

CARTON 3:21

WILD TREES PRESS

BROWN, CYNTHIA

1987

CLARK, SEPTIMA

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MAYOR W. WILSON GOODE

*cordially invites you to a
reception honoring the
recipients of the*

AMERICAN BOOK AWARDS

on

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1987

5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

BALCH INSTITUTE FOR ETHNIC STUDIES

18 South 7th Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Reception sponsored by:

PSFS[®]

Meritor Financial Group

BEFORE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

1446 Sixth Street, Suite D • Berkeley, California 94710 • (415)527-1586



May 5, 1987

Dear Awardee,

On behalf of the Before Columbus Foundation and the City of Philadelphia, I would like to officially congratulate and welcome you to the City of Philadelphia. During your stay, we will try and make your visit as rewarding as possible.

Enclosed, you will find a list of activities that are scheduled for the participation by all awardees. As you will notice, the first event is on Friday, May 15th at 5:30pm. Therefore, we would like everyone to try and be in Philadelphia before that time. Unfortunately, I cannot give you the name of the hotel you will be staying in at the present time. However, I will call you in a few days with the name of your hotel. If you must be on the road prior to receiving my call, please call me or Gundars Strads at the following numbers to procure the name of your hotel. I can be reached at work (215)925-9914 or home (609)966-1959. Gundars may be reached during the day at (415)642-7321.

Please notify me of flight time and number, or, if you're coming by train, your arrival time in Philly. We will do our best to have someone meet you. Due to a limited budget, Before Columbus can only offer accommodations in so far as a hotel. We cannot pay for meals or telephone calls. Hopefully, in the future money will be more abundant. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation. Looking forward to seeing you in Philadelphia. Any questions don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Lamont B Steptoe
Project Coordinator

Board of Directors: alta Rudolfo Anaya Marie Anderson George Barlow Bob Callahan
Jeff Chan Lawrence Di Stasi Victor Hernandez Cruz Andrew Hope Yuri Kageyama
David Meltzer Simon Ortiz Ishmael Reed Gundars Strads Joyce Carol Thomas Shawn Wong

THE CHRISTOPHERS

12 EAST 48TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 · TELEPHONE 212-759-4050

April 29, 1987

Dear Friend:

Christopher Awards have been presented to writers, producers and directors of outstanding books, motion pictures and television specials that affirm the highest values of the human spirit for 36 years.

One of your books has been suggested as a possible candidate for a Christopher Award. The title is "Ready From Within" by Septima Clark and Cynthia Stokes Brown. Please send us two copies for our panel.

We look forward to receiving your book.

Sincerely,

Peggy Flanagan

Peggy Flanagan
Christopher Awards Coordinator

EA
5/5
PF:mjm

FATHER JOHN CATOIR, DIRECTOR

April 29, 1987

Mrs. Septima Clark
364 President Street
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Mrs. Clark,

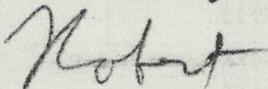
Congratulations on winning an American Book Award! We are very excited about the award. It is an important honor, and it will make your book even more widely known. We understand that the Before Columbus Foundation is inviting you and Cynthia to go to Philadelphia to attend the awards ceremony in May. Hope you will be able to do so.

Enclosed is your royalty statement for the first quarter of 1987. As you can see the book sold 903 copies during that period (1,109 have been sold in all since it was published), and your share of the royalties comes to \$207.19. However, since we sent you 50 copies of the book (see invoice attached) at a cost (after your discount) of \$206.37 we are deducting that amount from the royalties due. Since the remainder is very small we will simply carry that amount forward to the next statement, unless you wish otherwise.

We are not always here in the office so anytime you need more books just drop me a note with your order and we will get them out to you as soon as possible.

I hope the events at the Charleston Library and in Los Angeles went well.

Best wishes,



Robert Allen

BEFORE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

1446 Sixth Street, Suite D • Berkeley, California 94710 • (415)527-1586



March 11, 1987

Robert Allen
Wild Trees Press
Box 378
Navarro, CA 95463

Dear Mr. Allen:

Congratulations! Ready From Within by Septima Clark has been selected as a winner of the eighth annual 1987 American Book Awards.

Attached are a complete list of winners, a press release, and a copy of last year's press brochure (which describes the program in more detail). The purpose of the awards is to help promote and gain wider recognition for the work of outstanding American authors. Last year's Awards were held during the ABA in New Orleans and generated considerable press and industry attention.

This year's Awards ceremonies will be held in the City of Philadelphia, which is co-sponsoring the Awards in conjunction with the bicentennial celebration of the Constitution, on May 17th with a press reception the night before.

We will contact you with more details shortly, but first we urgently need you to do two things.

1. Please send two copies of the book along with an author photo, author bio, copies of reviews, and any other publicity materials you have to:
Gundars Strads, Awards Coordinator, 5449 Shafter Ave., Oakland, CA 94618
This is to help us prepare our publicity material.
2. Please notify Ms. Clark of the Award and have her contact me so that we can arrange her attendance at the Awards Ceremonies and press reception. We are also planning a reception at the ABA Convention the following weekend and would like to know if she is available for that as well.

I can be reached at (415)527-1586. Thank-you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Gundars Strads
Executive Director

encl.

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The winning authors will be honored at public ceremonies held on May 17, 1987 at the University of Pennsylvania Museum and will be co-sponsored by the City of Philadelphia in conjunction with the City's celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Constitution.

For further information, contact:

Gundars Strads, Before Columbus Foundation, (415)527-1586

or

Lamont Steptoe, Painted Bride Art Center, Philadelphia, (215)925-9914

Board of Directors: alta Rudolfo Anaya Marie Anderson George Barlow Bob Callahan
Jeff Chan Lawrence Di Stasi Victor Hernandez Cruz Andrew Hope Yuri Kageyama
David Meltzer Simon Ortiz Ishmael Reed Gundars Strads Joyce Carol Thomas Shawn Wong

BEFORE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION PRESENTS

the WINNERS of the 1987 AMERICAN BOOK AWARDS

Ai (Ai Ogawa)

SIN (Houghton Mifflin)

Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum

Liberazione Della Donna: Feminism in Italy
(Wesleyan University Press)

Dorothy Bryant

Confessions of Madame Psyche (Ata Press)

Ana Castillo

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Etheridge Knight

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Michael Mayo, editor

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Mama (Houghton Mifflin)

Harvey Pekar

American Splendor (Doubleday)

John Wieners

Selected Poems, 1958-1984 (Black Sparrow Press)

James Welch

Fools Crow (Viking)

Cyn Zarco

Circumnavigation (Tooth of Time Press)

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Charles Blockson

Dennis Clark

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

For The Eighth Annual
AMERICAN BOOK AWARDS
1987



| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event/Location</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|--------------------|---|------------------|
| Friday, May 15th | RECEPTION at Balch Institute 18 South 7th St. | 5:30pm - 8:30pm |
| Saturday, May 16th | LUNCHEON at Walt Whitman Center 2nd & Cooper Streets Camden, NJ | 12:30pm - 1:30pm |
| Saturday, May 16th | Visit to Whitman House Camden, NJ | 2:00pm - 3:00pm |
| Saturday, May 16th | POETRY READING at The Liberty Bell 5th & Market Streets | 3:30pm - 5:00pm |
| Saturday, May 16th | AWARD CEREMONIES at University Museum University Of Pennsylvania 33rd & Spruce Streets | 7:00pm - 10:00pm |
| Saturday, May 16th | RECEPTION at Houston Hall University Of Pennsylvania 34th & Spruce Streets | 10:00pm - 1:00am |

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Robert Allen
Wild Trees Press
Box 378
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I can be reached at (415)527-1586. Thank-you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Gundars Strads

Gundars Strads
Executive Director

encl.

