

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

BEVERLY BLASINGAME recently won a fellowship from the Mississippi Arts Commission for creative nonfiction and a John Woods Scholarship from the Prague Summer Program for fiction. She has worked as writer-in-residence for a literacy program in Mississippi and as a creative-writing teacher for Communities in the Schools, at a site damaged by Hurricane Katrina. She recently has returned home to Iowa City with her husband.

DEBORAH BOGEN's poetry collection *Landscape With Silos* was a 2004 National Poetry Series finalist and won the 2005 X.J. Kennedy Poetry Prize. Her work has been published widely in print journals and online. She holds a free writing workshop every Monday night at her home in Pittsburgh, Pa.

ISSA J. BOULLATA is a Palestinian writer, literary critic and translator. He has written several books, including *Trends and Issues in Contemporary Arab Thought* (State U of New York P, 1990). He has a doctoral degree in Arabic literature from the University of London and is a retired professor of Arabic literature at McGill University, Montreal, Canada. His translation of "Mirror's of Damascus" originally appeared in *Unbuttoning the Violin*, by Mansoura Ez-Eldin, Joumana Haddad, Ala Hlehel, and Abed Ismael (London: Banipal Books, 2006). Visit <http://www.banipal.co.uk/tour/>.

CATHERINE BROWDER's books include the story collection *Secret Lives* (Southern Methodist UP, 2003) and *The Clay That Breathes: a Novella and Stories* (Milkweed Editions, 1993). She has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Missouri Arts Council. She lives in Kansas City, Mo.

ROBERT OLEN BUTLER is the author of 10 novels and four collections of stories, and was awarded the 1993 Pulitzer Prize for his collection *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*. His stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *Esquire*, and *The Best American Short Stories*, among many others. He teaches at Florida State University, where he is a distinguished Frances Eppes Professor. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

CHUONG DOAN was born in Vietnam and fled to the United States with his parents during the war. He received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and now lives

in Kansas City with his wife, sugar puppy, cockatiels, parakeets, lovebirds, and ET. He says it's hard to keep a stocked fridge.

MARIE ETIENNE is the author of eight collections of poems, including *Roi des cent cavaliers* (Flammarion, 2002). She also has written five novels and two books on the theater. Translations of her work have appeared in British literary magazines, in the *Yale Anthology of 20th-Century French Poetry* (Yale UP, 2004) and in *New European Poetries* (Graywolf P, 2008). She spent her childhood in Indochina, in what is now Vietnam, during World War II. She now lives in Paris.

ROBERT M. FARNSWORTH is the author of *Plain Talk and Poetic Prophecy* (1984), a biography of Melvin B. Tolson, and he was chosen by Melvin Tolson's family to oversee publication of work after Tolson's death. He also is the author of Edgar Snow's biography *From Vagabond to Journalist* (1996), and is currently writing a biography of Leon M. Jordan, the founder of the political party Freedom Inc., in Kansas City.

INGE GENEFKE trained and practiced as a neurologist and has been active in the field of international humanitarian action for nearly 40 years. She is founder of Copenhagen's Center for Research and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (RTC) and the International Council for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (IRCT). See p. 89 for more details.

MARILYN HACKER won the 1975 National Book Award for her book of poems *Presentation Piece*, and the Lenore Marshall Award and Lambda Literary Award in 1994 for *Winter Numbers*. Her translation of Marie Etienne's *King of a Hundred Horsemen* received the first Robert Fagles Translation Award of the National Poetry Series, and will be published by Farrar Straus and Giroux in 2008. (*A New Letters on the Air* author.)

ABED ISMAEL is a news editor for Syrian public television. His publications include five collections of poetry and several books of translations from English into Arabic of works by Walt Whitman, V.S. Naipaul, Willis Barnstone, Luis Borges, Harold Bloom, and others. He was born in Lattakia, Syria, has a doctoral degree in American literature from New York University, and teaches American literature at Damascus University. "Mirror's of Damascus" originally appeared in *Unbuttoning the Violin*, by Mansoura Ez-Eldin, Joumana Haddad, Ala Hlehel, and Abed Ismael (London: Banipal Books, 2006). Visit <http://www.banipal.co.uk/tour/>.

THOMAS E. KENNEDY is the author of many books, most recently the four novels of *The Copenhagen Quartet*, including *Greene's Summer* (2004), about a Chilean torture survivor being rehabilitated in Copenhagen. Kennedy has participated in the drafting of numerous international ethical declarations against torture, and was managing editor of *Danish Medical Bulletin* from 1976 to 1993. He also has been a translator and language-editor for the Research Center for Torture Victims and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims. He lives in Denmark. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

JOHN KNOEPFLE is the author of over 17 books of poetry, most recently, *Prayer Against Famine and Other Irish Poems* (BkMk P, 2004). He is currently writing a memoir of his experiences in World War II and as a young poet and teacher. He taught literature at the University of Illinois-Springfield from 1972-'91, and he lives in Springfield with his wife, Peggy. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

MATTHEW LADD received an M.F.A. from the University of Florida and an M.Phil. from the University of Cambridge, and he recently won the Thurber House Prize from the Greater Columbus Arts Council. He lives in Columbus, Ohio.

