love Territory
123. Tremayne, Sydney Space Travel
124. Tusiani, Joseph Manuscript of Machiavelli's *Lust and Liberty*
11 poems (list included on p. 8)
125. Untermeyer, Jean Starr The Anguish
126. Untermeyer, Louis Coal Fire
127. Van Doren, Mark All Seasons
Once in Kentucky
128. Wagoner, David The Night of the Sad Women
129. Wain, John B. Sonnet
130. Wheelock, John Hall Evening Star
131. Whistler, Laurence The Haunting
132. Whittemore, Reed What was It Like
133. Wilbur, Richard Two Voices in a Meadow
134. Wilder, Amos N. Ripe is the Harvest" translation of a poem by Fr.
Holderlin
135. Wright, Judith Gum-Trees Stripping
136. Original List of over 600 poets asked to participate in the project
137. Original letter of Lawrence Thompson to ask for poetry manuscripts,
March 17, 1964

11 Poems by Joseph Tusiani:

**Of Liquids and Solids
Now in the Calm of the Year
Aesopiana
Simple Operation
After the Storm
The Enamel Door
Minima Theologica
Apollo and Daphne
For Lack of Wing
Evening Song for a Grammarian
A Trip to Washington**

23 Poems by John Tagliabue:

**The Young President Generously Calls Our Democratic Inner Light to the Air's
Bright Parliament, March 1964
Good Friday, 1964
Sometimes
In the little Monastery
A Delicate Hint of Spring
Can You Detect the Guardian Angel
The Gift
Business is More Glorious When You Know Your Story
The Racket That Radiance Makes
High Burst
Ability Shining in Graceful Motion
If
NOH Actors Quietly and Strongly Stomping Away on the Old Plantation
Weather Can Talk Whether You Think So or Not
Seasons-Reasons
A Fireman
Keep Going Said the Evening
If All that Went
Dragon
To be Read
A Blade of Grass
The First Word**