*name = Phile. Hamant Steptoe
(215) 925-9914*

Cynthia

Philadelphia

Board of Directors: alta Rudolfo Anaya Marie Anderson George Barlow Bob Callahan
Jeff Chan Lawrence Di Stasi Victor Hernandez Cruz Andrew Hope Yuri Kageyama
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or
Lamont Steptoe, Painted Bride Art Center, Philadelphia, (215)925-9914

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Board of Directors: alta Rudolfo Anaya Marie Anderson George Barlow Bob Callahan
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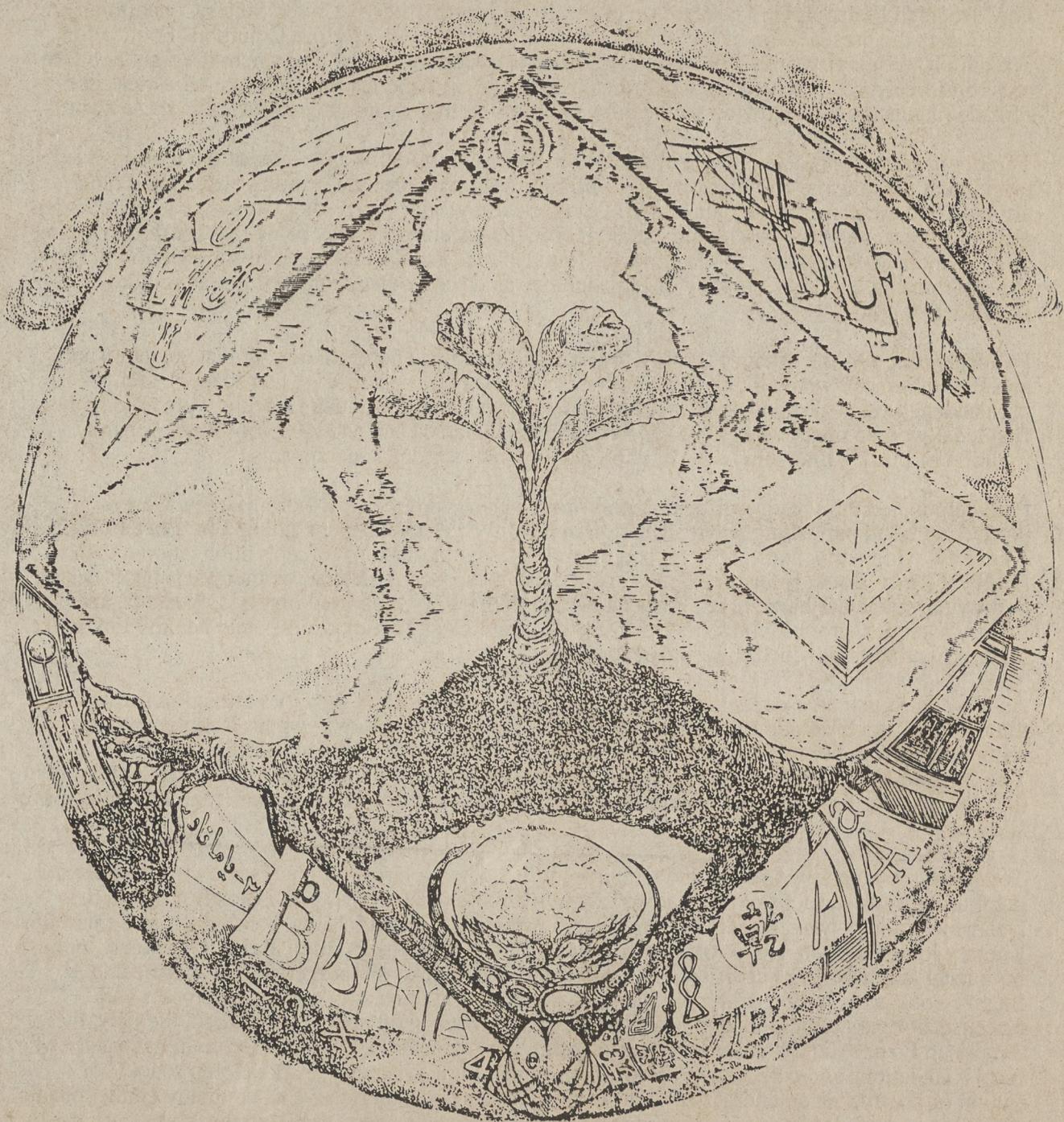
Cyn Zarco
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LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Charles Blockson

Dennis Clark

The Before Columbus Foundation Presents
The Eighth Annual
AMERICAN BOOK AWARDS CEREMONY



SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1987 7:00 P.M.

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM THEATER 33rd & Spruce Streets PHILADELPHIA

For tickets and information call Lamont Steptoe, (215) 925-9914, or (215) 735-9598.

Before Columbus Foundation/ American Book Awards

A LITERARY WELCOME TO PHILADELPHIA

Few events in Philadelphia's celebration of the 200th birthday of the United States Constitution are as fitting as the presentation of the American Book Awards by the Before Columbus Foundation. For with it we honor writers from a diverse rainbow of cultures in the city where the right to a free press and free speech were set down as the birthright of all Americans. And, like all Americans, Philadelphians are blessed with the healthy and thriving literary cultures reflected in these awards.

The Lenni Lenape produced the **Walum Olum** while living in this area--one of the world's great origin tales. The white and black people who followed them brought printing presses and other artifacts of their transplanted culture. While most early writing was either workaday legal records, religious tracts, and other such practical literature, the groundwork was being laid for the flowering of the American revolution. Philadelphians founded the first North American subscription library--the still thriving Library Company of Philadelphia--and soon other centers of literary culture flourished.

Political work was the order of the day. Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Paine, Francis Hopkinson and Philip Freneau were among those who raised a hue and cry in books, newspapers and broadsides. Less well-known, Elisabeth Graeme Ferguson and Hannah Griffiths were among the first local women poets. And after the Revolution, Richard Allen and Absolom Jones began a tradition of black authorship in the city, publishing their sermons and appeals.

Philadelphia led the young nation as a publishing center, with the Irish-born Mathew Carey pioneering book publishing and distribution in the city. Magazines, including **The Port Folio**, **Analectic Magazine**, and others, helped nurture a fledging muse. Women's publications, such as **Godey's Lady Book**, flourished; Elisa Leslie, one of the first American women to support herself as a writer, made her home here. A rising black middle class supported libraries, lyceums, and literary societies, groups which helped foster a nascent black consciousness--and healthy link in the underground railroad--in 19th century America.

As New York gained ascendancy in American publishing, some of the city's attraction for writers dimmed; yet each decade contributed its share of noteworthy authors. Agnes Repplier penned her witty essays from her townhouse on Clinton Street. Owen Wister wrote the classic western, **The Virginian**. Walt Whitman crossed the Delaware from his home in Camden and spent hours in the city. To list the literary contributions of Philadelphians requires more room than this brief space allows.

Today we see both a revolution and a rebirth in Philadelphia letters. Fine research institutions and great universities attract scholars and writers in many fields. Over 50 publishers flourish in the Delaware Valley. Magazines-- from the **Farm Journal to Philadelphia** -- enlighten and entertain. Literary journals, such as the **American Poetry Review** and the **Painted Bride Quarterly**, publish both local and international writers. A thriving gay community supports two newspapers and a literary bookstore. In bookstores and bars, art galleries and university auditoriums poets and novelists of every culture read to appreciative and growing audiences. Each March, the City, the American Poetry Center and over 60 other institutions sponsor Poetry Week with the assistance of local foundations and corporations. Not surprisingly, there is no one "Philadelphia school" of fiction or poetry, but an energetic spectrum of styles and tastes reflective of the many ethnic, racial, religious, and other cultural influences that shape our citizens' lives. It is into this climate of artistic freedom guaranteed by one of Philadelphia's great documents-- the United States Constitution - that we are proud to welcome the American Book Awards.



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

W. WILSON GOODE
MAYOR

May 1, 1987

The American Book Award Recipients
C/o Before Columbus Foundation
1446 Sixth Street, Suite D
Berkeley, California 94710

Dear Award Recipients:

The City of Philadelphia has had a long history of achievement and support for the literary arts. From the writing of the Constitution, and the establishment of America's first library, to "Poetry Month" - the largest municipal poetry celebration in the English speaking world - Philadelphia has always had an interest in the encouragement of the literary arts.

