

# Waterways

Poetry in the Mainstream



October, 2022    Volume 43    No. 4

# Waterways

Poetry in the Mainstream

Volume 43

Number 4

when we merged the books...  
your books  
and my books  
on the shelves

excerpted from "Partners" by Barbara Fisher

# Waterways

Poetry in the Mainstream

Volume 43 Number 4

Designed, Edited and Published by  
Barbara Fisher & Richard Spiegel  
A. Thomas Perry, Outreach Consultant

## contents

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| William Corner Clarke | 4  |
| Marilyn Braendeholm   | 7  |
| Jane Stuart           | 8  |
| Irene T. Winslow      | 10 |
| James Penha           | 12 |
| Charles Rammelkamp    | 15 |
| Gilbert Honigfeld     | 17 |
| Colin Ian Jeffery     | 16 |

All photographs & page 11 design by Richard Spiegel

Sample issues — \$5.00 Subscriptions -- \$45.00

Waterways is published monthly, except for August, by

Ten Penny Players Inc., 393 St. Pauls Avenue,  
Staten Island, New York 10304-2127

Submissions will be returned if accompanied  
with a stamped, self addressed envelope.



**Reminders**

Despite the perfect bliss  
Of modern life  
There are still books  
Of pain and tragedy  
Lying beneath the surface  
Of passing time  
Some, no doubt, in hiding  
In old bookshops  
Down shadowed alleyways  
Or tossed on vacant lots  
Abandoned to rats  
Rags and weeds  
Some may be hard to lift  
From all the weight  
Of wasted words  
Piled on the few that made  
The effort seem worthwhile  
Others barely existing  
Between their faded covers  
Thin pages of tortured minds  
Often made unreadable  
By mildew, rain or alcohol

One or two may include  
The vanity of prologues  
    To justify the telling  
    Of old misfortunes  
As such these works  
Hold no intrinsic value  
For a healthy reader  
But yet they may still  
Be of interest to others  
Way beyond the pale  
    The deviants  
    Clustered  
    Round the borders  
The dark collectors  
    Of dead souls  
    Passing in disguise  
Among the city's crowds



## **The Bookcase**

When I dream, I write it down.  
He says he never dreams, but  
the bookcase says otherwise.  
His side, which is the right side,  
is filled with folded road maps.

He dreams of being as carefree  
as a river chasing the horizon.  
He'd cut a pale line of air as  
he drove through Norway and  
Denmark. Germany. France.

I am the books on the left side.  
I write life into words and lines.  
Gardening, cookery, history.  
Oxford Dictionary, its spine  
disjointed, cracked from age.

He's on the right. He is Taurus  
in a china shop, and claims to  
never dream. I'm on the left.  
My books are alphabetised.  
Me, I am always dreaming.



*Jane Stuart*

## **Scrimmage**

Our books were happy —  
they belonged together  
on a shelf you found  
in the mercato,  
Addis Ababa, 1969.  
There was mud on your shoe,  
dust on your hands  
and I was busy trimming away  
old lining — perhaps where she  
wrote her name —  
and flattening the covers.  
But the books were happy,  
full of sunshine  
and the smell of spices.  
Years later, the long row  
of philosophy and mysteries  
collapsed. I kept an algebra  
but you didn't want the books,  
our books, my books,  
the together-love we kept  
on your shelf.



*Irene T. Winslow*

**Merged Books**

Rebecca

Frankenstein

Hawaii

The Hotel New Hampshire

Conversations with McCartney

Interview with the Vampire

Half Moon Street

The Sun Also Rises

The Winter Garden

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil

Desert Heat

In Cold Blood

The Five People You Meet in Heaven

Slaughterhouse-Five

Great Expectations

Requiem for a Dream

Murder on the Orient Express

Trainspotting

Sense and Sensibility

American Psycho

**Interview  
with the Vampire**

*Conversations  
with McCartney*

**The Hotel New Hampshire**

**Hawaii**

**Frankenstein**

**Rebecca**

**IN COLD BLOOD**

**Desert Heat**

*Midnight in  
the Garden of Good and Evil*

**The Winter Garden**

**The Sun Also Rises  
Half Moon Street**

**American Psycho**

**Sense and Sensibility**

**Requiem for a Dream**

**Great Expectations**

**Slaughter House Five**

**The 5 People  
You Meet  
in Heaven**

**Trainspotting**

**Murder on the Orient Express**

## Concurrence

My brother fighting a second round of cancer  
had fallen at his home from the chemo?  
we didn't quite know

His wife, my sister-in-law-and-love needed  
relief from pain caused by her ongoing  
spinal reconstruction

My brother was hospitalized on Tuesday.

