

Wormwood Review - Lyn Lifshin

***Do you recall your first poem(s) ever in the WR?**

He accepted them quite early on and I was thrilled: I had written to all the mags in an early stapled copy of the *Little Magazine Directory*, and *Wormwood* was one of my favorites, so I held off until I had had a few acceptances—2 or 3 or 4 and then dared to send him some. It was very, very special when he accepted some of mine.

***After Malone took that first poem, what made you submit more poems to him?**

He was very enthusiastic and said he liked them very much and asked me to send more. Then he began to do several full editions of my poems for *Wormwood: PAPER APPLES*, where he published the first detailed chronology of my work—the most interesting bibliography. Although the magazine was simply done, I remember that bibliography was beautifully done. And he did another full edition of my poems, *PARADE*. He accepted almost all my “madonna” poems, so whenever I had written a group of them, I always sent them to Marvin first. In fact, I did that with a lot of my poems—there are always a few magazines I pick as favorites and send my work first to. And he did many, maybe 10 or more, special issues with a number of my poems—one was a Koertge-Lifshin-and-Locklin Sandwich, and he did groups of madonna poems, of “Shaker” poems, and “old house” poems.

***What did you think of the WR at the time?**

I loved it. It reminded me of *The Goodly Company*—another similarly magazine. I had just left graduate school, not very ceremoniously, and I wanted to get as far away from any academic publishing as possible.

***Did you change your view on the WR over the years?**

No.

***Did Malone accept all your submissions?**

Not everything, but he accepted a lot —I have copies and copies of contributor copies with my poems in them—I often sent him huge envelopes. There is one group of poems he did not like and did not accept: poems about Hawaii!!

***What made the WR so special for you?**

The plain spoken powerful language, speech as if it was spoken, and the anti-academic quality of the poems.

***Is there any other little mag that published so many of your poems?**

Yes—many are not in existence and I'm not sure I will remember all the names: *The New York Quarterly*, *Folio*, *December*, *13th moon*, *Caliban*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Gargoyle*, *PEBBLE*, *The Sun*, *Lips*, *Main Street Review*, *ONTHEBUS*, *Paterson Poetry Review*, *Pearl*, *Yankee*, *William and Mary Review*. I'm sure there are others I've forgotten about and left out.

***What do you think of the other poets Malone published in the WR? Did any of them left a lasting impression on you?**

Bukowski, Locklin, Ron Koertge—and I recently read Billy Collins was published—I suppose he must have left a lasting impression.

***Did you like Malone's editorial views?**

Yes.

***What was Malone like? Did you ever meet him?**

No, I wish I had.

***How would you define the WR in a few words?**

Unique.

[Conducted via email on October 31st, 2015]