THOMAS LARSEN has written and co-written political biographies of the former and current Danish prime ministers Poul Schluter and Anders Fogh Rasmussen, and of other foreign and Danish political party leaders. He is an editor and political commentator with *Berlingske Tidende*, one of Denmark's most respected daily newspapers (and one of the oldest in the world, founded in 1749). He often appears on television and radio as a political analyst for Danish and international media. He also is the author of *Life Is Not For Beginners*, a book on Danish actress Malene Schwartz. In 1995, he received a Marshall Memorial Fellowship and, in 1999-2000, he was John S. Knight Fellow at Stanford University. He teaches politics and journalism at the Danish School of Journalism.

MARGOT LIVESEY is the author of the best-selling novel *The Missing World* (Knopf, 2000; Picador, 2006) and is the current writer-in-residence at Emerson College in Boston. Her stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, and elsewhere. She lives in Cambridge, Mass. See p. 104 for more details. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

ADRIAN C. LOUIS' latest collection of poems *Logorrhea* (Northwestern UP, 2006) was a finalist for *The Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. He lives and teaches in Minnesota. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

JENNIFER MAIER's debut poetry collection, *Dark Alphabet* (Southern Illinois UP), won the *Crab Orchard Review* First Book Award, and was named one of the "Ten Remarkable Books of 2006" by The Academy of American Poets. She is an associate professor of English at Seattle Pacific University and an editor for *IMAGE*, a quarterly arts journal.

KATIE MANNING holds the Crystal Field Scholarship in Poetry for 2007-2008 at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where she is a graduate instructor of composition. She also works as a youth information specialist at the Johnson County Library, and she lives in Merriam, Kan.

M. NASSORI PAVONE is a poet and playwright. She is a graduate of the English Literature and Creative Writing Program at the University of California-Los Angeles and lives in Venice, Calif.

SARA PRITCHARD is the author of *Crackpots* (2003) and *Lately* (2007), both linked-story collections published by Houghton Mifflin. She lives in Morgantown, W.V., and teaches in the Wilkes University Low-Residency Master of Fine Arts Program in Wilkes-Barre, Penn.

DAVID RAY is the author or editor of 23 books, including *Music of Time: Selected and New Poems* (Backwaters P, 2006), and a memoir, *The Endless Search* (Soft Skull P, 2003). New in 2007 is *After Tagore* (Nerala, India) and upcoming, *Ash on a Sleeve*, poems (Howling Dog). His awards include the William Carlos Williams Award (the only poet to have won twice) and the Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award. He served as editor of *New Letters* from 1971 to 1985 and now lives in Tucson, Ariz., with his wife, the writer and photographer Judy Ray. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

TRISH REEVES' first book of poems, *Returning the Question*, received the Cleveland State University Prize. She has received fellowships for her poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts, Yaddo and the Kansas Arts Commissions. Her book of poems *In the Knees of the Gods* was published by BkMk Press in 2001. She teaches English and creative writing at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

JAMES SCHIFF is author of several books, including *Updike's Version: Rewriting The Scarlett Letter*, *Understanding Reynolds Price*, and, most recent, *Updike in Cincinnati* (Ohio UP, 2007); Mr. Schiff is an associate professor of English at the University of Cincinnati.

MELVIN B. TOLSON's (1898-1966) poetry books include *Rendezvous with America* (1944); *Libretto for the Republic of Liberia* (1953); and *Harlem Gallery* (1965), reprinted in 1999 by the University of Virginia Press. From 1924 to 1947, he taught English and speech at Wiley College, in Marshall, Texas, and from 1947 to 1964 taught English and drama at Langston University in Oklahoma. Between 1937 and 1944, he wrote the weekly column "Caviar and Cabbage" for *The Washington Tribune*. He received the annual poetry award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1966. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

WILLIAM TROWBRIDGE's poetry collections include *Flickers* (2000), *O Paradise* (1995), and *Enter Dark Stranger* (1989), all from the University of Arkansas Press, and *The Complete Book of Kong* (Southeast Missouri State UP, 2003). He lives in the Kansas City area and teaches in the University of Nebraska low-residency M.F.A. program.

PETER WOLFE has written 20 books, most recently *Havoc in the Hub: A Reading of George V. Higgins* (Lexington Books, 2007). He is a frequent book reviewer for *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and is Curator's Professor of English at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

ANNE-E. WOOD's stories have appeared in numerous literary journals. She holds an M.F.A. from San Francisco State University, where she won the 2006 Rubin Chapbook Award. She lives in Tucson, Az., and Buenos Aires.

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