

University Library presents exhibition and symposium on American poetry anthologies, April 29

April 11, 1994

Contact: Brad Westbrook, Mandeville Department of Special Collections, 534-2533 or Alixandra Williams, 534-3120

UCSD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION AND SYMPOSIUM ON AMERICAN POETRY ANTHOLOGIES

"American Poetry Anthologies and Their Role in Defining the Canon(s) of American Literature," a symposium sponsored by the University of California, San Diego Libraries' Mandeville Department of Special Collections, will take place at 1:30-4:30 p.m., Friday, April 29, in the Geisel Room in the UCSD University Library. The symposium is free and open to the public.

An exhibition of American poetry anthologies dating from 200 years ago will be on view in the Mandeville Department of Special Collections, the University Library, April 25-July 29.

Dr. Alan Golding, Professor of American Literature at the University of Louisville, Kentucky, will be the keynote speaker at the symposium. He will discuss the effect recent American poetry anthologies have had on the canon of American literature. In 1983, Golding published a seminal essay titled, "A History of American Poetry Anthologies." He is currently at work on a book-length study of American literary anthologies.

Golding will be joined by two well-known anthologists of contemporary American letters, Richard Kostelanetz, a multi-media artist and independent scholar from New York City, and Jerome Rothenberg, a poet and professor who holds a joint appointment in the UCSD departments of literature and visual arts.

Two of Kostelanetz's many literary anthologies are his "Possibilities of Poetry (1970), and "Text-Sound Texts" (1980). He has compiled collections of writing about music and musicians, visual artists, and journalists.

Rothenberg is the editor of "Technicians of the Sacred" (1968); "Shaking the Pumpkin" (1972); and, with George Quasha, "America, A Prophecy (1973), and several other volumes of poetry.

The exhibit brings together many of the anthologies that have contributed to the development of the American literary canon. Included are Elihu Hubbard Smith's "American Poems, Selected and Original" (1793), the first American literary anthology; Rufus Griswold's "Female Poets of America" (1849), the first anthology devoted to female writers; Louis Zukofsky's "An 'Objectivist's' Anthology" (1932); Donald Allen's "New American Poetry" (1960); and Frank Chin's "Aiiieeeee!" (1974).

(April 11, 1994)