

Poet David Ignatow to be Regents' Lecturer in Department of Literature

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POET DAVID IGNATOW IS UCSD REGENTS' LECTURER

The distinguished American poet David Ignatow will be a Regents' Lecturer in the Department of Literature at the University of California, San Diego, from Nov. 17-22, to celebrate the acquisition of his papers and manuscripts by the university.

The acquisition will be on display on the second and eighth floors of the Central University Library during the month of November. The Ignatow Collection was purchased by the Archive for New Poetry, in the Mandeville Department of Special Collections.

Ignatow, who lives in East Hampton, Long Island, is one of America's most senior poets. For many years he was poetry editor for *The Nation* and editor at large for the *American Poetry Review*. He has influenced an entire generation of poets, beginning with his first book, "Poems," published by Decker Press in 1948.

Ignatow's literary impact was also enhanced through his editorial work with *New York Analytic* magazine, the *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Chelsea* magazine, *American Poetry Review*, and *The Nation*. In addition to his editorial work, Ignatow taught for many years at Columbia University, and was poet in residence at the City University of New York. He was an instructor at the New School for Social Research in New York, a visiting lecturer at the University of Kentucky, and a lecturer at Vassar College and the University of Kansas.

Ignatow's awareness of what he terms the "absolute and imminent tragedy of men in and among themselves," contributed a compelling moral dimension to his work. In recent years, Ignatow moved toward a surrealistic approach to poetry, giving his work a new "objective reality," he explained.

Critic Michael True has said that Ignatow's early poetry suggests a view of life that is essentially tragic, and his later poems do not substantially alter that view. "There must be something wrong with me/wanting to keep going through/the endless griefs, as if I had iron/bowels and a stone head," he begins a poem in "Facing a Tree" (1975).

On his life and writing, Ignatow says, "I am very glad this life within and without is so restless and disturbing to me since I get so much pleasure in writing about it."

Ignatow's latest book of poems is, "Selected Poems" (1986), published by Wesleyan University Press.

Ignatow's schedule follows: 4 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18, a lecture, "William Carlos Williams and Wallace Stevens: Two of a Kind," in the North Conference Room, Student Center. A poetry reading at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 19, in the Center for Music Experiment, sponsored by the Archive for New Poetry's New Writing Series. At 4 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 20, a lecture, "Open Forum on the Nature and Art of Poetry," North Conference Room, Student Center. All events are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Marilyn Bernstein, Department of Literature, 534-3214.

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