The American Book Awards are important because they honor exceptional writers who represent the diverse fabric of American talent. Because the awards are granted without regard to race, culture, gender, or genre, it is significant that they will be presented here in Philadelphia as we celebrate the 200th birthday of the signing of our Constitution.

I am pleased that the Before Columbus Foundation has chosen Philadelphia as the site for their 1987 Awards Ceremony. On behalf of the people of this City, I would like to welcome the American Book Awards to Philadelphia.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

W. Wilson Goode
W. WILSON GOODE

WWG:ofl



Margot Barringer, President of the American Poetry Center, listens while Mayor W. Wilson Goode proclaims Poetry Week.

8TH ANNUAL AMERICAN BOOK AWARDS CEREMONY

HONORING

THE WINNERS OF THE 1987 AMERICAN BOOK AWARDS

AI
SIN (Houghton Mifflin)

LUCIA CHIAVOLA BIRNBAUM
Liberazione Della Donna: Feminism in Italy
(Wesleyan University Press)

DOROTHY BRYANT
Confessions of Madame Psyche
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ANA CASTILLO
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Circumnavigation
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LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

CHARLES BLOCKSON

DENNIS CLARK

SATURDAY MAY 16, 1987 • 7 PM

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM THEATER 33RD & SPRUCE STS. • \$7 GENERAL ADMISSION

PRESENTED BY THE BEFORE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION
IN COOPERATION WITH THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

AI SIN (Houghton Mifflin)

Ai's third collection of poems, *Sin* is a book of "incantatory sermons on the theme of power which use actual figures as their mouthpieces," said reviewer Rachel Hadas in the *Boston Review*. Choosing such diverse historical persona as Jack Kennedy, Robert Oppenheimer, the Atlanta child murderer and Joseph McCarthy, Ai's take-no-prisoner poetry tackles both the political and the personal with her unique and startling images, vibrant language, and fierce passion.

"In poems like 'Kristallnacht,' 'The Detective,' and 'The Journalist,' Ai looks at history on a smaller scale, from the ground floor, so to speak," wrote Matthew Flamm in the *Village Voice*. "She goes deeper into the personal than she ever has before, crossing and mixing up all the internal borders--between daydreams and visions, between simple, recent memories and old, complex, emotionally charged. Memory is especially important: history, in these poems, is synonymous with the Fall, which is what each of the characters, in his own way, describes."

A native of Tucson, Ai's first book, *Cruelty*, was published to great acclaim in 1973; her second collection, *Killing Floor*, was the 1978 Lamont Poetry Selection of the Academy of American Poets. She is the recipient of numerous fellowships and awards, including the Ingram Merrill Foundation Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Bunting Fellowship at Radcliffe College, and two National Endowment for the Arts grants. She is a resident of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

from "The Journalist"

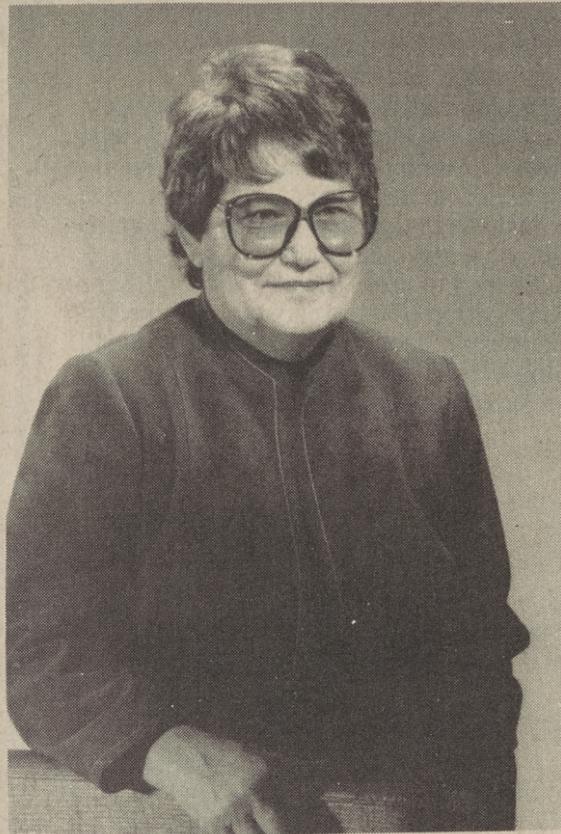
*I didn't excel,
but I knew I could be heroic
if I had to.
I'd set the sharp end
of the compass
down on blank paper
and with the pencil end
I was drawing the circle
that would contain me--
everything I wanted,
everything I'd settle for.
Life and all its imitations.
That day in Hue,
I had the chance to step
from the circle
and I took it.*

*But when I turned back,
everything inside it was burning.
My past was gone. I was gone.
But the boy was still there.
He watched the flames take the nun.
He took her heart. He was running.
I was bound, he said to himself, I'm free.
But it was a lie.*



Houghton Mifflin Company
52 Vanderbilt Avenue
New York NY 10017

LUCIA CHIAVOLA BIRNBAUM
**LIBERAZIONE DELLA DONNA:
FEMINISM IN ITALY** (Wesleyan
University Press)



"No existing socialism has been able to translate marxist philosophy into a society that is libertarian and genuinely equalitarian. In Italy where traces persist of the ancient Mediterranean earth mother who nurtured diverse peoples and a multiplicity of beliefs, where pluralism mixes beliefs of an unedited gospel with an unedited marxism and feminists laugh as well as rage, the vision is as real as the dark wheat and red poppies of Sicily."

The first comprehensive account of the Italian feminist movement, **liberazione della donna** chronicles the movement's eruption during the past two decades as Italian women pushed for family and divorce rights, child care, wages for house work, and abortion, while pursuing a new world of women's collectives, shelters and workshops.

Birnbaum reveals the movement's roots in peasant culture, Franciscan theology and Gramscian Marxism, and explores its influences upon major Italian social institutions and organizations. Using a variety of first-hand sources, ranging from interviews and manifestos to popular journals and graffiti, she tells the story of women who dared to claim, "Io sono mio" (I am my own person).

Born into a Sicilian-American family in Kansas City, Missouri, Birnbaum received her Ph.D. in history from the University of California at Berkeley. She helped found the Peace and Freedom Party while a professor at San Francisco State University. She is presently a visiting scholar at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

Wesleyan University Press
110 Mt. Vernon Street
Middleton CT 06547

DOROTHY BRYANT **THE
CONFESSIONS OF MADAME
PSYCHE** (Ata Books)

"**Confessions of Madame Psyche** is a novel of contradiction and mobility, classically Californian in character, theme, form and setting," wrote Valerie Miner, praising Dorothy Bryant's eighth novel in **The Women's Review of Books**. "Bryant started as an outsider, a Western woman from a working-class immigrant home. She has resisted the current trend to vacuous, solipsistic fiction, creating instead dramatic narratives where complex characters engage with serious social issues. She writes clear, accessible prose which springs from a fascination with people and a practiced common sense."

The spiritual autobiography of Mei-Li Murrow, child of a poor Chinese woman and a n'er-account white man, the **Confessions** charts her progress in a variety of occupations: child psychic fraud, commune leader, agricultural union activist, mental patient. Throughout the novel, Bryant's remarkable gifts as a writer and storyteller hold the reader's attention despite many improbable turns of events and location. Firmly anchored in a forgotten world of old San Francisco, Mei-Li's frank tale is written in a "no-nonsense, always wry, often unforgiving yet never caustic tone," reviewer Patricia Holt noted in the **San Francisco Chronicle**.

Dorothy Bryant was born in San



Francisco in 1930; she began writing in 1960, and has published a collection of short stories and a book of non-fiction. She lives in Berkeley, where she runs her independent self-publishing house, Ata Books, with her husband.

Ata Books
1928 Stuart Street
Berkeley CA 94703

"It was the combination of losses and my own weakness which saved me. If I had been rescued from even a little bit of that suffering, I might have been able to go on without changing, like a sleep-walker in a nightmare, wandering blindly, flailing in all directions with yearning and pain and fear. I was saved from that life, but at a price. The price was everything and worth everything."

