Collected and Annotated

by the author

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Volume II

Published by The Fine-Arts Bluesband & Poetry Press Created using Adobe Acrobat Exchange 2.1 Copyright 1996, R. G. Minutillo '...something rescued from what we sense of time

so beautiful so vain'

INTRODUCTION

This collection of poetry presents definitive versions of most of the poems I have completed. Since I have included all the poems, including many early works and works of questionable quality, this is not the planned

SELECTED POEMS ASSORTED LIFETIMES

Rather, I am treating this as a kind of internal autobiographical documentation of my poetry. In some cases I have annotated the works, and I have included many alternate or derivative versions.

Many of the dates, especially those of the earlier volumes, are vague; most of them are guesses. The order of the poems, however, is generally accurate, both within the volumes and from volume to volume.

This volume covers the late 1960's and early 1970's, the transition from being a student to being a young adult and on my own..

[This multi-volume set is a revised edition. It is based on an original completed in 1993, which in turn was edited from an earlier XyWrite III source. This version has been re-formatted using XyWrite IV for Windows. Type family for Volume II is Apollo MT from Adobe.]



the thing that really tends to frighten me a lot is that my reflection there in T.J.'s window is probably a lot more real than i (am) drooling i devour a chocolate covered one and dream:

of beating the goddam machines again and again and again as dreaming i am supreme again and my reflection just sits there doing some hard thinking while i write poems like a fool and think that she who once read will do it all over again (smothered in the sticky-sweet syrup of success

'i swung a proper cutlass in my day
...' and so the story goes
he slept with paper flower makers
and drank with all the best of gents
and ladies swooned to hear him swear
christ he was an ugly man
i'll add one thing
he didn't know that once as
summer softened a rainstorm and he
was huddled in a doorway making
some friendly time with a wench
the royal carriage chanced to pass
and a queen admired his style

completed c.1968

i sit in corners
mirror gazing
gathering the
demons from my
eyes
and i take them
blessed and folded
in my pocket past
the joker to
my nemesis (dancing
dying) laughing at the two i know

clinging i
descend into the entrails of
the earth, my yellow
man no more alive
his funeral mass
is ringing

completed c.1968

The phrase 'clinging i/descend into the entrails of the earth' is stolen from the words of a Shaman I found in some now lost anthropology text. The references to the 'joker' and my 'nemesis' are similarly inspired.

now alone in a corner trying to seem as unintensely serious as i can, like possibly a monk or some kind of weird public figure with a private wife very beautiful known only to my closest friends (an open book) of unpublished glory

and the music too drifts past me

completed c.1968

that night
the morning
i
was looking at
the roofers
standing
while the water
boiled

that morning standing on the little balcony that we both thought would break off if we had another quake watching as a fork lift raised the tar and paper and the builder cursing at his men the second pot of tea that whistled me inside to sip and leave a little note for her and go

original dated 1968

I actually cut this and 'i've gotten used to the nights' down from the 1968 original in April of 1988, for this compilation.

i've gotten used to the nights strangely not alone i sometimes cower in her bed behind her with my mother's beat in early morning

daylight lies in wait

remembering the other times
i tried unspent and yielding
strange beside her
(and all the laughing nights
we took it young and strong) my balls
rewrapped
at rest beside her through
the night contented

original dated 1968

no not quite hopeless i would sometimes cede to myself a point here or there if i was in a good mood but usually deciding in the long run that my own age had probably a while ago gone by me while i slept inside some tea house gathering material

for a local poem

completed c.1968

One type script of this shows this on the same page as the following poem, perhaps as an introduction to it.

