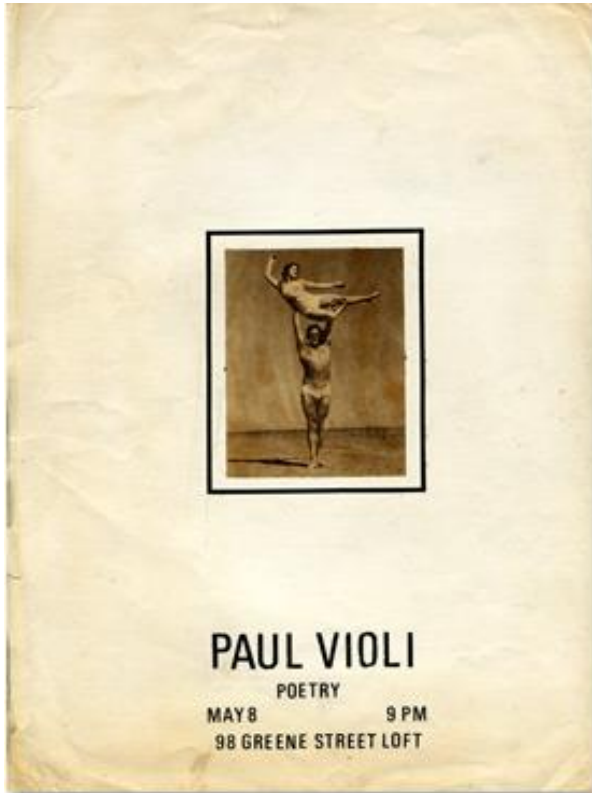
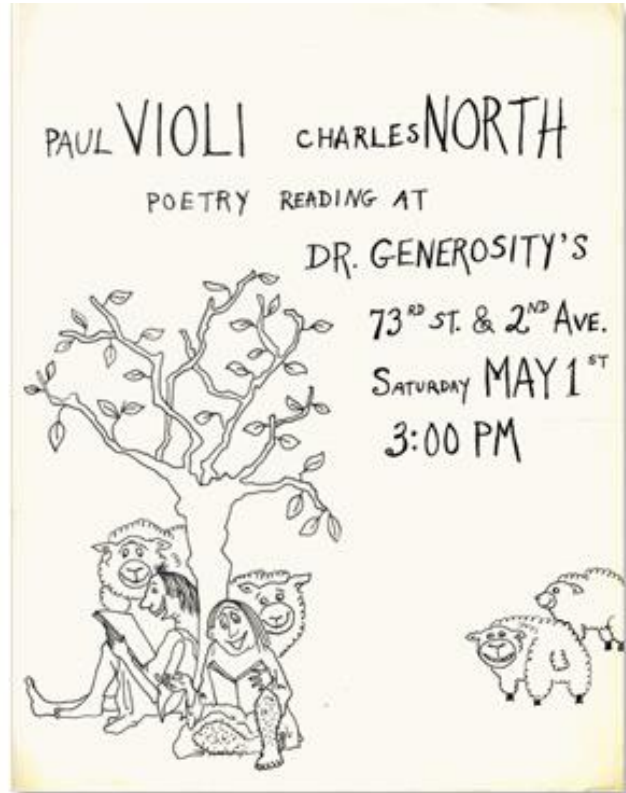


## Paul Violi Archive



Flyer for Paul Violi reading at 98 Greene Street Loft, May 8, [1977?].



Flyer for Paul Violi and Charles North's reading at Dr. Generosity's, May 1, [1971?]. Flyer by Paula North.

*One tour-de-force after another, each with an impressive sureness of touch...No poet writing today has a greater breadth of sensibility than Violi, or expresses it in a greater range of styles, or uses more of the devices that poetry has to offer. His poems inspire the feelings of excitement about life that is, still, the ultimate function of art.*

— Tony Towle

*I picked Violi because of the virtues I have admired all these years: his wit, his ability to find the poetic resonance of non-poetic language, his deadpan, and his ability to get serious ideas across without didactic earnestness. He is, in my view, among our most talented poets.*

— Davis Lehman on including two poems from Paul Violi in the *Oxford Book of American Poetry*

*The best satirical mind in contemporary poetry belongs to Paul Violi.*

— Andrei Codrescu

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### Brief Biography of Paul Violi

Paul Violi was born on July 20, 1944 in Brooklyn, New York and grew up in Greenlawn, Long Island. He spent time at St. Mark's Poetry project and was an active part of the New York poetry world. Violi was the Poetry Project's interim Director (1977) and also served on its advisory board (1978–1981).

In spring 1970, he took a workshop at the Poetry Project with Tony Towle where he also met Charles North. The three developed a unique, supportive and creative relationship that lasted until Violi's death in 2011.