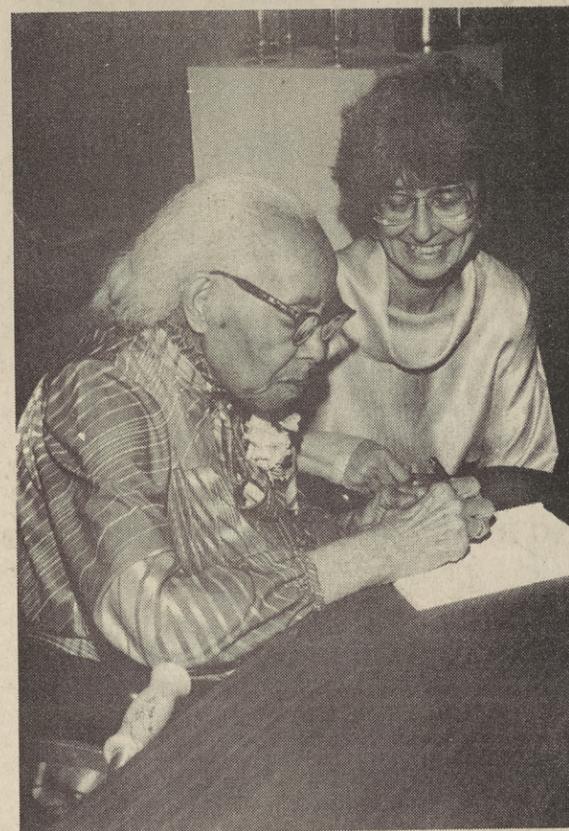
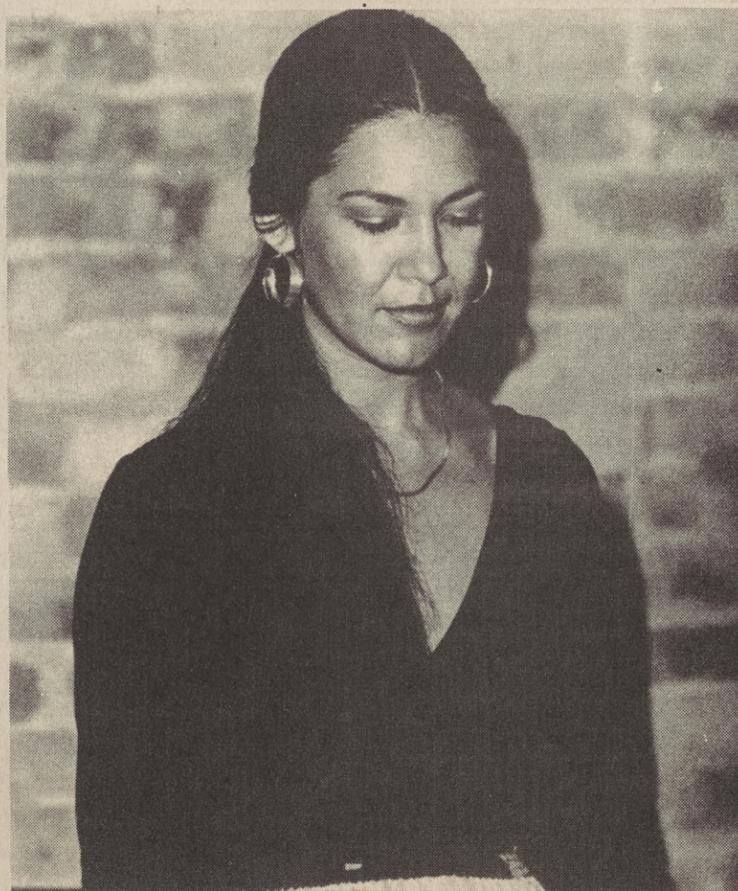
No, I regret nothing."

ANA CASTILLO THE MIXQUIAHUALA LETTERS (Bilingual Review/Press)

An epistolary novel focusing on the correspondence between two Hispanic women, Ana Castillo's **Mixquiahuala Letters** is a probing description of the relationship between the sexes. The novel is a far-ranging social and cultural document that encompasses both Mexican and United States Hispanic forms of love and gender conflict.

Ana Castillo is known for both her prose and poetry. Her publications include a collection of poems, **Women Are Not Roses**, two poetry chapbooks and publication in major anthologies and literary periodicals. In addition, she has taught at a number of colleges and is currently a board member of Aztlan Cultural/Centro de Escritores.

Bilingual Review/Press
Hispanic Research Center
Arizona State University
Tempe AZ 85287



SEPTIMA CLARK AND CYNTHIA STOKES BROWN **READY FROM WITHIN** (Wild Trees Press)

Born in 1898 in Charleston, South Carolina, eighty-eight year old Septima Clark served as a key leader in the civil rights struggles which changed the face of the United States in our century. **Ready From Within** is this remarkable woman's story, told as oral history to Berkeley writer Cynthia Stokes Brown.

"The result is a rich tale," **Publishers Weekly** said. "...This is a poignant story, told with hope and humanity." Clark worked as a schoolteacher for many years, was fired in 1956 because of her NAACP membership, and thus became involved in organizing the Citizenship Schools. The only female member of the executive board of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Clark worked alongside of Martin Luther King, Ralph Abernathy, and other better-known leaders.

"But I never once felt afraid, not on any of those marches. Bullets could have gotten me, but somehow or other they didn't. I felt very good about going, about talking to people. I knew that people had gotten to the place where they saw the type of meanness that was being shown throughout their little towns. They hadn't noticed it before, but now they were ready from within to do something about it."

Wild Trees Press
P.O. Box 378
Navarro CA 95463



GARY GIDDINS & TONY BYRON CELEBRATING BIRD: THE TRIUMPH OF CHARLIE PARKER (Beech Tree Books-William Morrow)

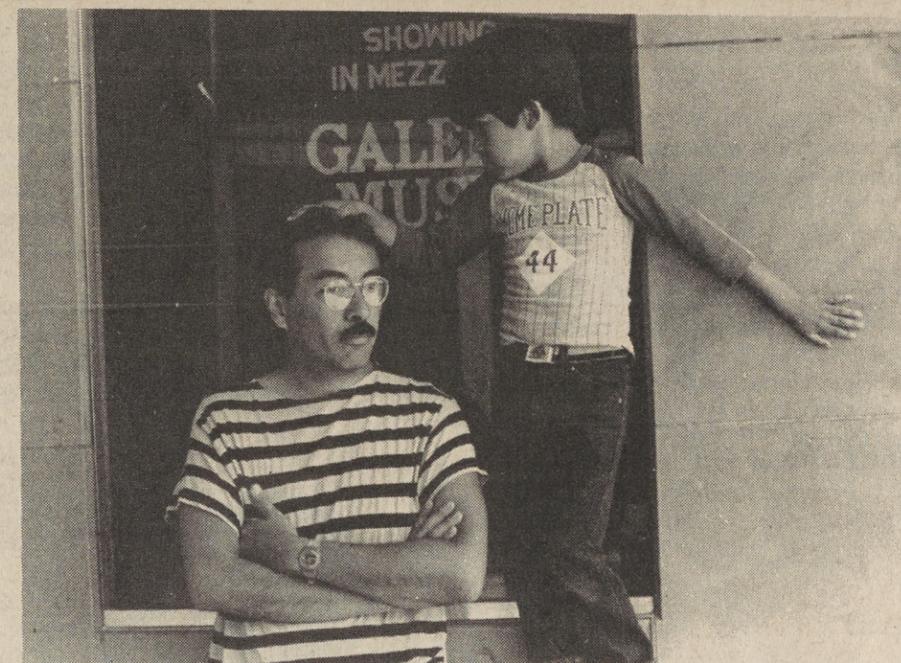
A richly illustrated portrait of jazz giant Charlie Parker, *Celebrating Bird* was praised by Ishmael Reed as "a major contribution to jazz biography. The writing is subtle, clean, and unobtrusive. The book has the verve and adrenaline of its subject matter, Charlie Parker, the enigmatic and tragic giant of American music."