His wife was hospitalized on Wednesday.

On Thursday as their gurneys bumped  
when nurses wheeled them onto an elevator,  
they raised their heads, saw each other,  
and laughed

and laughed.

and laughed





## **Ballaboosta**

Bubbe always said her mama was an earner,  
not a learner, when we asked

about her business.

What was I when her mother died? Five? Six?

She supported the family

while Bubbe's Abba studied Torah.

That's all I knew about her jazz age career  
in New York City. "She'd come to America  
from a shtetl near Pinsk in Belarus.

"She had a really good head for math,"

Bubbe remembered, "and she didn't take crap  
from anyone. She kept scrupulous books."

But what did she do?

"It was the beginning of Prohibition,"

Bubbe recalled. "Bootlegging had exploded  
like you wouldn't believe, money

flowing like a river through the underworld.

A Mister Montana set Mama up in business  
across the street

from the Columbia University library;  
it was a great location."



“So she could study, too?”

“It was a great location,” Bubbe repeated.

“Upper West Side.

Members of the Algonquin Round Table

were regulars,

so were Walter Winchell and Harold Ross.

None of these *machers* would have been

caught dead

going to a working-class saloon.

Mama ran a glamorous place.”

“She ran a speakeasy?”

“Yes, that’s one word for it,”

Bubbe nodded, evasive.

Then she changed the subject.

Later, when I heard the term

“houses of ill-repute,”

I connected the dots.

## **A Poor Man Named Rich**

If ever there was an exception  
to the rule of nominal determinism,  
it had to be Rich, a man forever  
down at his heels in handmedown  
Keds and rumpled wool cardigans  
from an earlier era picked up for  
pennies on the dollar at Goodwill  
or Salvation Army, but for Rich  
fashion's not king as long as  
he can hang out reading books  
new and old at the Free Public Library  
and never have to work another day.

## **The I.R.S. Card**

When he left the first wife  
and married his company's  
bookkeeper he never, ever  
figured there'd be a third  
wife one day, but after  
a couple of kids and a  
dog and a cat, a guy  
looks for a little action  
and one thing leads to  
another and yeah, yeah  
you've heard this story before.

The twist here is all about  
the alimony payments in the  
settlement with the mother  
of his kids, and how they've  
got to be there on-time  
like clockwork first of the month  
every month until the kids  
are 30, yes 30, and all  
because she's got copies  
of the company books, the  
real books, and if he's  
late or if he's short she'll  
be on the phone with you  
know who at the I.R.S.

*Colin Ian Jeffery*

### **Tomorrow**

Tomorrow will be a better world  
With peace and happiness  
Goodness of heart towards all  
Without fear for colour, creed, or religion.

There will be sunshine and love  
With children safe at play  
People rejoicing as a united family  
Stewards trusted with the blue planet.

*Colin Ian Jeffery*

### **She who gave life purpose**

She who gave life purpose  
Took my heart by storm  
Made my Muse sing loud  
Bathed my soul with love.

She gives each day meaning  
Enhancing every minute  
Banishing the darkness  
Giving light showing me the way.



# **Our Geography of Poets**

## **Bali**

James Penha

## **Kentucky**

Jane Stuart

## **Maryland**

Charles Rammelkamp

## **New Jersey**

Gilbert Honigfeld

## **Ohio**

Irene T. Winslow

## **Surrey**

Colin Ian Jeffery

## **Virginia**

William Corner Clarke

## **West Sussex**

Marilyn Braendeholm

ISSN 0197-4777

Very limited printing

Subscriptions -- \$45 for 11 issues.

Sample issues — \$5.00 (includes postage)

Visit us online at [www.tenpennyplayers.org](http://www.tenpennyplayers.org)