He co-founded, with Allen Appel, Swollen Magpie Press in 1970. The two published Violi's *She'll Be Riding Six White Horses* and *Automatic Transmissions*, and a novella by Philip Lopate. Appel and Violi also published the poetry magazine *New York Times* (1970–1973) that included work by Jim Brodey, Dick Gallup, Charles North, Ron Padgett, Carter Ratcliff, Peter Schjeldahl, Tony Towle and Bill Zavatsky. Appel eventually left the press and Charles North joined Paul in partnership. Between 1976 and 1982 they published books of poetry by Tony Towle, Joseph Ceravolo, Mary Ferrari, Martha LaBare and Yuki Hartman, as well as by North and Violi. In 1979 the press published Lita Hornick's book about David Antin and also produced *Broadway: A Poets and Painters Anthology* edited by James Schuyler and Charles North.

From 1974 to 1983 Violi coordinated a series of readings at the Museum of Modern Art and in 1993 curated the exhibit "Kenneth Koch: Collaborations with Artists" for Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich, U.K.

Paul Violi published over a dozen collections of poetry, including *Overnight* (Hanging Loose, 2007), *Fracas* (Hanging Loose, 1999), *Breakers* (Coffee House, 2000), *Likewise* (Hanging Loose, 1988), *The Curious Builder* (Hanging Loose, 1993), *In Baltic Circle* (Kulchur Foundation, 1973 and 2011 reissue) and *Splurge* (Sun, 1982), as well as the prose work *Selected Accidents, Pointless Anecdotes* (Hanging Loose, 2002). His 5 artist book collaborations with Dale Devereux Barker, include *Envoy: Life is Completely Interesting* (2002), and *Gris-Gris* (2002).

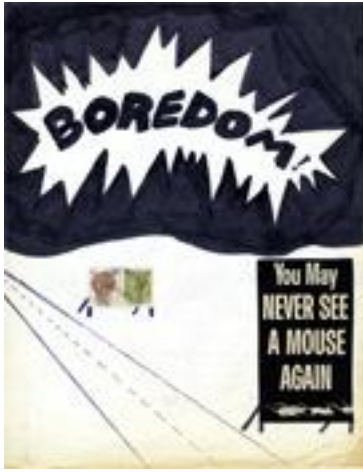
## Selected Highlights from the Archive



Letter from Ron Padgett to Paul Violi sharing Poetry Project business, October 21, 1977; Manuscript for 'To Paul Violi and His Wife Beulah,' by Ron Padgett, March 27, 1971; Letter from David Rattray, August 21, 1984.



Letter from Tony Towle, October 19, 1977; 'The Concordance,' an example of one of the many Violi manuscripts with comments and notes by Tony Towle; 'The Curious Builder' an example of one of the many Violi manuscripts with comments and notes by Charles North.



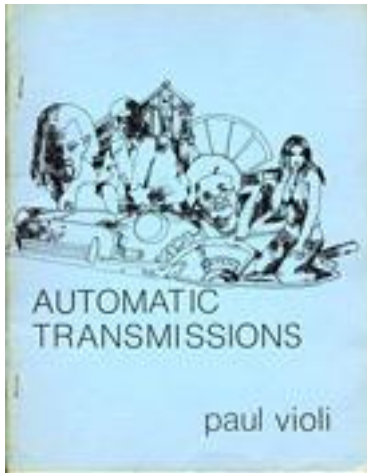
A Charles North, Tony Towle and Paul Violi 'serial work' with comments upon Robert Penn Warren's 'The Place' poem that was published in the *New Yorker* July 25, 1983; A collage with marker drawings by Violi found in the 'Sketch' folder among his manuscripts; Manuscript for what was published as 'Triptych' originally in *Splurge*, Sun Press, 1981. Found in 'Drafts and Copies' folder.



*Smoke* is probably from the late 1960s and possibly Violi's first published work, although he may not have later recognized it as such. This was found in a folder labeled 'Waste.'; A page of quotations from a variety of authors found in a folder labeled 'Q.'; Page from a manuscript draft for 'King Nasty' was originally published in *Likewise*, Hanging Loose Press, 1988.