The celebration begins in Kansas City, Kansas, where Parker crossed the river into the jazz milieu of its sister city, Kansas City, Missouri. After an apprenticeship in the Midwest, the saxophonist moved on to New York and Los Angeles. Before his death at age 34, Parker altered the music of his time through his innovations in rhythm, harmony, melody, intonation, and improvisation. Despite his serious problems with addiction, Bird triumphed as an artist, so that the scrawled legend, "Bird Lives!" appeared throughout Greenwich Village within days of his passing.

"You hear him, perhaps unexpectedly, when you walk into a friend's house, or on the radio, or worked into a film score, and you are struck by the relentless energy, the uncorrupted humanity of his music. It is never without direction. This most restive, capricious of men is unequivocal in his art. He never deigns merely to impress, to blind with virtuoso dazzle. ...Was he more enthralled by life or terrified by it? Dead at thirty-four, played out like a bad song, looking twenty years his senior. Yet Bird lives. Bird is the truth. Bird is love. Bird is thousands of musical fragments, each a direct expression of a time and place--the mosaic burst into radiant bits. As with Mozart, the facts of Charlie Parker's life make little sense because they fail to explain his music. Perhaps his life is what his music overcame. And overcomes."

Gary Giddins has won three ASCAP-Deems Taylor Awards for General Excellence in Music Criticism for "Weather Bird," the column on jazz he has been writing for the *Village Voice* since 1973. The winner of a Guggenheim Fellowship, Giddins lives in New York City.

Beach Tree Books/William Morrow
105 Madison Avenue
New York NY 10016



JUAN FELIPE HERRERA FACE GAMES (As Is/ So & So Press)

"Juan Felipe Herrera is as close as we come to a total expression mechanism," Victor Hernandez Cruz has said. "His senses are not just multi-cultural; they are coming at us through a variety of artistic forms. ...His poetry reveals to us and leaves us naked in front of the mirror and our face is never in that mirror."

Poet, actor, musician, and comedian Juan Felipe Herrera has toured the West Coast in troupes such as Teatro Tolteca, a multi-media ensemble in the 1970s and Troka, a poetry percussion group of the eighties. Past editor of *Citybender*, *Vortice*, *El Tecolote Literario*, *Red Trapeze* and *Metamorfosis*, Herrera has received numerous grants and fellowships. He is the author of four other books of poetry, *Rebozos of Love*, *Exiles of Desire*, *Night in Tunisia*, and the forthcoming *Akrilica*.

*I am a downtown boy, handcuffed
when I was eleven
for being accomplice to armed robbery.*

*I speak shoe-shine parlor brown and serve
as the only usher in Club Sufrimento 20001.*

You can call me Johnny B Nice.

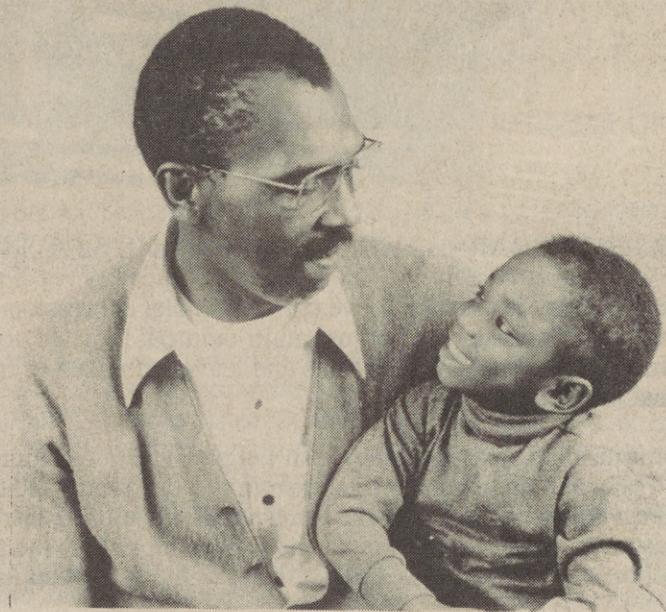
As Is/ So & So Press
John Marron (ed.)
123 North Avenue
Highland Park NJ 08904

ETHERIDGE KNIGHT **THE ESSENTIAL ETHERIDGE KNIGHT** (University of Pittsburgh)

"Knight can move from pathos and a near-tragic vision of the destructiveness of imprisonment and prejudice to tenderness and a lusty, incisive wit," declared critic Frank Allen, naming **The Essential Etheridge Knight** as one of the best books of 1986 in the **Library Journal**. The life work of this major Black poet in the oral tradition, Knight's new book also contains new work written since **Born of a Woman**.

A recent resident of the City of Philadelphia, Knight was born in Mississippi in 1931. He has published three previous collections of poems, and has been awarded fellowships by the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. In 1985, he received the Shelley Memorial Award by the Poetry Society of America in recognition of distinguished achievement in poetry.

University of Pittsburgh Press
127 N. Bellefield Avenue
Pittsburgh PA 15260



from "As You Leave Me"

*You rise,
silently, and to the bedroom and the paint;
on the lips red, on the eyes black,
and I lean in the doorway and smoke, and see you
grow old before my eyes, and smoke. why do you
chatter while you dress? and smile when you grab
your large leather purse? don't you know that when you
leave me I walk to the window and watch you? and light
a reefer as I watch you? and I die as I watch you
disappear in the dark streets
to whistle and smile at the johns.*

DANIEL MCGUIRE **PORTRAIT OF LITTLE
BOY IN DARKNESS** (Teal Press)

Daniel McGuire was born in 1936 in the village of Rossman, Columbia County, New York. **Portrait of Little Boy in Darkness**, his second book, takes place in a papermill town, charting the childhood dreamworld of Jonathan, a boy on the brink of adolescence.

Of his work, Paul Grondahl wrote in the **Albany Times Union**, "Throughout the book, McGuire writes about young Jonathan in a sensitive, nurturing, almost feminine voice and never drops into the kind of Maileresque machismo sometimes associated with a male novelist's book of adolescence."

After serving four years in the Air Force, McGuire has worked "in a number of local sweatshops." He says, "I have struggled for years at writing, getting published here and there."



"In his dream, Jonathan is standing atop a smokestack inside the papermill. Far below, people gaze up at him with wide-open mouths. The roof curves up toward him but is obscure at this point. He can see the creek and the waterfall and, on the other side of the road, a wooded hill and the huge brick house where Father's boss lives. Jonathan spreads his arms, pushes off into the surrounding dimness, then glides slowly downward, surprising everyone with his skill and grace."

Teal Press
P.O. Box 4346
Portsmouth NH 03801

TERRY MCMILLAN MAMA (Houghton Mifflin)

"McMillan has created earthy, realistic characters who can walk out of the pages and onto the streets of black America," said critic Gabrielle Daniels in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. And indeed, the people in *Mama-Mildred*, her daughter Freda, and their companions-- are memorable survivors. From the decaying depressed industrial town of Point Haven, Michigan to Los Angeles to New York, McMillan creates a tale of resourceful yet marginal Americans. "The characters in *Mama* are strong, the life in the book dense and noisy (the way life is). *Mama* is some *Mama*--and those neighbors-- well..." remarked Grace Paley.

Terry McMillan has been a fellow at both Yaddo and the MacDowell Colony. She has received grants and fellowships from the PEN American Center, the Author's League, and the New York Foundation for the Arts. She lives in Brooklyn with her son, Solomon.



"They said goodbye and Freda lay down on the lumpy mattress. She lit a cigarette and stared up at the cracks in the dingy beige ceiling. She started to cry, but then stopped abruptly and sat up. For some reason, Freda remembered that once Mildred had said women were just like queen bees. Could do everything except fly."

