

1-1977

## Third Coast Poetry Newsletter, Vol. 2, Issue 3

Grand Valley State College. Thomas Jefferson College

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Grand Valley State College. Thomas Jefferson College, "Third Coast Poetry Newsletter, Vol. 2, Issue 3" (1977). *Third Coast Poetry Newsletter*. 6.  
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# THE THIRD COAST POETRY NEWSLETTER

Published by the Poetry Resource Center \* Vol. 2 Issue 3 January, 1977

## Special Conference Issue -- Contents:

### ORGANIZER'S REPORT

Our first Michigan Poetry Conference is over. Three days of readings, discussions, presentations, and "work Sessions," held in the old Pantlind Hotel in Grand Rapids. Now is the time for reflection, a pause for the new year.

There are a lot of ways to evaluate a Conference of this kind. We passed out questionnaires, and had a feedback session right at the conference. We also talked to most of the invited poets & publishers. Some of these comments appear elsewhere in this Newsletter. For ourselves, the organizers, we are interested in seeing how much the Conference fit our aims, our conception of the needs we felt the Conference should answer, and how responsive the Conference itself (and ourselves, as the organizers) was to the participants.

As organizers, we had many aims. The first was to enjoy many of the fine poets who live and work in Michigan. The second was to explore practical and artistic resources of Michigan poetry, including the field of publishing. The third was to establish a communication/network that would operate through the Poetry Resource Center.

In these terms, we think the Conference was an unqualified success. We feel happy with our work. We thought the readings both nights were great; that the mixture of more established poets with poets just breaking into recognition was provocative. The sessions on publishing and printing (especially the small press and magazine session), was a unique feature of this Conference that was very much appreciated. In fact, most of the response we received from participants was that there should have been even more of this kind of practical, technical information. Poets want to know more about the publishing business, especially about the small

### ORGANIZERS' REPORT

### COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

### NEW PROJECTS

### MAILING LIST FROM CONFERENCE

### MICHIGAN POETRY CALENDAR



### THIRD COAST POETRY NEWSLETTER

presses and little magazine publishers. And finally, we picked up so many suggestions for projects and new work for the Poetry Resource Center, and received such good response to the idea of a strong state-wide communication network, that we feel this part of the Conference was also a success.

Essentially, we have received the confirmation of our ideas and intuitions with which we began the Poetry Resource Center. We feel we have concrete evidence that Michigan poets and publishers want to work together, want to share resources, and want to know one another. All the suggestions made for future projects for the Poetry Resource Center will be acted on. You can turn to the column on NEW PROJECTS elsewhere in the Newsletter to get an idea what these projects will be.

Following is a brief survey of Conference events, with number in attendance, and responses from questionnaires about the event.

Presentation/ "Festivals, Celebrations, Poet Gathering Magic."  
Good to Excellent Responses, 60 in attendance

Friday Night Evening Reading/ Minty, Scott, Lawder, & Drake (B.)  
Fair to Excellent Responses, 100 in attendance

Presentation/ Ken & Ann Mikelowski from the Alternative Press  
Good, Excellent, to Great Responses, 80 in attendance

Panel Discussion/ "Publishing in Michigan"  
Fair to Excellent Responses, 100 in attendance

Panel Discussion/ "Poetry of Place"  
Poor to Good Responses, 80 in attendance

Presentation/ "Networking and the Poetry Resource Center"  
Good to Excellent Responses, 10 attending Saturday, 40 attending Sun

Saturday Night Evening Reading/ VanderMolen, McCombs, Clinton, Nibbelink/  
Good, Excellent, to Great Responses, 140 in attendance

We are pleased with the responses and attendance. We feel that this Conference is needed, that the Poetry Resource Center is needed, and that we're going to work even harder for poetry in Michigan.

Mark Seeley, Joyce Jenkins, Lori Eason.



## THIRD COAST POETRY NEWSLETTER

### NEW PROJECTS BEGUN AT THE POETRY RESOURCE CENTER

Based on feedback from the Conference, suggestions made there, and our own assessment, several new projects are underway. They are:

#### 1) Directory of Michigan Poets, Publishers, & Bookstores

This Directory would be our own compilation from our mailing list, the National Directory, and other lists, of Michigan poets and writers, Michigan-based magazines and small presses, and Michigan bookstores that stock these small press books and little magazines. There would be a listing of poetry reading sponsors as well. This project will be begun January. If you know of someone or some organization that should be part of this Directory, please write.

