

## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

**HALINA ABLAMOWICZ**, a native of Poland, earned an M.A. in Russian at the Lenin Pedagogical Institute in Moscow. She has a doctoral degree in speech communication from the University of Southern Illinois and teaches speech at Tennessee Tech University.

**WENDELL BERRY** is a poet, novelist, essayist, and philosopher, who has written 25 books of poems, 11 novels and short-story collections, and 16 volumes of essays, including *The Unsettling of America* (U of California P, 1996) which criticizes industrial agriculture, as contrasted with agrarianism. He is recipient of Wallace Stegner and Guggenheim fellowships. He lives and farms in rural Kentucky.

**MARGARET BROMMELSIK** is director of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Center for Creative Studies. She has a doctoral degree in arts administration and education from Florida State University.

**CATHERINE BROWDER** is a Kansas City-based fiction writer and playwright, and regular reviewer on these pages; her most recent collection of stories is *Secret Lives* (Southern Methodist UP, 2003). She has received fellowships from the N.E.A. and the Missouri Arts Council.

**ROGER BROWN** (1941-1997) was raised in Opelika, Ala., and moved to Chicago in 1962. He earned a B.F.A. and M.F.A. from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and his work is identified with Chicago Imagism for its energy and originality, and its relationship to ordinary objects. Best known as a painter, he also made prints and sculpture, designed sets for theatre and opera, and murals for architectural settings. His major gifts of three homes, collections, and archival materials to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago are preserved through the Roger Brown Study Collection.

**ANDRZEJ BURSA** (1932-1957) published 37 poems and one novel. A native of Cracow, Poland, he attended Jagiellonian University and then worked as a journalist. His early adult life spans some of the darkest years of modern Polish history. His anti-poetic poems reflect the disillusionment and alienation of a generation of Poles whose lives were shaped by geopolitical events, and Bursa's fame rose rapidly after his death, especially among the young.

**KEVIN CHRISTIANSON** was elected in 1998 to membership in the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences, and, in 1999-2000, received a Fulbright Fellowship to teach at Nicholas Copernicus University

in Torun, Poland. He holds a doctoral degree in English from the University of Wisconsin and teaches at Tennessee Tech University.

**ANDREI CODRESCU's** nonfiction books include *The Devil Never Sleeps and Other Essays* (St. Martin's P, 2000). He also has written novels, such as *Wakefield* (Algonquin, 2004) and *The Blood Countess* (Dell, 1996), and books of poems and translations; awards include a Peabody for his travel film *Road Scholar*, a Lowell Thomas Gold Award for Excellence in Travel Journalism, and an ACLU Freedom of Speech Award. His book of poems *It Was Today* was reviewed in our spring 2005 issue. He was born in Romania and now is the MacCurdy Professor of English at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

**JOHN CODY, M.D.**, is a retired medical illustrator and psychiatrist. He is the author of a number of books, including *Wings of Paradise: The Great Saturniid Moths* (U of North Carolina P), *After Great Pain: The Inner Life of Emily Dickinson* (Harvard UP) and *Visualizing Muscles: A New 'Écorché Approach to Surface Anatomy* (UP of Kansas). Dr. Cody lives in Hays, Kan., and gives workshops in watercolor technique throughout the United States and in Europe.

**ROBERT DAY** has received an N.E.A. fellowship, a Yaddo fellowship, and the Edgar Wolfe Award for distinguished fiction. His 1976 novel, *The Last Cattle Drive*, was a Book-of-the-Month-Club selection. He is also the author of two novellas, *In My Stead* and *The Four Wheel Drive Quartet*. He teaches at Washington College in Chestertown, Md., and lives in Kansas, Maryland, and France. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

**DENNIS FINNELL's** books include *The Gauguin Answer Sheet* (U of Georgia P, 2001), for which he received a grant from the Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation; *Red Cottage*, winner of the 1990 Juniper Prize from the University of Massachusetts Press; and *Belovèd Beast* (U of Georgia P, 1995). Poems in this issue of *New Letters* are from a work-in-progress, *Mother's Tongue*. He was born and raised in St. Louis and lives in western Massachusetts. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

**ALICE FRIMAN's** new collection of poems, *The Book of the Rotten Daughter*, will be out in 2006 from BkMk Press. Her previous book, *Zoo* (U of Arkansas P), won the Ezra Pound Poetry Award from Truman State University and the Sheila Motton Prize from the New England Poetry Club. She lives in Milledgeville, Ga., where she is poetry editor of *Arts & Letters*. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

**ROBERT GIBB's** most recent book of poems is *The Burning World* (U of Arkansas P, 2004); a new book *World Over Water* is due out in early 2007, also from Arkansas. He lives in Homestead, Pa.