Houghton Mifflin
52 Vanderbilt Ave
New York NY 10017

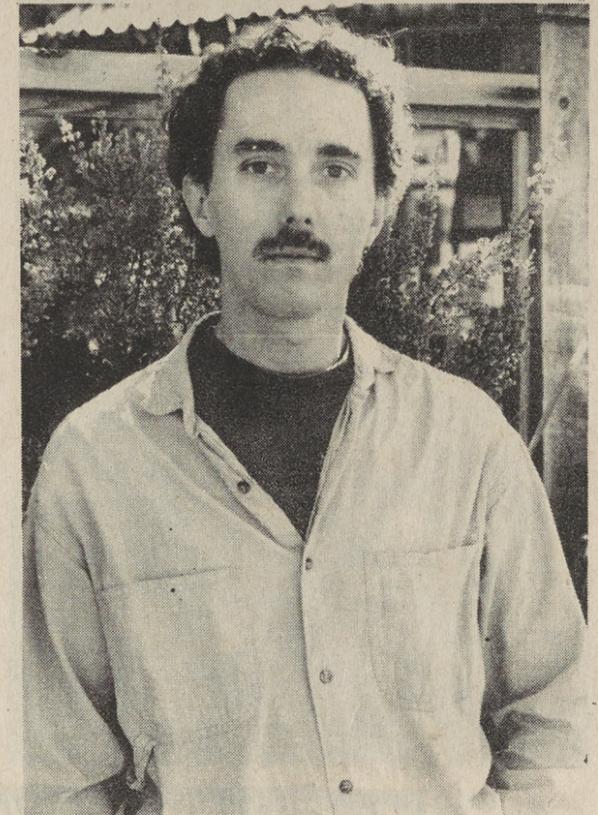
MICHAEL MAYO, editor *PRACTICING ANGELS: A CONTEMPORARY ANTHOLOGY OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA POETRY* (Seismograph Publications)

San Francisco is widely hailed for the culturally and artistically diverse literary scene, recording in *Practicing Angels*, an anthology containing the work of seventy poets of the Bay area, all but one of whom are living. Well known writers such as Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Susan Griffin, Judy Grahn, Alice Walker, Kathleen Fraser, and Robert Duncan are represented as well as new and younger poets such as Richard Ronan, D.F. Brown, Francisco X. Alarcon, and Janice Mirikitani. A significant number of Gay, Lesbian, Latino, Asian-American, and Black poets are included in the anthology.

Writing in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Penny Skillman remarked, "Read alongside one another, the works of Eugene Ruggles, Alta, Katherine Harer, Merle Woo, Carol Tarien, Janice Mirikitani, Fernando Alegria and Thom Gunn paint a picture of a unique Bay Area consciousness. The varied voices together run like a lucid movie of the spirit of the place, past and present, and most of the work here is understandable with reasonable sensitivity to it."

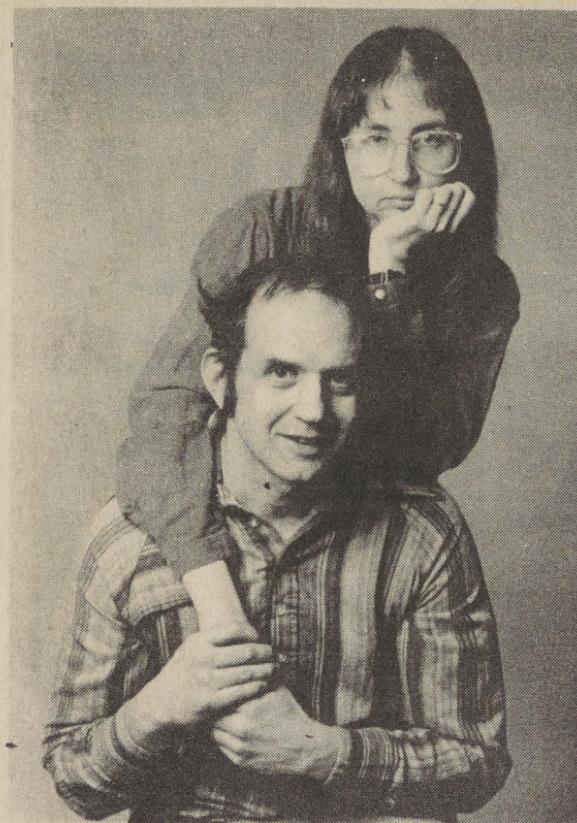
Michael Mayo was born in Syracuse, New York in 1954. An activist in the environmental, anti-apartheid, and gay liberation movements, he received his B.S. from the University of Maine-Orono.

Seismograph Publications
P.O. Box 170127
San Francisco CA 94117



*THE POET WALKS ON THE EARTH
AND OBSERVES THE SILENT
SPHINX UPON THE NILE.
THE POET KNOWS HE MUST
WRITE THE TRUTH,
KILLED FOR IT, FOR THE
SPHINX CANNOT BE DENIED.*

--Bob Kaufman, "The Poet"



**HARVEY PEKAR AMERICAN
SPLENDOR: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF
HARVEY PEKAR (Doubleday)**

A self-defined working-class intellectual, Harvey Pekar creates adult comics, autobiographical stories that have been compared to the work of Chekhov and Dostoyevsky. In the *New York Times Book Review*, David Rosenthal praised Pekar: "...he is a great storyteller with a keen eye and ear, an acute sense of ethnicity and a desire to make comics as esthetically rigorous and as rich in thought and feeling as the best literature."

Pekar was born and raised in Cleveland, where he continues to live. In addition to writing the *American Splendor* series, he has contributed articles on jazz to *Down Beat* and other major trade magazines. His comics have been featured in the *Village Voice*.

Doubleday
245 Park Avenue
New York NY 10167

THE HARVEY PEKAR NAME STORY
STORY BY HARVEY PEKAR ART BY R. CRUMB

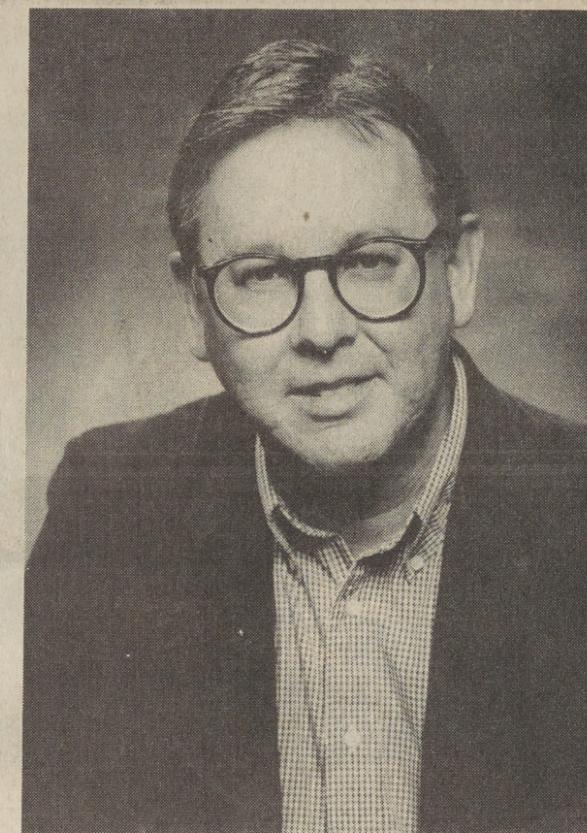


JAMES WELCH FOOLS CROW (Viking)

"This book may be the closest we will ever come in literature to an understanding of what life was like for a western Indian," said Dee Brown, author of *Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee*, reviewing Welch's *Fools Crow* for the *Chicago Sun Times*. A Blackfoot, Welch uses his people's history to explore the collision of cultures—European and American—in this inside story told by a descendant of the survivors.

Set in the 1870's, Welch's novel enters the psychological world of his main characters, people he grounds in a physical world of stunning beauty and pain. A small band of Pakuni (Blackfeet) living in Montana are faced with the choice of fighting a futile war against the Europeans entering their homeland or humiliating surrender.

