


X "The longer I live the more I become convinced that the only thing that matters in literature is the.... shamanstvo of a book.... that the good writer is first of all an enchanter."  
- Nabokov to Edmund Wilson in a letter

## SHAMANSTVO

"In his 62 yrs. Ravel, who worked constantly, ~~turned~~ didn't turn out more than 8 hrs.' worth of music, as contrasted to Debussy's 16, Beethoven's 30, Wagner's 50, Dvorak's 2000 or Webern's 2...."

And Rorem

 Ravel was Short People - barely 5 ft. tall - never married.

In Lydia Pinkham's Compound for Female Complaints - unicorn root and black cohosh. Other curious substances too.

Anything important in life is always in a state of crisis.  
Crisis is life.

W.B. Yeats talked about "the fascination of what's difficult."

"Cheer up, old fellow. After all, you are Flaubert."  
Turgenev to Flaubert.



From Coleridge's Letters -

"my mother was outrageous with joy"

"I am composing Greek verse like a mad dog -"

"all good things have their contingencies of evil"

"Arnold taught us to waste time profitably in reading the Bhagavad Gita and other works remote from the burning issues of the day. Indeed his whole life was a justification of selective idleness: he read us a homily to moderate our desire to hustle and shine and succeed...."

Matthew Arnold: A Life, by  
Park Honan. (Review of same by  
Noel Annan.)

"particle physics" - name for subnuclear physics that came into use after the 2nd World War -

X  
G Quentin Crisp, author of The Naked Civil Servant, How to Have a Life-Style and How to Become a Virgin, writes a review of Flaws in the Glass, a book by Patrick White. In his review: "Artists in any medium are a bunch of hooligans who cannot live within their income of admiration. The least intolerable members of this rabble of egomaniacs are actors [because within them it's all out front]. The rest spend their lives peeping through a hedge of words, noises or daubs of color for fear of being seen quivering with rage when anybody saunters by uncaring...." X "Everything that has gone wrong with the world since the place was thrown open to the public...."



Full pontificals for a dead Pope to lie in state in -

- the stole
- the dalmatic
- the gloves
- the pallium
- the ring
- the chasuble
- the gold mitre

I hope for the best,  
expect the worst.

Mel Brooks believes that the difference between most folks and artists is that folks work until it's time to quit, and artists don't quit until they get it right.

To be sane is, to a great extent, to be sociable.

- John Updike.

X

<sup>the way of the</sup>

The world: imperfect, partial, unfair.

*Especially since it's been  
thrown open to the public*

X

At a sushi restaurant: breakfast at 5 a.m. - fatty raw tuna belly, live tiger shrimp, abalone rectums, and (if the breakfaster is lucky) the sperm of red snapper.

Where the hoboes rode:

in the box cars

on the gondolas

in the empty battery boxes

refrigerator cars

on the cowcatchers and brake rods

Jesus to the travelling fraternity became "Jerusalem Slim" -



X

The pathos of what vanishes  
The ephemerality, pitifulness and obscurity of things

How a novel writer has got to be:  
insatiably curious about other people,  
how life is actually lived by other, unrelated, distinct  
persons

inquisitive about customs, manners, morals

must search

must possess

must note

must absorb

must master

how things go on

trafflement  
gnawing  
sadness  
exhaustion

have the power to bring another social world  
into existence like it was really there

devoted to 'the sheer polyglossia' of the lexicon  
(ain't it though?)

know how the different classes use language

know something about the language of work & working

know how language <sup>has</sup> changed and does change

if a novelist that's also a poet incoherence is an anguish  
of peculiar magnitude. "Make it cohere."

pain  
panic  
unintelligibility  
solitude

underlie cool mastery

have to be capable of plot and dramatic  
action in the conventional sense

"the mortality of the furniture of the world!"

a pang I feel for every vanished past -

nothing can be too heavy for fiction - the biggest  
and most terrible wars, earthquakes, annihilations -

scraps of existence littering the terrain -



## Diamonds

Hope diamond - World's largest blue diamond - 44.4 carats

Elizabeth Taylor's (she sold it in 1979) 69.42 carats

Cullinan - 530.20 carats (largest in the world ~~when~~ in raw

Great Star of Africa - 530.22

Second " " " - 317.04

states -  
3,106 carats)

Regent - 140 carats

Colenso (stolen & probably recut) 133 carats

Tiffany - 128 carats

X

Renoir painted a picture of anemones on the day he died. His last words were: "I think I am beginning to understand something about it."