and
i can see that
(if i close my
eyes) i know that
yes
tomorrow or tonight
the poem in
my tightened stomach
will come out
a vomit or a babe

completed c.1969

so what? standing there all time is so still i have rolling silver a bed alone guided by the where i can forces we all curse laugh alone but never where i can shimmer see silently in dulging all time within no is not a factor gaming one winning one so what i you beat me mother long cried since dead out (said to be begging (ah) my equal in (my lord:) her mind that go and wandered flashing eat ye through her life) alone how i starve! she was a pro creating four of us completed c.1969 and each standing fingering the slanted

stupid boards

SALEM AND NIAGARA FALLS (1969-72)

sitting in the depot place peace and fuckyou side by side upon the wall

the station with the boards up where the windows were (when it was new)

SALEM blocked in blue between the drainpipes on the other wall

sitting

waiting (always early) for the train that's never late to take me into town

completed winter 1969–70

sitting there
resolute
in her car
(i lay in bed
alone
timing thunder
from the
crackles
on the
radio) trying
not to cry or
smile not
knowing what
to say

i had joked about the value of her life

and in the morning in my hole the fuzzy voices back and forth about the weather and the traffic and i roll a round and

wonder
when the sun
will rise
and if the day
will
bring me
anything

to dream about but dreams

completed c. 1970

crawling mole like with her fingers on my body

blind and groping feeling for my skin

touching

trying

worried testing

disappointed

eager

wind blown knuckle bone players griping about the beautiful weather we have to leave this

early

and i must waste until some lovely night with shining stars will carry me away and take me to my home among the myths

the glitt'ring gods and men

who also failed in literate pretention

completed c.1972

standing in my
office looking
out the window
watching a
girl in a long
brown coat
kick
through the snow
in a yard
across the way

very romantic

thinking about the other day walking down the alley during a gentle snow the sort of thing that muffles all the sound so all you hear is yourself all i heard were my boots crunching along

This is an unfinished project from 1972. I have several versions in my working papers, and I cut it a little more for this project.

a track in the snow

that's all
she's gone
she
looked a little
sad with her head
hung down and
her long scarf

i should have at least gone out and walked around with her in the snow and said hello 'hello' "hello" and held her hand mittens and all

but i didn't

i crossed the hall back into the classroom and collected the exams with a few words i left

original c.1971-2

and headed home to grade them

moving into myself with every breath , every sigh every memory, every letter sent off into the night, every phone call to yesterday a year passes before i can accept the fact that years will pass, and then another slips by without my noticing

completed c.1972

The 3 X 5 Poems

The 3 X 5 poems are so called because many of them were written by typing them on 3" X 5" sheets of paper. I had acquired a stack of such sheets and used to crank them into my typewriter (which I used for 90% of my writing) and bang them out. These were all very short: the products of sudden inspiration and very little else; I do not remember ever revising one of these while writing it, although I have attempted to massage many of them into longer works from time to time. I often pinned the latest one up on my bulletin board, and for a long time I kept a stack of them up there, occasionally changing the one on top.

Many of my poems, earlier and later, have the character of 'the 3 X 5 poems,' but most of this group were actually written on the 3 X 5 sheets, all together during 1972, mostly in Niagara Falls, New York, although some were possibly written in Oxford, Ohio.

my poems move out like incidental jokes the throw-aways that always make them laugh and wonder

2.

the spread of semen a faint surprise and sigh his coming like a tear or a rescue helicopter 3.

his demands are real like hers

they do
not lie on
pages but
in bed
they are not
brushed upon
the ceiling
but held in
hands too
tightly

poems attack the silence

in spurts my head

my pen

attacks the page

5.

he thinks of suicide today and writes his poems in silence inner confrontations and all the questions of his memories rocking gently in his arms last night

bra backs behind them

i sit staring at the walls and windows and the spinal curvature thinking of the edges of the film that flicker on the screen

i've seen it all through twice today i type the words

"fallen

touches" and it leaps at me

touches

it looks so wrong, so soft and French and oooo instead of utch

toooches tutch

fallen touches exhausted kisses

group dates from c. 1972

Pieces of Poetry

cannot help
nyself
ny touch
-
pon
ou here
nd where
find you
nderneath
ur
onversation
vaxes not
rom lack of
nterest
o feel you
ise and
oundness
varm and
ubbing
mpleted 1972

This was a poetic exercise with my friend of that time. We wrote these little wonders, cut them up, tossed them in the air, made drawings, and sealed the result in an envelope. This is the text of a sheet marked "original page."

