

A Note on the Selection

To make a clean breast of it, though this anthology is a selection of the poems and prose read by the majority of the participants in the Fire Readings, you can well imagine, no selection could altogether meet with the total approval of all the members of the editorial board at the various stages of its *mouture*, and this was mainly due to practical reasons.

When Richard Hallward, the principal organiser of the readings; David Applefield, the publisher; and myself sat down to sift through the initial croppings from the available manuscripts, we were suddenly seized by the choice of a yardstick to be used in the inclusion of work in such a projected anthology. With seventy-two hours of work read in four cities, needless to say, the consensus was towards exclusion rather than inclusion.

Eric Mottram's final selection, though more or less in accord with ours, still did not resolve the question of doing justice to those who had—at short notice—participated but had not put in their best or newest performance. So, the ground for choice was open: new or unread work, including reams of prose, poured in, and we found that we were able to adhere more freely to the aims and spirit of the project, (rather than stick to the outworn principle of only including the best from the most famous), which was and is the willing, unstinting restoration of the gutted Sylvia Beach Memorial Library.

There was room for the accent to be placed on literary publishing and Paris, in particular.

T. Wignesan

Many thanks to the following writers who participated in the Fire Readings but whose work is not presented in this volume: Jessica Adams, Sasha Andries, Linda Barone, Catherine Blair, Kevin Branigan, Carol Branston, Peter Canadian, Scott Cary, Charles Cauldwell, Bertrand Clavez, Darrien Cumming, Sally Drewe, Frederick Droulers, Nancy Du Plessis, Julian Eaves, John Eccleston, Tim Euston, Milene Fernandez, Mary Guggenheim, Catherine Jarrett, Frank Kervella, John Kliphon, Adam Kramer, Craig La Ban, Suzanne Lapstun, Pamela Ledzion, Erik Leon, David McNair, Bjorn Marquardt, Tom Meyer, Roisin Moran, John O'Brien, Karl Orend, Gabrielle Pastre, Deborah Penn, Wanda Phipps, Suzanne Quittner, Cressida Reese, Isabelle Rein Harez, Dimitri Robbins, James Rowe, Suzanne Schuckel, Elizabeth Siefert, June Shenfield, Linda Solan, Paul Stenzel, Karyn Sullivan, Agnes Woodman, & the others whose names were not recorded.

The Publisher of *Fire Readings* acknowledges with gratitude the following publishers who have published or are publishing works by authors included here: Anvil Press, Bloodaxe Books, Calder Books, City Lights, Coffee House Press, Faber & Faber, Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, Griot, Handshake Editions, Harper & Row, L'Hexagone, Hutchinson, Lotus Press, Marion Boyers, North & South, Poseidon, Semiotext(c), Simon & Schuster, Two Cities, Unwin...

Special Thanks to:

T. Wignesan for his fastidious proofreading, Emily Eakin, Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno,

Mary Harvey, Jody Jenkins, and the bookstores who hosted the readings:

Shakespeare & Co., Paris and New York; The French Library, Boston; Waterstone's, London.

Design and cover photo by Cory McCloud.

© Frank Books, SARL, 1991. All rights reserved.

ISBN: 2-908171-07-4

Table of Contents

Lawrence Ferlinghetti	Fireword	9
Eric Mottram	Fire Readings	11
David Applefield Richard Hallward	Introduction	13
George Whitman	Recent Meeting of the Board of Directors	23
	<i>Authors presented in the order in which they read.</i>	
	<i>Paris, Thursday 18th October 1990</i>	
George Whitman	Joey	29
Jean Fanchette	Lawrence Durrell: Letters to Jean Fanchette, 1958 - 1963	33
T. Wignesan	Way Out Over Copland's Appalachian Springs Coal Truck The Death of the Hindu	36 37 38
Ted Joans	A Good Morning To <i>bâiller</i> Or not to <i>éternuer</i>	39 39
David Applefield	Nonesuch River from On a Flying Fish	41 44
Carol Pratl	TGV the children of excess	50 51
Branko Aleksić	Naming the River The Samuelramsden's Ancient Period	52 53
Ginger Danto	Once a Week	54
Richard Hallward	Black Rose Rimbaud at the Dishes Singing for Her Supper in Place des Vosges	56 58 58
Deborah Jensen	Petronius's Final Performance	59