"Walking Renoirs, young girls with faces like pouting peony buds."

Once Renoir said to a young painter: "How hard it is to find exactly the point at which imitation must cease in a picture." It's the same with writing.

Finding That point.

The Voyager composed primarily of a resin-treated paper honeycomb overlaid with fibers of graphite.

"The point I'm trying to make is that people shouldn't accept too much crap. That doesn't mean I hate my fellow human beings. My view is that we have a duty to know we are ~~not~~ sovereign individuals. We have the opportunity minute by minute to make ourselves what we are."

- Dennis Potter

(Pennies from Heaven,  
Jorky Park, Dreamchild  
etc.)



~~WITCHFLOWER~~ WOODBINE is another name for HONEYSUCKLE  
"witch-flower aconite" (?)  
golden tassles (laburnum)  
Jack in the green  
country wench

THETIS could change her appearance: mare, she-bear, crane, fish, wryneck, etc.

The entrance to the underworld: Cape Taenarum, in Laconia.

BIRDS: the kite  
the pious pelican  
as beseeching as a lapwing  
as discreet as a lapwing  
the flowerpicker bird  
chaffinch -- flash of dark red in his wings -- wearisome song  
Greenfinch (has a single note)

Diseases & Casualties This Week -- Aug. 15 to Aug. 22, 1665, London:

Frighted: 2

Grief - 3

Lethargy - 1

Purples - 2

Rising of the Lights - 18

Strangury - 3

Surfeit - 74

Tiffick - 9

Wormes - 20

Plannet - 6

Off names for criminals (true)

Lotsa Mamma

Belching Blanche

Three-Finger Liz

The Brief-Case Kid

Slow but Sure

Wild Cat Alma

Silk Hat Harry

Aggravating Poppa

Crying Shame

Imperishable wood is Acacia giraffe

Six archangels ~~ix~~ "with curious wings":

Pythagoras

Aristotle

Cicero

Nicomachus

Ptolemy

Priscian

Themistockles wished he had a talent for forgetting.

INDIAN NAMES FOR THE MONTHS:

January	Cold Moon
February	Hunger Moon
March	Crow Moon
April	Grass Moon
May	Planting Moon
June	Rose Moon
July	Thunder Moon
August	Green-corn Moon
September	Harvest Moon
October	Hunting Moon
November	Frosty Moon
December	Long-night Moon



X "I thank you for your welcome, which was cordial, and your cordial, which was welcome -"

X "What I say is that, if a man really likes potatoes, he must be a pretty decent sort of fellow." A.A. Milne

"Solitude is very sad, but too much company is twice as bad."  
Wm. Allingham

Of the battle of Fontenoy, fought between the allied army & the French, May 11, 1745 - Lady Sarah Cooper writes:  
"Captain Wade.... was dangerously wounded by a very odd accident: his horse's head was taken off by a cannon ball, and thrown with such force against Wade's side, that it broke several of his ribs...."

Rev. Kaneko (quoted by Thos. Merton in his last diary) -

"In order to perfect any practice, seemingly useless experience must be undergone. Any disciple who has entered any kind of practice must begin with seemingly unnecessary futile things. But of course these things are a part of the discipline. Without such seemingly trifling things there can be no perfecting of the practice."

X "The milk of the Lioness is so precious & so powerful that if you put it in an ordinary cup, the cup breaks...."  
Old Tibetan saying.

X "When I hear the word culture, I reach for my revolver."  
- Hermann Göring

Dublin drink: the "double X"

Belfast drink: "Presbyterian cocktail"

In Ireland the new potato comes in season on "Garlic Sunday," the last Sunday in July -

Roe - Sean

Rosaleen - Maureen


Audeon - Colin

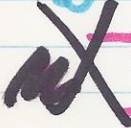
These are what they should have been named



From Language and Silence by George Steiner. Atheneum.


"... that great discourse with the living dead which we call reading... a mode of action... we engage the presence, the voice of the book."

 "... shopworn and rebellious words...."