Two Poems

I. 2. and so en grave she tries d to and phase me weight out of her life y her like memori some es press bad habit to down eliminate above a word today me a touch like a stone tomorrow at night my dreams i mpres completed 1972 sing poetry to sub stitute for touch

SHE OFF

she off
ers me her
book i
gave
her mi
ne
ver
ses yes

terday (or so it seems)

is th
is the
end will
noth
ing else
come
out of
us but

words and im ages re membered

```
i
a
company
the
se
si
ngle
shots
quick
photo
graphs
for
ever
i a
compa
ny th
is
pro
cess
on
```

i expect the end of everything to shoot down from the stars tonight upon us all

as we lay sleeping coming beating off lisping prayers hoarse our challenge all rung out screwed out courage up against the wall insanity prevails

i will not see the morning or if i do the next sundown will be the last

all of you
who wrote the
books of prophecy
the novels of
despair

all of you were way off some of you were right but none of you were wrong

i do not wonder why there is nothing special i can do

nothing bothers me except the fact that i will die except that i expect the end of everything to shoot down from the stars tonight

upon my soul

our poems
in those final
days would
make us
shudder and
deny the
pain and
knowledge that
our art
insisted
must be there
upon the page

like black
bullets
we send
messages of
truth
just
to use as lies

completed 1972

I never really decided that this was a finished poem, but the last phrase is worth saving, for now.

sun seems so near the golden visors clear

and as they turn to go about their drilling and their scuffling all around the moon the camera scans away to find a rock that one of them had mentioned to the east (the west of yesterday)

completed 1971 or 72

I loved watching the live broadcasts from the moon; I often tried to photograph the TV screen with the weird captions and pictures.

OHIO (1972-74)



I. Ia.

a year ago and several dreams we passed these fragments back and forth across our memories and promises

scattered now in enveloped stamped and filed, seldom spoken once sealed now broken a year ago and several dreams we passed these fragments back and forth across our memories and promises

scattered now in envelopes stamped and filed, seldom spoken once sealed now broken talking slowly, sadly, on the phone
we speak of poetry
and time
and other messages
between us
in the air, hours, the diligence
of conversation
while pauses give the real advice

3.

manila envelopes await the tender songs a slender thread of presence to cross your memory and edge against your waiting days

while the silent carbons rest recuperating in the files effortless

the afterglow of some lost last love

and only as alive as i am dead

wordless under blue skys her eyes surprise

me a memory whose time has not yet come

this recent present though, now i surely know it's past and done the seasons change without her in the mornings

now the other poem is reversed and evenings haunt

(i wonder when i see her next what color will the sky be).

These are more fragmentary than the first three, which are a mostly complete set, but I have on various occasions linked them with the 'in advance of an anniversary' group.

born later than the moon this year the first the quarter will shine my dreams inspire

these visions in my head these loveless hands these thinghsa i long for

simply sexual my memories assail my birthday

7.

brushing poetry away

and slipping out to wonder if blue skys and memories could co-exist (today...