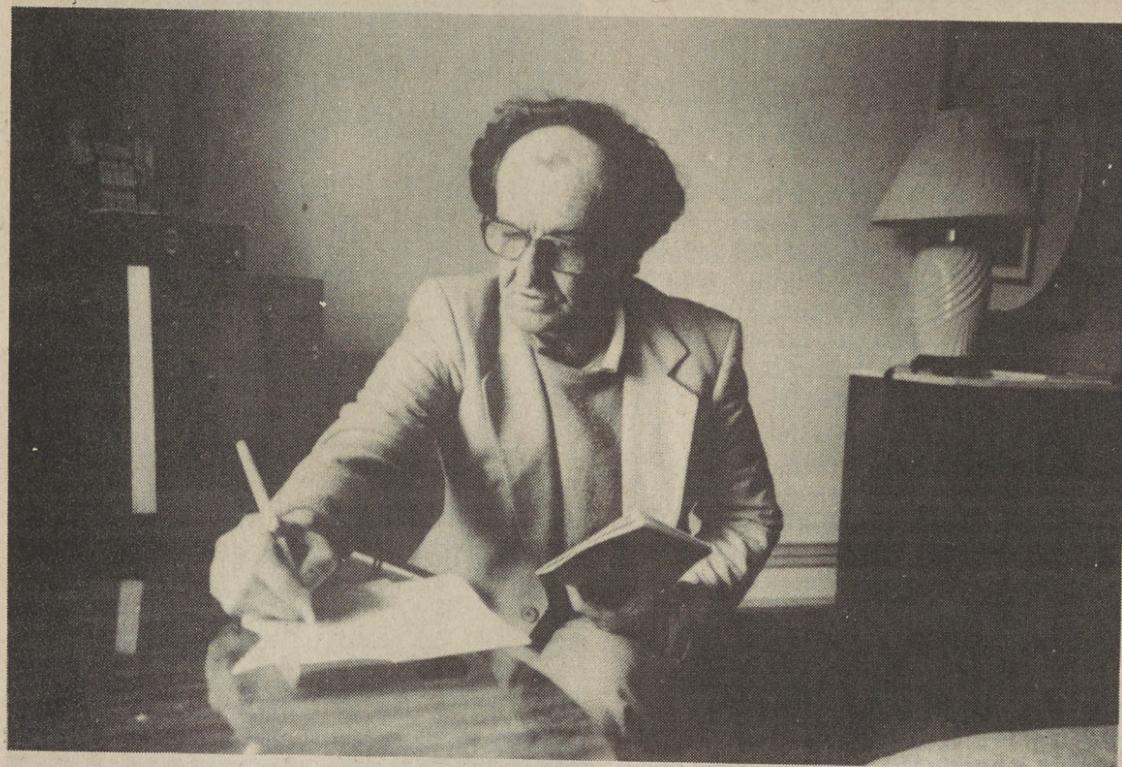
James Welch is the author of two widely-praised novels, *Winter in the Blood* and *The Death of Jim Loney*. He graduated from the University of Montana, where he studied writing with the late Richard Hugo. He lives in Missoula, Montana.



"The procession managed a grave dignity as it wound its way through the camp. Only the few old people whose frail bodies would not allow them to join watched without getting up. But they too sang, and they remembered many hopeful springs when they had danced through camp, and they prayed that, after the sad winter they had lived through, there would be hope and joy this spring.

"Fools Crow listened to the faraway rumble of Thunder Chief and felt his step become lighter. He felt in his heart, in the rhythm of the drum, a peculiar kind of happiness—a happiness that sleeps with sadness. And the feeling made his head light and he was removed from the others, dancing alone, singing a song that had to do with his life in this world, and in that other world he had visited in his vision...."

Viking Penguin Inc.
40 West 23rd Street
New York Ny 10010



**JOHN WEINERS SELECTED POEMS:
1958-1984** (Black Sparrow Press)

Praising John Weiners' *Selected Poems* in the *New York Times Book Review*, poet and critic Robert Creeley said, "The poetry of John Weiners has an exceptionally human beauty--as if there ever were any other. There is in it such a commonness of phrase and term, such a substantial fact of a daily life transformed by the articulateness of his feelings and the intensity of the inexorable world that is forever out there waiting for any one of us."

Weiners' 'human beauty' is a raw one, drawn from a life of risk and care. Whether discussing relations between parents, his gayness, or mental hospitals, Weiners was--and is-- in Creeley's words, "there, he stayed there." In *Selected Poems'* introduction, Allen Ginsberg notes that the poet is "a man reduced to loneliness in poetry, without worldly distractions--and a man become one with his poetry."

He was born in Milton, MA and received his AB from Boston College in 1954. He studied at Black Mountain College; upon his return to Boston, Weiners edited *Measure*, a literary magazine. Active in publishing and education cooperatives, political action committees, and the gay liberation movement, Weiners has also worked as an actor and stage manager.

"Refrain"

*My pillow a rock of stone
My bed a bench of board
These the treasure trove I hoard
Against the rolling morn*

*My symphony a choir of birds
Family the passing cars
And for friends the stars
And for company words.*

Black Sparrow Press
24 Tenth Street
Santa Rosa CA95401

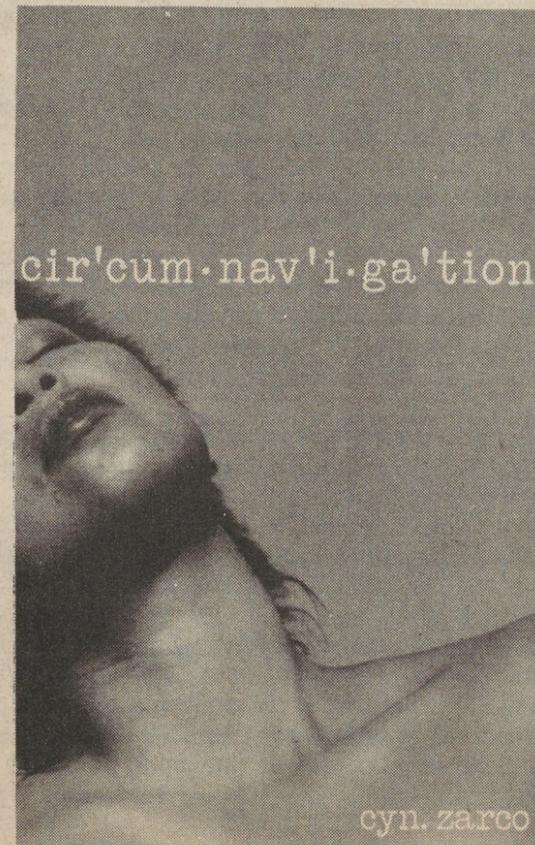
CYN ZARCO CIR'CUM NAV'I GA'TION (Tooth of Time Books)

Cyn Zarco was born in Manila and moved to Miami at the age of 9. She studied journalism at the University of California in Berkeley and has a MFA in writing from Columbia. Co-author of *Wild Style*, she was first published in 1973 in Ishmael Reed's *Yardbird Reader*. She now lives in New York, where she is working on a novel.

"Nights"

*When I'm without you
I sleep on the couch
or in my bed with books,
pen and paper.*

*I can't decide
which I love best--
you lying next to me
like an open book
or an open book
lying next to me.*



Tooth of Time Books
634 E Garcia
Santa Fe NM 87501

Lifetime Achievement Awards

CHARLES BLOCKSON

The uniqueness of The Blockson Afro-American Collection at Temple University is the result of its curator's lifelong devotion to collecting and preserving Afro-Americana. The bulk of the collection, formed privately by Mr. Blockson, bears his unmistakable and expert hand at saving historical materials related to the African Diasporic experience. His vision has helped make Philadelphia a major research center for the study of Black history. According to Mr. Blockson, "no race of people should be deprived of the knowledge of itself." As primary custodian of the Afro-American Collection, Blockson continues the long tradition of Black bibliophiles who have preserved the past for the future.



DENNIS CLARK received his doctorate from Temple University in Philadelphia and has written three books on our city's Irish community. He has written six other books on problems of urban development and race relations, and was the editor of *The Interracial Review*. His articles on Irish immigration and the ethnic history of Jews and Blacks in the United States have appeared in various journals and collections. He is currently director of the Samuel S. Fels Fund, a private foundation that makes grants in Philadelphia for social development and arts programs.

"In the United States we have an extraordinary opportunity for multi-cultural learning that will reveal to us the dynamic effects of the contributions of various peoples to this nation. This is our cultural treasury, beyond political and traditional history, that will redeem women, labor, minorities and those of the so-called 'underclass' from the scorn and neglect that have been their lot in our half-history of the past. It is the past of these groups, the most numerous of our people, that will show us the real nature of the democracy upon which we must rely."