 "... zoon phonanta ...." [man the speaking animal]

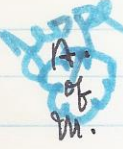
✓ " 'Of course, not everything is unsayable in words, only the living truth....' " [Quote from Donesco's Journal]


" that indispensable luxury we call literature...."

 "... Auden's prayer at the grave of Henry James: 'Because there is no end to the variety of our calling: make intercession / for the treason of all clerks....'"

" As Kierkegaard said, 'It is not worth while remembering that past which cannot become a present.' "

" Pisisistratean Recension " - wide pub. of the Iliad & Odyssey in 6<sup>th</sup> century Athens.

 " Do you not see what a man I am, how huge, how splendid and born of a great father; and the mother who bore me immortal? " - Iliad XXI

 Achilles of Niobe - " She remembered to eat when she was worn out with weeping "

Achilles' horses weep at his impending fall.

Was Homer the compiler of the Iliad and the inventor of the Odyssey? It would seem so -

" the necessary outrage of the death we carry in us "

" Have mercy of me, God, for man trod me, all day the fyghtygne troublede me ... " Prose Psalter attr. to Richard Rolle, early 14<sup>th</sup> cent.



~~Apple  
to the  
game~~

The advantage of the emotious is that They lead us astray -  
Picture of Dorian Gray

Bucky Wunderlick being interviewed on TV -

"Electricity is nature every bit as much as sex is nature. By sex, I mean fucking and the like...."

~~Apple  
to the  
game~~

"... We process nature, which I personally regard as a hideous screeching bitch of a thing, being a city boy myself...."

Concert  
goes  
to - training  
damaged

"My sound lifts them right off their ass.... Understand. I make it happen. What I'd really like to do really is actually kill some of them. They'd come there knowing full well...."

Great Jones Street: Don DeLillo

"It's nice to be mungling around...."  
- Bricktop

The aesthetic attitude - when you open yourself to the qualities of the experience (of looking at a picture, reading a poem etc.)

Three qualities are these:

1. The sensory qualities -

- attention to colors
- textures
- sound
- smells

The feel of something

2. The formal qualities -

- arrangement
- organization
- design
- form



3. The symbolic qualities:

What is it "about"? Character qualities

Emotions symbolized

Relationship symbolized -

between man & man

man & a supernatural agent

man & himself

Ideas symbolized -

One mark of the educated man is his ability to entertain new ideas -

"The psyche has as its objective the goal of superiority"  
- Adler

Hamlet to Ophelia: "God gave you one face and you make yourself another" -

"Arise, Barak, and lead thy captivity captive...."  
- Judges V

What in hell does this mean? From Isaiah:

"In the same day shall the Lord shave with a razor that is hired, namely, by them beyond the river, by the King of Assyria, the head, and the hair of the feet: and it shall also consume the beard...."

I am a Mathmid as surely as a real one is -





The voluptuous life -  
 art  
 music  
 films  
 sun  
 flowers  
 food  
 fashion  
 fun

Horace Sutton says -  
 Travel Ed. Sat. Review

The Atlantic 9/71



C. Wright Mills in a letter to Dan Wakefield -  
 "... And that's why we've got to work out a new form of writing - using some fictional techniques and some reportage tricks and some sociological stuff. ... No matter what you are writing about, you're also writing about the whole god-damned world. ... Go detailed scholarly. Go clean journalist. Disguise it ... in fiction.

"I haf nojing, I haf nojing," wails Prun, and  
 Beyond the seas where I have lost a sceptre  
 I hear the neighing of my dappled nouns,  
 soft participles coming down the steps,  
 treading on leaves, trailing their rustling gowns -  
 writes Nabokov in "An Evening of Russian Poetry"  
 (1945), the year he became an American citizen. ..."  
 Nabokov, a Portrait: Alfred Appel, Jr.  
 Atlantic/9/71

"In high art and pure science detail is everything -"  
 - Same



X "The worst thing in life is that there's no one to talk to. Adlai Stevenson told me that a week before he died. He said that, and he was in."

- Mort Sahl

Life is a slow reluctant march into enemy country -  
Henry James

X What then is Time? If nobody asks me, I know; but if I were desirous to explain it to someone that should ask me, plainly I know not.

- St. Thomas Aquinas

I like a fine view, but I prefer to sit with my back to it.

- Alice B. Toklas

X Angels can fly because they take themselves  
lightly -

- Jean Cocteau

I say that what one loves is best.