8.

my pink petal pushes leaf and butter balling round the clock

^{*} things and thighs...

small poems minor people moving in and out of innocent events

pages never meant to turn a phrase or ask a little question

a day unrelieved perceptions unbelieved

(no one missed the mark 'cause no-one aimed)

completed c. 1973

finally	but there is none	to cross
when the	the voice is	your memory
poetry is	just a	and edge
typed	rasp	against your
and clean	against	waiting days
	the stack	
the pages	of empty	no cuts no
rich with	pages	blood
white and		no message
	manila	
gleaming	envelopes	while the
words	(await)	silent
to capture	the	carbons
what we	tender	rest
sense of	songs	recuperating
time		in the files
SO	wrapped	
beautiful	made	effortless
so	ready	the afterglow
vain	pressed and	of some lost
	past	last love
some gallant	to you	
challenge is	to kindle	and only
demanded	or to save	as
some new		alive as i
jab at		am dead
window shades		
and yesterdays		

completed c.1973

This poem is either the source of many of the fragments above, ar an attempt to force some of them into a coherent whole.

i am waiting beer here in them)

on my watch

by my window lying in out of touch my bed

alone

nightsagainst thei testblacknessmy bodythere behindstretchingmy eyespantingagainst

the fits

hoping for that

the pain flashed across
waiting for my mother's brain
the radio and sparkled

terror

to sing me into off mine to sleep like ice and wait against and wonder the stars

nights nights

(i try to shivering live back

in old grey the tears the circles fears the years and paper that slip

cups away

that used

to have with every

tune

and every and danced lonely in answer to newscast at 2 her smile) or 3 and i

the jockey's begin

voice to remember

is different that

and he

stumbles the room over all and me the names now the passing there people (and then) through we kissed

the night the singing

so much better

i turn and than

there it is my dreams

never changing nights

nights

and i strangely

(how yesterday find the
i sat and waiting now
listened not like
to her eyes the love
that was

completed c.1971-3

the phone	while he
re-cradled	talked
next to	again the
him the	way it
room is	always is
quiet	concerned
empty	for little
like	things and
some	anxious
minor pause	(always)
in time	, ,
as if the	he trembles
universe	
had stopped	(time and
a second	universe
to	continue
consider ^b	after all)
	completed 1972-

completed 1972-73

 $^{^{\}circ}$ As I type this 'reconsider' seems the better word. Ah well...

Three Poems.

Ι.	2	3.
shadows	moving	broken
glance around	mountains	sweetness
the surface	slipping	forgotten
	through the	smiles
take	shifting darks	
the sunlight	and	the edge of
plunge	lights	frailty in
1 6	like	my touch
kiss the	in some	i linger
shoulders	super	0
move	camera	on the edge
your hand		of sadness too
and	un	happy to
	developed	admit
take the	love	it
wilderness	10 7 0	10

completed 3/13/73

sitting in
the office looking
out the window
passing time
glancing back
to see if
it is catching
up

(the students shudder back a yawn while i impatiently explain the dawn age drawing of a pig waiting for the morning's energy to hit me, looking at the shadows on the wall)

the sun comes out behind my window trees across the way illuminate the lawn

sometimes these mornings are a bit Tolstoyan but what the fuck

completed 1972

This poem is included for two reasons. First, it is one of many used of the 'passing time/glancing back' piece of business. Second, it has a remarkably true-to-life ending.

telephone
alarming in
the silence
evening
spreading
rain
below
the sidewalks
damp already
sop it up
like
pasty
playing cards

solitaire

instructions

we are to meet sometime this weekend if we can but she must tell me where and when and i must wait

the restless
edge of
yet another
summer
storm has
hovered here
all day
and so have
i been
prowling all
around the clock

knowing she would call tonight sometime

keeping busy in the morning

instead

i sit
watching
clocks'
imaginary
schedules
cursing
distance
counting
thunder
claps

passing time and glancing back to see if it is catching up

completed 1972 or 73

More Fragments from Ohio

Ι.

i sit in on conversations fragments little parcels late

deliveries whose inner voices i pretend to guess

2.

whimsy has a bitter edge and these few fragments that i share are everything

but intimate

3.

