

Poetry Review

by F. J. Logan

Verse: Reviews

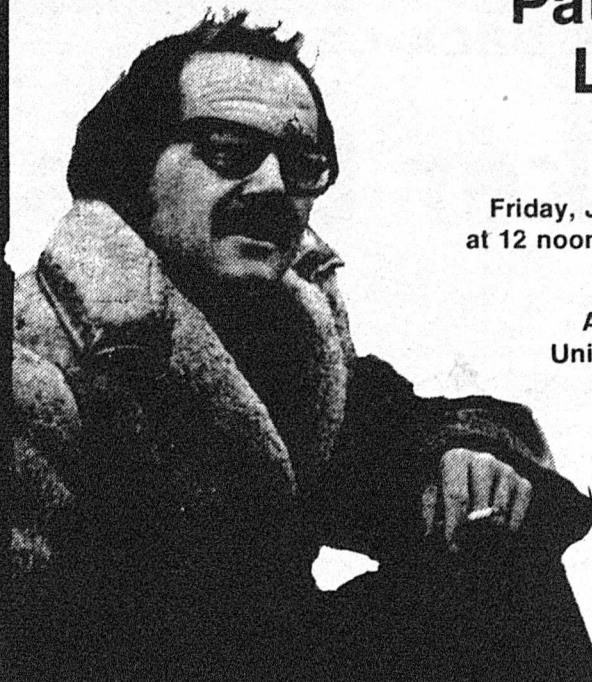
John Robert Colombo, *the great San Francisco earthquake and fire* (Fredericton: Fiddlehead, 1971); William Snyder, *The Battle Hymn of the Dominion and Other Poems* (Red Deer College Press, 1975); Nellie McClung, ed., *Pomegranate: A Selected Anthology of Vancouver Poetry* (Vancouver: Intermedia, 1975); James Reaney *Selected Longer Poems* (Don Mills: Musson, 1976); Maxine Gadd, *Westerns* (Vancouver: AIR, 1975).

What's this, our slender patience to exhaust?
Within these books lurks poetry that "found."
Why can't it instantly again be lost?
Don't ask. They're senseless. Revel in the sound.
A host of versifiers clamoring
For recognition, honor, fame, applause;
A bardlet gaggle shrilly yammering,
"Review my book! It's wonderful because . . .
I wrote it!" Very well, who'll be the first?
Who'll be the first to show what he can do?
God knows who's indisputably the worst,
Our mother tongue most zealously to screw —
Our mother: a millennium of grace,
And stunning beauty, majesty, and power;
A language grand and subtle, keeping pace
With all our thoughts and passions. Here's the flower
Of that great speech, deep-rooted round the world:
All through the day
It was much like night
On account of the smoke.

Colombo, graceless, hints at least three things:
That headwise he's at verse's stone wall hurled
(Yes: "On account of the" — good God.), he flings
Himself at what he never could have scaled;
And that his muse official forms requires,
An accident investigator failed —
Colombo; third and last, the quakes and fires
That devastated San Francisco then
Can still, in John's prosaic prosody,
And even after three-score years and ten,
Engender keen aesthetic agony.
But Snyder's worse; he thinks that he's a wit,
And trowels on his ragged, smirky prose.
His book's a big cliché — he's writ
The key work, "propoganda," with two o's.
Surprisingly, some crisp and clever verse
Appears in Ms. McClung's anthology —
Ford and Rappaport and Fertig terse —
The little book needs no apology.
Reaney's "Dance of Death's" not bad at all,
But his "Two Chapters from an Emblem Book"
is *cute*: just pauper thought and childish scrawl
That simply doesn't rate a second look.
Strange. Reaney wouldn't use the world "pre-empted" —
A hateful word and doubly so in verse —
As John Colombo does, but John's attempted
More than Snyder, snider and far worse
Than any poetaster yet discussed.
But none is *half* as bad as Maxine Gadd,
Whose reader, full of pity and disgust,
Notes letters big and letters small and gad-
About letters over all the God damned page.
There are some witless illustrationyo.
Oh, Canada, Oh, Canada, oh sage
And dull Dominion bards, what's wrong with you?
You're flip, and glib, and smirky opaque;
A solipsistic, self-indulgent crew —
Excelsior: it's art for artists' sake.
We're to admire your sensibilities.
Although of craft and intellect bereft,
Excrete you weekly pounds of verse with ease . . . Your
Your Moms might buy some, but the rest gets left.

POETRY READING

by
**Patrick
Lane**



Friday, January 14
at 12 noon in HCL-3

A Students'
Union Special
Even

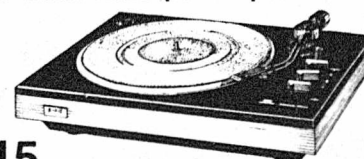
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Art series

The Edmonton Art Gallery
open its guest lecture series
1977 with realist painter Sidney
M. Mr. Tillim will offer two
lectures on January 18 and 19,
10 p.m. at the Gallery
Auditorium. The first lecture will
be a joint talk with photographer
Hubert Hohn on the subject of
photography. The other talk will
be on some aspects of modern
realist painting. Admission is
free.

Hubert Hohn is a leading
photographer and teacher in
Canada. Last year he received a
National Museums travelling ex-
hibition grant for a project, "Por-
traits of a Province" through which
he arranged photography
workshops throughout Alberta,
organized exhibitions by local
photographers for the Edmonton
Art Gallery's Exhibition Services
and took photographs in the
Province which document the
lives of people living in Alberta.



Freshman Orientation Seminars
require a

Director

responsibilities include:

- preparation and presentation of 1977 budget
- summer liaison between University and Students' Union administration and FOS
- in conjunction with the Chairman, recruitment of leaders and other resource persons required for the summer program.
- in conjunction with the Chairman, preparation of leadership training.
- general administration of the FOS program.

term of office:

- mid January — April part time
- May — mid September full time

please reply in writing to:

Chairman
FOS '77
Room 240, SUB.

interviews will be held January 19th, 5:00 p.m., rm. 270A SUB.