

Poetry Series agenda for winter quarter

February 7, 1977

Poets Anselm Hollo and Philip Levine will begin the winter quarter New Poetry Series at the University of California, San Diego.

Hollo, hailed as "one of the most talented poets of the post-Beat generation," will give a reading of his work at 4 p.m. Monday, February 14, in the Revelle Formal Lounge.

Hollo draws upon both European and American influences in his poetry, reflecting his wide interests and familiarity with diverse cultures. One critic wrote that his works "most often come out of the everyday of his own life, an everyday life that very frequently outreaches our own but with that same sense of familiarity. At all times, they express delight."

"The poems are really songs celebrating affection," another wrote. "His temperament is romantic, but in a generous, not a moody way-- his poetry is good-natured, colorful, truthful and accurate."

Hollo's most recent anthology of poems is "Soujourner Microcosms," a collection of his works from 1969-75.

Born in Finland, Hollo has travelled extensively and has taught at universities throughout the world, including the United States. His background includes stints as a book reviewer, interpreter, program assistant for the BBC and freelance writer. He is fluent in six languages and has translated the works of both European and American poets.

A. G. Sobin has commented that Hollo's poems "are a melting pot of national and linguistic strangenesses-- something like American poetry might have been."

Philip Levine, who will read at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16, in the Revelle Formal Lounge, says his first poems were recited to the moon, which did not answer.

According to Charles Molesworth, writing in *The Hollins Critic*, "Levine's poetry seldom displays scenes of agony. Seldom does any one die on stage, there is nothing obscene in the root sense of the word, but throughout every poem we sense that someone, no matter how bleary-eyed the dawn has left him, is looking hard at hard facts."

"During the Vietnam War, which I loathed," Levine has written of himself, "I spent two years living in Spain with my family; my sons were growing toward draft age. I had earlier refused to serve in the Korean War. I am an anarchist and in good health."

Joyce Carol Oates paid tribute to Levine in *The American Poetry Review* by calling him "extraordinary, a visionary of our dense, troubled, mysterious time. The grittiest and most brutal of his poems is, to me, an experience I would not hesitate to call ineffable."

Levine says this is "the nicest thing ever said about my work."

Among his many books of poetry are "On The Edge" (Stone Wall Press, 1963); "Not This Pig" (Wesleyan Univ. Press, 1968); "Red Dust" (Kayak Books, 1971), and "The Names of the Lost" (Atheneum, 1976).

The New Poetry Series is sponsored by the Archive for New Poetry, the Departments of Literature and Visual Arts and the Campus Program Board. All readings are taped and become a part of the Archive located on the eighth floor of the UC San Diego Central University Library.

All readings are free and open to the public. For more information about the series or about listening to poetry tapes, telephone: Michael Davidson, Special Collections, 452-2533.

For information call: Barbara Ann Firger or Barry Alfonso, 452-3120

(February 7, 1977)