notes for poems

past

contemplation

offset renderings

of time and gone awareness

i owe a lot
to all the
hurt
they
tell me
someday
(in a couplet)
will return

as bliss

4⋅° 5⋅

while the and chiming softly silent the hours drift

carbons
rest the sounds have ended recuperating with our loving

recuperating with our loving in the files and our eyes remain closed and soft

effortless our hearts give comfort

the afterglow to

of our souls which wait some lost the promise of our dreams last love

and only as 6.

alive as i
am dead now that she
is with me

in the evenings i miss her

in the morning (more

' an alternate layout of the ending of 'in advance of an anniversary' #3

his poems are but a precious part of that intricate facsimile of life which has led him

lately

8.

the fade and finish of the radio brings us down

another sad song because all disc jockeys are lonely on Saturday nights

it's a rule just as when young lovers fail

there must always be (a rule to judge by time some distance in their eyes and conversation) dealing with the difficulties of space and age and light-years of separation you know by this how much i rehearse how much i depend on the cold perfection of my approach

and how fearful i am of your eyes and the unpainted reality of your smile IO.

she was there for an instant and i wondered where she flew

and how she knew i watched her all along

II.

sitting opposite
we talk about
the past in
ways we know
are now
upon us both
again

to love and hold and still to run and hide alone afraid if we so choose

and i was thinking of a poem for her

completed 1972-3

like a rose is lifted like its petals borne away

like the thorns we clip and set aside

like death reminding us as then

when
aching
bodies
dictated
which
of us
would touch
which
tender
danger would
prevail

completed 1972

POST-ANNIVERSARY

she's gone now her last days here mysterious

wrapped in tears quiet moments spread with pain and happiness frustration fading into touch

her last hours

beside me strained watching morning fade through

dripping sunlight

and lounging by

the airport gate

(her last minutes here) talking with a young evangelist i had once known

i wait

who offers me a prayer and confidence for

the future both of which i smilingly reject^d

as the fading engines of her plane sigh

a silver diamond in the sky

dated 1973, never completed

'a silver diamond heading east' for the last phrase

[°] Some edits of this poem end here; others substitute:

February Weekend

Ι.

I want an Updike marriage with those moments in them once or twice

written in such lofty language

my love affairs i suppose are his poems but i want some short story moments in my life

no
a marriage
is not a
novel

2.

my poetry comes surprising me today like

time used up

like some device to mark this

Saturday a comma 3.

dreams are fortunate tonight but visions waste me shattered competition with some gallant stretch of past past remembrance past

embrace
past
immobile
in its
coves
becalmed and
washed ashore
awash
alluring

heaven beckons 4.

how sad to watch the clock face listen to the radio

mysteries narrated into memories 5.

rooms rearranged

parting
with my
last
vision
in an
afternoon's
effort
of shoving
and sweet
fatigue

a quick song

my back to the past the present now repeated (if i could only move the walls 6.

in afternoons visions

of my hands and eyeglass rims bewitch me suddenly

i close my book, look up and see the silent passing air and realize how much time i have

completed 2/73

morning writing
on the doorway
some lost
art and all
those missing years
unveiling moments
invisible
through time

waking rolling restless energy unwilling crucial (some listings turn to prayer

some dreams some nights unwelcome turn to winter thunder)

some to poetry

completed 1973

RED FINGERS PICKING LETTERS

SO I CAN STAMP OUT MY LOVE TO YOU

AND WITH THE PRESSURE OF THE MESSAGE

SEND HOME MY TOUCH

HOLD THIS MY HAND....

completed 1974

This poem was originally stamped, line by line, with a rubber stamp kit. I used to play with rubber stamps before I got my printing press. Actually, when I was a child I had a Marx toy cylinder press which used rubber type. Anyway, the original is in red capital letters, and fairly messy.

strange
silences
calling me
to photograph
the walls as
if to
capture in
a shadow
their passing

i pace the corridors and look around seeing only stillness like a camera sees its flattened fantasies

lifeless waiting watched the windows in my rooms enclose me

the sunlight reaching in and wrapping me

and i pass through released alone

completed 1974

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