



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## THE BIOGRAPHY OF A POEM

JEROME, which Grossman will publish on November 22, is a book about a great poet's muse. It is a poem in the making, containing facsimiles of the fifty worksheets Randall Jarrell left for his poem, "Jerome," the seven woodcuts and engravings Albrecht Durer made of St. Jerome, and an introduction by Mrs. Jarrell, explaining the birth of the poem. Through it all, one watches the sometimes inspired, sometimes benighted, always fascinating working of Jarrell's imagination, as he transformed Durer's anguished saint into his own gentler version of the troubled psychoanalyst who tells his dreams to the night when his patients stop telling their dreams to him.



So JEROME is first, an elegant tribute to Randall Jarrell and Albrecht Durer (published during the five-hundredth anniversary of the latter's birth). It is also a glimpse of Jarrell alive and writing again, from the day he told his wife, "I'm going to write a poem about St. Jerome now--his lion is at the zoo," to the last frenzy of self-doubt as he worked toward its conclusion. And it is, in a sense, Randall Jarrell's testament--a lesson, perhaps, for those who are themselves sometimes inspired, sometimes benighted, working to make something read and beautiful in the alembic of a poet's imagination.

(more)

12/10/11/1/1/1

JEROME

Each day brings its toad, each night its dragon.  
 Das heilige Hieronymus -- his lion is at the zoo --  
 listens <sup>slowly</sup> earnestly, ~~and~~ all the long, ~~and~~ summer day  
 Dreams affright his couch, the deep boils like a pot.  
~~He listens evenly~~ ~~the sun sets, the last~~ ~~patient rises~~  
 As the sun sets, the last patient rises,  
 under a ~~plague of~~ ~~quadrivium~~ ~~the sun sets~~ ~~the last~~  
 he eats an egg ~~the sun sets~~ ~~the last~~ ~~patient rises~~  
 his e. Tote

Shadows  
 Night blot's plague the  
 relief of Cradiva high-arched  
 Cradiva



Word Event: "The Essenes" - recorded by [unclear]  
from 10:10 to 10:20 PM Mon June 12<sup>th</sup> 1972 in the living room  
of 1764 Poppleton Ave the BK NY 10053 top floor

Unique coming together of  
the ~~word~~ <sup>phrase</sup> "The Essenes," which  
~~was~~ the title of a section of A.E.  
Waite's Fragments of a Faith  
Forgotten (p. 131, Univ. Bks. ed., Hyde Park, 1960)  
to which I had <sup>just</sup> opened the book (Wagners)  
& the playing of the overture to  
Tannhäuser over WQXR <sup>AM</sup> (Eugene  
Ormandy conducting the Philadelphia  
Philharmonic) at about 4:10 PM, Mon.  
12<sup>th</sup> June 1972 led to the word event

6/12/72 "The Essenes." Tannhäuser - 13 Lafayette  
being played thru an amplifier & a  
<sup>more from A-1 radio</sup> speaker patched to a small Panasonic  
AM-FM <sup>AC battery</sup> receiver. The event is being  
recorded on a small Panasonic <sup>AC battery</sup>  
cassette tape recorder <sup>in the living room of 1764 Poppleton Ave BK 10053 top fl.</sup>  
on the couch beside me & the microphone is



coming  
~~being recorded in the living room~~  
~~from a loud speaker~~ <sup>Criterion 200A Trips</sup>  
~~(<sup>3 in</sup> tweeter, <sup>8 in</sup> mid-range, & <sup>12 in</sup> woofer)~~  
placed in the middle of the room.  
~~the cassette TR 11~~

Panasonic AC-battery tape recorder  
Tape recorder Model 209 AS, Ho. PG

No. PG 008402,

AM/FM Receiver: Panasonic AC-battery  
Model RF 561, Serial No. 2A-83801

2/ The Arts of St. John & Vivaldi;  
Found Simultaneity c. 6:29 PM  
Mon 12 June 72 SML 1764 Popperum 1045

3/ Clock ticks and <sup>(semi controlled)</sup> Feedback c 7-7:30 PM  
6/12/72





"The poem is convincing and deeply moving. Its techniques, both modern and primitive, are masterfully woven together. I consider THE TABLETS to be one of the more original and significant developments in contemporary American poetry. "

--David Ignatow

"Armand Schwerner's TABLETS is one of the truly avant-garde poems I know of. It is new because it is poetry whose major effects -- whether satirical, philosophic, or lyrical -- come through the spoken word. Entirely; whereas most poetry can only partially claim that virtue. A very complete statement about the possibilities and foolish weaknesses of poetry at any time in history. "

--Diane Wakoski

"What Armand Schwerner is doing in THE TABLETS is exciting and original, with a strong anchor against drift. "

--Stanley Sultan, Chelsea

"THE TABLETS grow from a mind swamped by both myth and modern literature and still able to twist the past into contemporary artifice that represents, in conception as well as laughs, a genuine breakthrough. All those 'critics' forecasting the death of modernism should open their eyes and bite their tongues. "

--Richard Kostelanetz

"In Armand Schwerner's THE TABLETS the final and triumphant investigation of human experience is achieved not by the archaeologist but by the poet. "

--Rochelle Owens

"Armand Schwerner is a lyric poet of depth and delicacy and power. I think, moreover, that these qualities and song itself, whatever one may read in reviews, are very rare indeed. "

--George Oppen

Armand Schwerner's previous books are The Domesday Dictionary, The Lightfall, The Tablets I-VIII, (if personal), and Seaweed. He is Associate Professor of English and Speech at Staten Island Community College, and lives on Staten Island with his wife and two sons.

THE TABLETS I-XV  
by Armand Schwerner  
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