**GEOF HEWITT's** books of poems include *Only What's Imagined* (Kumquat P, 2000) and *Hewitt's Guide to Slam Poetry and Poetry Slam* (Discover Writing P, 2005). He is Vermont's reigning slam champ.

**JANE HIRSHFIELD's** sixth poetry collection, *After*, will appear from Harper Collins in February 2006. She holds fellowships from The Academy of American Poets and the National Endowment for the Arts and lives in the San Francisco Bay area. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

**H. L. HIX's** poetry books have won the Peregrine Smith Award and the T. S. Eliot Prize. His recent books include a poetry collection, *Shadows of Houses* (Etruscan, 2005), and an essay collection, *As Easy As Lying* (Etruscan, 2002). He has also won a fellowship from the N.E.A. He directs the creative writing M.F.A. program at the University of Wyoming. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

**JESSE HOWARD** (1885-1983), a self-taught artist and philosopher, lived on the outskirts of Fulton, Mo., from 1944 to 1983. He created and filled his rural property with signs and sculptural objects made from materials at hand, including cast-off agricultural equipment, colored-glass marbles, leather shoe soles, and window shades, as well as wood planks of all types. His works have been widely collected by artists and collectors, notably Roger Brown, who credited Howard as a major influence on his own work, and they have been exhibited at the Kansas City Art Institute and Intuit: the Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art in Chicago.

**MIA LEONIN's** book of poems *Braid* appeared in 1999 from Anhinga Press. In 2005, she received an individual artist fellowship from the state of Florida. She writes here about living in Bogatá, Colombia, and now she lives in Miami, Fla.

**BHARATI MUKHERJEE** has written seven novels, two non-fiction books, and two collections of short stories, including *The Middleman and Other Stories*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award. She is professor of English at the University of California-Berkeley and lives in San Francisco. For more details see page 82. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

**MARGE PIERCY** is the author of 17 novels, including *Sex Wars* (Knopf, 2005). She has written 16 books of poetry, including, most recently, *Colors Passing Through Us* (2003), from Knopf. Her memoir *Sleeping with Cats* is in paperback from HarperCollins (2003). She lives in Wellfleet, Mass. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

**DAVID RAY's** latest book is *The Death of Sardanapalus and Other Poems of the Iraq Wars* (Howling Dog P, 2004). Others include *One Thousand Years: Poems About the Holocaust* (Timberline P, 2004) and *The Endless Search: A Memoir* (Soft Skull P, 2003). Awards include the William Carlos Williams Award (twice) from the Poetry Society of America, and many others. He lives in Tucson, Ariz., with his wife, Judy. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

**TOM RUSSELL** has received N.E.A. and Carnegie Foundation fellowships, along with two Pushcart nominations, a Pushcart Prize, a PEN Syndicated fiction award, and several first-prize magazine awards. He earned his doctoral degree at the University of Kansas and directs the M.F.A. program at the University of Memphis.

**BRIAN SWANN** is the author of seven books of poetry, including *Snow House* (Ohio State University P, 2005), and five books of short fiction, including *The Plot of the Mice* (Capra P, 1986). He is professor of English at The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York City.

**SUSAN TEKULVE's** story collection *My Mother's War Stories* received the 2004 Winnow Press fiction prize. Her short-story collection *Rooms People Live In* was a finalist in the 2002 and 2003 G.S. Charat Chandra Prize with *New Letters'* affiliate BkMk Press. She is associate professor of English at Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C., and she teaches fiction writing in The Spirit of Place Writing Workshop in Vitorchiano, Italy.

**MARY TROY** is the author of three collections of short stories: *Cookie Lily* (Southern Methodist UP, 2004), reviewed in this issue; *The Alibi Café and Other Stories* (BkMk Press, 2003); and *Joe Baker is Dead* (U of Missouri P, 1998). She directs the M.F.A. program at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

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