THE AMERICAN BOOK AWARDS: PAST WINNERS

1986

Miguel Algarin
Time's Now (Arte Publico Press)

Helen Barolini, editor
The Dream Book: An Anthology of Writing by Italian American Women (Schocken Books)

Natasha Borovsky
A Daughter of the Nobility (Holt, Rinehart, & Winston)

Raymond Federman
Smiles on Washington Square (Thunder's Mouth Press)

Jeff Hannusch (a.k.a. Almost Slim)
I Hear You Knockin' (Swallow Publications)

Linda Hogan
Seeing Through the Sun (University of Massachusetts Press)

Susan Howe
My Emily Dickinson (North Atlantic Books)

Cherrie Moraga & Gloria Anzaldua, editors
This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color (Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press)

Toshio Mori
Yokohama, California (University of Washington Press)

Anna Lee Walters
The Sun Is Not Merciful (Firebrand Books)

Terence Winch
Irish Musicians/American Friends (Coffee House Press)

WALTER & LILLIAN LOWENFELS CRITICISM AWARD:
Michael Feingold
"Close Your Eyes and Think of England" (Village Voice)

1985

Sandro Cisneros
The House on Mango Street (Arte Publico Press)

Robert Duncan
Ground Work: Before the War (New Directions)

Louise Erdrich
Love Medicine (Holt, Rinehart & Winston)

Peter Irons
Justice at War (Oxford University Press)

Angela Jackson
Solo in the Box Car, Third Floor E (OBAhouse)

Ron Jones
Say Ray (Bantam)

Colleen J. McElroy
Queen of the Ebony Isles (Wesleyan University Press)

Jiro Nakano & Kay Nakano, editors/translators
Poets Behind Barbed Wire (Bamboo Ridge Press)

William Oandasan
Round Valley Songs (West End Press)

Maureen Owen
Amelia Earhart (AE) (Vortex Editions)

Sonia Sanchez
Homegirls and Handgrenades (Thunder's Mouth Press)

May Sarton
At Seventy: A Journal (W.W. Norton & Co.)

Gary Soto
Living Up the Street (Strawberry Hill Press)

John Kuo Wei Tchen
Genthe's Photographs of San Francisco's Old Chinatown (Dover)

Julia Vinograd
The Book of Jerusalem (Bench Press)

1984

Amiri Baraka & Amina Baraka
Confirmation: An Anthology of African-American Women (William Morrow)

Mei-mei Berssenbrugge
The Heat Bird (Burning Deck Press)

Cecil Brown
Days Without Weather (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)

Joseph Bruchac
Breaking Silence: An Anthology of Contemporary Asian American Poets (Greenfield Review Press)

Jesus Colon
A Puerto Rican in New York and Other Sketches (International Publishers)

William Kennedy
O Albany (Viking Press & Washington Park Press)

| | |
|--|---|
| Maurice Kenny The Mama Poems (White Pine Press) | John A. Williams !Click Song (Houghton Mifflin) |
| Venkatesh Kulkarni Naked in Deccan (Stemmer House) | Evangelina Vigil Thirty An' Seen a Lot (Arte Publico Press) |
| Paule Marshall Praisesong for the Widow (Putnam) | 1982 Russell Banks The Book of Jamaica (Houghton Mifflin) |
| Ruthanne Lum McCunn You-shan Tang (illustrator); Ellen Lai-shan Yeung (trans.) Pie-Biter (Design Enterprises of San Francisco) | Lorna Dee Cervantes Emplumada (University of Pittsburgh) |
| Thomas McGrath Echoes Inside the Labyrinth (Thunder's Mouth Press) | Frank Chin "Chickencoop Chinaman" & "Year of the Dragon" (University of Washington Press) |
| Mine Okubo Citizen 13660 (University of Washington Press) | Tato Laviera Enclave (Arte Publico Press/Revista Chicano Riquena) |
| Howard Schwartz The Captive Soul of the Messiah: New Tales About Reb Nachman (Schocken Books) | Duane Niatum Songs for the Harvester of Dreams (University of Washington Press) |
| Gary Snyder Axe Handles (North Point Press) | Hilton Obenzinger This Passover or Next I Will Never Be in Jerusalem (Momo's Press) |
| 1983 Nash Candelaria Not By The Sword (Bilingual Press) | Leroy Quintana Sangre (Prima Agua Press) |
| Barbara Christian Black Women Novelists (Greenwood Press) | Jerome Rothenberg Pre-Faces & Other Writings (New Directions) |
| Judy Grahn Queen of Wands (The Crossing Press) | Ronald Tanaka Shino Suite (Greenfield Review Press) |
| Peter Guralnick Lost Highway (David R. Godine) | Joyce Carol Thomas Marked by Fire (Avon) |
| Jessica Hagedron Pet Food & Tropical Apparitions (Momo's Press) | Al Young Bodies & Soul (Creative Arts Books) |
| James D. Houston Californians (Knopf) | Him Mark Lai, Genny Lim, Judy Yung, Editors Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island 1910--1949 (HOC DOI Project) |
| Joy Kogawa Obasan (David R. Godine) | 1981 Helen Adam Turn Again to Me & Other Poems (Kulchur Foundation) |
| Cecilia Liang Chinese Folk Poetry (Beyond Baroque) | Miguel Algarin On Call (Arte Publico Press/ Revista Chicano Riquena) |
| Sean O'Tuama & Thomas Kinsella A Duanaire (University of Pennsylvania Press) | alta The Shameless Hussy (The Crossing Press) |
| Harriet Rohmer The Legend of Foot Mountain (Childrens Book Press) | |

| | |
|--|---|
| Toni Cade Bambara The Salt Eaters (Random House) | 1980 |
| Peter Blue Cloud Back Tomorrow (Blackberry Press) | Rudolfo Anaya Tortuga (Editorial Justa Publication) |
| Rose Drachler The Choice (Tree Books) | Mei-mei Berssenbrugge Random Possession (I. Reed Books) |
| Susan Howe The Liberties (Loon Books) | Jayne Cortez Mouth on Paper (Bola Press) |
| Robert Kelly In Time (Frontier Press) | Ed Dom Hello, La Jolla (Wingbow Press) |
| Alan Lau Songs for Jadina (The Greenfield Review Press) | Milton Murayama All I Asking for Is My Body (Supa Press) |
| Lionel Mitchell Traveling Light (Seaview Press) | Leslie Silko Ceremony (Viking) |
| Nicholasa Mohr Felita (Dial Press) | Quincy Troupe Snake-Back Solos (I. Reed Books) |
| Ben Santos A Scent of Apples (University of Washington Press) | Douglas Woolf Future Preconditional (Black Sparrow) |

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

1986
Hisaye Yamamoto

1985
John Oliver Killens
Joe Flaherty

1984
Josephine Miles

1983
Kay Boyle

1982
Chester Himes

1981
Frank Stanford
Larry Neal

THE AMERICAN BOOK AWARDS

The Before Columbus Foundation was founded in 1976 as a non-profit service organization dedicated to the promotion and dissemination of contemporary American multicultural literature. The goal of the Before Columbus Foundation has been not only to serve the needs of multicultural authors and publishers but to provide better public access and appreciation for the wealth of cultural and ethnic diversity available in contemporary American writing.

In 1978, the directors decided that one of its programs should be a book award that would, for the first time reflect the excellence and multicultural diversity of American literature. The Awards were to be primarily of a literary nature, but there would be no categorization by race, culture, sex, genre, or size of publisher. For information please contact

Before Columbus Foundation
1446 Sixth Street, Suite D
Berkeley CA 94710

THE BEFORE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION PRESENTS

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL

AMERICAN

BOOK AWARDS

1987



The 8th annual American Book Awards are made possible by a generous grant from the Office Of Arts And Culture, The City of Philadelphia. Additional support has been provided by The Balch Institute of Ethnic Studies, Mellon Bank, Moonstone, Inc., PSFS, Rohm & Haas, the Sun Company, the Walt Whitman International Poetry Center, and the Public Interest Media Project, Inc.

Poster and Brochure cover designed by Roland Ayers, artist, writer, and lecturer. "Basically I am a poet," he says, "I even consider my art work to be poetry. I deal a lot with the reality of dreams."