#### 2) Establishing a Network

This network would involve contact people in each city and college in Michigan. These contact people will relay information on poetry activities in their city/college to the PRC, for publication in the Newsletter. Contact people would also work with one another, through the PRC, for sharing expenses of poets giving readings, "routing" these poets to a number of readings in the state, thereby establishing a stronger Michigan poetry circuit.

#### 3) Expanding Newsletter

As you can see, as of this issue, the Third Coast Poetry Newsletter has expanded to a larger format. This gives more space for news, for letters from readers, for announcements from readers, for "in-depth-reports" and articles, as well as our continued features such as the Michigan Poetry Calendar and Notes on Grants.

#### 4) Other Conferences, especially the 1977 NPF

Planning has begun for the next National Poetry Festival. The Festival is usually sponsored by GVSC, but special effort this year has been made to secure other funding, including a grant in application at the National Endowment for the Arts. The NPF 1977 program will be planned through January. All input for the Festival will be appreciated.

## MICHIGAN POETRY CALENDAR/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 12, at U of M at Flint, *Gary Gildner* will give a reading of his own work. *William Stafford* will read at MSU Thursday, January 20. *Barbara Drake* will read January 26, 4 pm, also at MSU. There are also readings at Wayne State, sponsored by the Miles Modern Poetry Committee, but they are unconfirmed as of this publication. The NMU English Dept is also sponsoring a reading, but again, the reader has not confirmed.

The Abbie M. Copps Poetry Competition is being sponsored again this year by Olivet College. Final date for mailing entries (one short poem) is January 8. Prize of \$150. Robert Bly will judge. Write POETRY COMPETITION c/o William Buchanan, Olivet College, Olivet, Mi. 49076. Also, a new small press is being organized in Grand Rapids. For more information write C. Monsma, at 1400 Johnston SE G.R., Mi.

## SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE PRC FOR THE MICHIGAN POETRY CONFERENCE

We want to thank John Hunting & the Michigan Council for the Arts for their sponsorship. We would like to thank the following Volunteers who worked at the Conference and helped make it a success: Robin James, Lori Eason, Joyce Jenkins, Jeff Bernard, Ariel Dawson, James Coyne, Howard Smith, Mark Helgeson, Ann Filemyr, Karen Leemaster, Susie Corbit,

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The Poetry Resource Center  
Thomas Jefferson College  
Grand Valley State Colleges  
Allendale, Michigan 49401

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Daryl Murphy, Ellen Smith, & Linda Heaney.



## MAILING LIST, MICHIGAN POETRY CONFERENCE

(SOME PARTICIPANTS AT CONFERENCE  
MAY NOT HAVE FILLED OUT MAILING  
LIST FORM.)

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## MAILING LIST, MICHIGAN POETRY CONFERENCE, PAGE TWO

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Maggie Zimmerman 1107 Rose Big Rapids, Mi 49307  
Jack & Helen Zucker 6245 S. Fox Hills Dr. Bloomfield Hills, Mi

## COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS ON THE MICHIGAN POETRY CONFERENCE

"Keep this going! There is obviously enough people power to handle more of these Conferences and good interest from poets from all over the state!"

"Really enjoyed the inspiration and fellowship."

"Would like to see more of these happening as it is the one time we gather."

## FOLLOW-UP SUGGESTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS

"Publish a list of Michigan poets, a directory of little mags & small presses in Michigan."

"Would like to see the Poetry Center distribute a questionnaire to bookstores in Michigan as to whether or not they carry Michigan small press books and small magazines."

"I'd like to know what's happening in Michigan with as many poetry activities as possible."

"I'd like to see you extend coverage of persons getting info to you"  
(We think this refers to networking.)

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES

"Would like to see more done on marketing poetry at future Conferences."

"Workshops on new media resources for poems and poets."

"Would like to see more technical, "how to," workshops-- layout, design, paste-ups, etc."

We would like to thank all the participants who take the time to answer our questionnaires. Your comments, criticism, and feedback is appreciated. Let us know what you think. We have a National Poetry Festival coming up, so all comments about this Conference will help clarify our thinking about this summer's Festival. Also, if you have any input into planning for the Festival, please write.