- Sappho (Allen Tate)

Old I am, and therefore may,  
Like Silenus, drink and play -

- Anacreon (6<sup>th</sup> cent. BC)

[Major Major] was hounded incessantly by an impression of vital duties left unfulfilled and waited in vain for his responsibilities to overtake him.

- Catch-22: Joseph Heller

X Greater love hath none in time of strife  
Than laying down his friends to save his life -

Dick Deterred - a play by  
David Edgar



X

An aged man is but a paltry thing  
A tattered coat upon a stick, unless  
Soul clap its hands and sing, and  
louder sing  
For every tatter in its mortal dress. —  
— W. B. Yeats



"Put the kibosh on" something. Put an end to it. Comes from caip baish or "caps of death," a facecloth that inhabitants of southwest Ireland placed over a corpse —

Did you hear about the 2 gay Irishmen?  
Patrick Fitzgerald and Gerald Fitzpatrick?

Victoriana

X

Not so long before they were married Charles Kingsley wrote to [his fiancée] suggesting that they should go to bed together but not consummate the marriage for 1 month — "I wish to show you and my God that I have gained purity & self control, that intense though my love is for your body I do not love it but as an expression of your soul...." This test, he thought, would prolong their bliss to the extent that when they reached heaven they would be able to enjoy uninterrupted sexual intercourse. Kingsley.... made a drawing of them ascending to heaven in airborne intercourse, Fanny equipped with useless butterfly wings, Charles making the aerial lift on long and strong bird wings....



" I am started. The tugs have left me; I feel the great swelling of the open sea taking my galleon.... "

Wilfred Owen

" now you can go [ nuv du can go ] o glédda - déir - óttit " [Mother used to say]

There are between 15,000 and 17,000 species of fish on earth today, compared to about 8,600 birds and 4,500 mammals.

" A lotta guys want to be firemen. It's like kids. Guys forty years old are kids. They try to be a hard guy. There's no big thing when you leave boyhood for manhood. It seems like I talked the same at fifteen as I talk now. Everybody's still a kid. [Everybody's still a kid.] They just lose their hair or they don't fuck that much.... "

Studs Terkel: Working

Dr. Johnson, when advised not to give the beggars of Bath money "for they will just spend it on gin and tobacco," replies: "And why should they be denied such sweeteners of their existence? Life is a pill which none of us can bear to swallow without gilding; yet for the poor we delight in stripping it still bare."

X " Damn gentlemen.... There is not such a set of enemies to a real artist in the world as they are, if not kept at a proper distance. They think - and so may you



till you learn better - that they reward you by  
their company and notice, but I, who blow away all  
the chaff - and by God in their eyes too if they don't  
stand clear - I know that they have but one part worth  
looking at, and that is their purse."

- Jos. Gainsborough in a letter

"Painters' Plagues": he called his patrons: "I wish  
~~you would recollect,~~ he wrote to one of them, "that  
~~Painting and Pen~~

"Books? Pray don't talk to me of books. The only books  
I know are men and cards."

- Sarah Duchess of Marlborough

Ovid's wrinkle remover: barley, netch, eggs, powdered stag  
horns, daffodil bulbs, and honey.

Monday's child is fair of face -

Tuesday's child is full of grace -

Wednesday's child is full of woe -

Thursday's child has far to go -

Friday's child is loving and giving -

Saturday's child works hard for a living -

But a child that's born on the Sabbath Day  
is fair and wise and good and gay.



X To a lady who told James Mackenzie Whistler that in matters of art she at least knew what she liked he said:  
"That is a capacity, madam, shared by all the higher animals."

John Barth thinks books should have "a sense of fantastic-ness, an astonishment ~~of~~ at life... away from realism and toward plot, contrivance and invention... [as modern physics has made us realize] reality is more preposterous than realism - wilder and less plausible... there are deep metaphysical reasons why we need more Fielding-like books today, with plots where everybody turns out to be related to everybody else...."

X "[I] expected to be treated as an imbecile or a yokel if I spoke or wrote bad English. Its proper use was held to be a matter of good manners, not of grammatic law: I still hold this to be so...."

- Robert Graves

"Only wide reading, a retentive ear for conversation, and continuous dwelling upon words as disembodied spirits rather than as building materials, can equip a poet for his task...."

- Same

"One of the Muse's main functions is to abash her poet by making him aware of his stupidities, vanities and petty dishonesties...."

- Same

Keats commends Shakespeare for writing of the bees:

"The singing masons building roofs of gold...."



Matura diamonds (Fairies)  
She's an Apsaras (a divine being)

of death Ranier Maria Riske writes

✓ ".... it is strange to inhabit the earth no longer,  
To use no longer customs scarcely acquired,  
not to interpret roses, and other things  
that promise so much, in terms of a human future;  
.... to see all that was once relation so loosely fluttering  
hither and thither in space...."

X "I don't know why, but Sex has always been the favorite  
topic of every intelligently cultured person I've known.  
The favorite topic for every unintelligently cultured person  
I've known is Books, or, what is worse, Music."

- Paris Diary: Rosem  
Red

Red foods - apples

peppers

cherries

tomatoes

strawberries

watermelon

red meat

red roses

rubies

roses

cherries

blood

sunsets

uni-drops

Raspberries

Scarlet Tanagers

anger

Cardinals

stained glass

Jello

devils

flame

hell

Crimson cushions

strawberries

red as a heart

✓ "There is no man who differs more from another  
than he does from himself at another time -

- Pascal



There is a type of cancer called teratoma. A man might have an eye forming in his elbow, a brain forming in his liver. Many ovarian cysts are these teratomas. They may have skin, hair, bone tissue, muscle tissue, teeth, retinae, glands & brain tissue - In women not usually killers. Teratomas have been known to reach a weight of 100 pounds. One tumor contained 300 teeth.

Now the scientists had a matched set: a strain of mice (129ter) in which a high percentage of the males had teratomas, and another strain of mice (L.T.) in which a high percentage of the females had the same disease.

As Stevens and Varnum dissected generations of offspring from this colony, they noticed something that at first seemed almost miraculous: about 10 per cent of the virgin females were pregnant. Immaculate conception in white mice!

Further research indicated that the embryos growing in the virgin wombs were actually teratomas. They developed normally for a while and then became disorganized, growing into monsters. The two scientists learned that whether the teratomas developed in the ovaries or the uterus depended upon how late the germ cell started dividing on its own and growing into a tumor. About 80 per cent of the time, this spontaneous division began and remained in the ovary, but about 20 per cent of the time this division began after the cell had already left the ovary and begun its journey to the womb.

When an embryo begins to grow in the womb without the help of fertilization, scientists speak not in terms of miracles but rather turn to Greek and make up a new word. The scientific word that covers this phenomenon is *parthenogenesis*—a combination that results when you mate *parthenos*, a Greek word meaning virgin, with *genesis*, another Greek word, which means birth. Should scientists stumble upon resurrection, they would surely think up a clinical name for that, too.

Stevens believes that this type of parthenogenesis may well take place in human females, also. A young New York City woman recently had an abortion although she maintained that she was a virgin. Her father asked the doctor if that was possible. Stevens told him that it was not the most probable hypothesis, but that he thought it was possible. He believes some women may believe that they are pregnant when actually they have a teratoma, and this

may account for some miscarriages -

Don S.

of the

Jackson  
Lab.  
in  
Bar  
Harbor,  
Maine



gens



To know is a desire whose fulfillment does not lead to disappointment and boredom, as does the fulfillment of almost every other human longing. For there is no end to ~~the knowable~~ <sup>truth</sup> - each part of it reveals, when found, yet other parts to be discovered. The man who desires knowledge knows no satiety, for the knowable is perpetually new. He might live innumerable lives and never grow weary.  
- Aldous Huxley

The acquisition ~~of~~ all this knowledge doesn't mean "the random accumulation of mere data." God forbid!

To be real knowledge what you learn has to be ordered and assimilated and should contribute to the enhancement of your own personal culture.

A general education is a basic requirement for a "good life." A broad base ought to be laid for a lifetime of continued learning and growth.

Not only should you educate yourself but arouse and educate others!

Everybody with a mind needs

~~is~~ A general awareness of <sup>①</sup> our literary life

② our artistic culture

③ our ~~social~~ <sup>scientific</sup> culture

④ our politics

⑤ our history

⑥ An overview of all and a comprehension of life.

⑦ the best way to develop your inner resources -