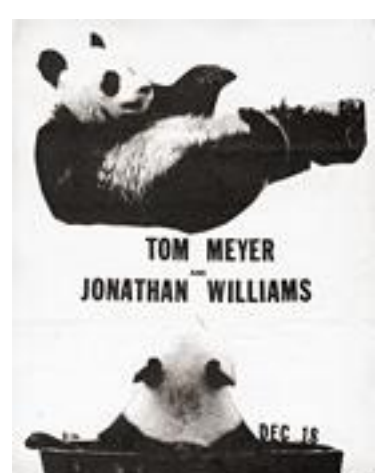
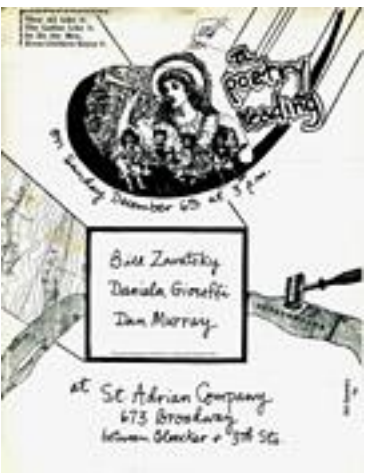
'How I wrote a poem' found in 'Poetry notes viz. Harmatan' folder. *Harmatan* was published by Sun Press, 1977; Violi's long poem *Harmatan*, published by Sun Press in 1977, is about Nigeria. This hand-drawn map of Nigeria was found in the 'Harmatan' folder; The second issue of the mimeograph *New York Times* published by Swollen Magpie Press, March 1971.



Paul Viola. *Automatic Transmissions*, Swollen Magpie Press, 1970. Edition of 300; Flyer for Clark Coolidge's reading at St. Mark's Church, October 17, 1973; Book launch party flyer for John Giorno's *Cancer in My Left Ball*, published by Something Else Press, at Open Mind Books & Records, October 2, 1973.



John Giorno poetry reading flyer, February 22, 1973. Photo and design by Les Levine; Flyer for 'Gala Benefit for Paris Filmmakers Cooperative' with 'Piero Heliczers Easter Show,' Fielding Dawson, Gregory Corso, William Burroughs, Stan Brakhage, Andy Warhol, Jack Smith, The Velvet Underground, Allen Ginsberg, and many others. April 10, [1965?]; Bill Zavatsky, Daniella Gioseffi, and Dan Murray poetry reading at St. Adrian Company, December 6, 1970. Flyer design is by Bill Zavatsky; Flyer for Clark Coolidge and Larry Fagin's reading at The New York Studio School, April 2, [1971?].



Bill Zavatsky, Daniella Gioseffi, and Dan Murray poetry reading at St. Adrian Company, December 6, 1970. Flyer design is by Bill Zavatsky; Ted Berrigan and Anselm Hollo reading at St. Mark's Church, January 15, [1975?]; Tom Meyer and Jonathan Williams reading at St. Mark's Church.

## Summary of the Paul Viola Archive

## Correspondence

Correspondence with many manuscripts and other items from friends, colleagues and publishers, including, Bruce Andrews, Allan Appel, Paul Auster, Ted Berrigan, Jim Brodey, Billy Collins, Bill Corbett, Ray DiPalma, Kenward Elmslie, Barbara Guest, Susan Howe, Larry Fagin, Buckminster Fuller, Dick Gallup, John Godfrey, Robert Hershon, Lita Hornick, Kenneth Koch, Michael Lally, David Lehman, Ron Padgett, David Rattray, Peter Schjeldahl, Gilbert Sorrentino, Anne Waldman, and Barry Yourgrau. Correspondence is particularly extensive with Allan Kornblum, Dale Devereux Barker, Charles North, Tony Towle, and Bill Zavatsky. In addition to traditional paper-based letters there are over 3,000 email messages received through 2011. Approx. 10 ½ linear feet.

## Journals and Notebooks

There are 83 journals and notebooks filled with poetry and ruminations about being a father, husband and poet from circa 1965 until several months before his death in 2011. Approx. 4 ½ linear feet.

## Publishing

Violi's life as both a published poet and a small press publisher (Swollen Magpie Press) are documented with correspondence and ephemera. Included are manuscripts and layouts from several issues of *New York Times*, 1970–1973, published by Swollen Magpie Press. Approx. 2 1/2 linear feet.

## Manuscripts

There are manuscripts and multiple drafts of both published and unpublished works by Paul Violi, many with notes and corrections. Manuscripts that were exchanged with Charles North and Tony Towle (with their notes and corrections) are found in the Correspondence series. Approx. 5 ½ linear feet.

## Publications by Paul Violi

Included are 20 books, broadsides and pamphlets by Paul Violi, 5 limited edition collaborations with Dale Devereux Barker, approx. 200 little magazines with contributions by Violi, and approx. 40 anthologies with contributions from Violi.

## Ephemera

The poetry flyers and posters collected by Paul Violi constitute a major collection of rarely seen New York poetry world ephemera. There are approx. 140 flyers of various sizes, approx. 8 ½ x 11 inches, approx. 25 folded flyers of various sizes, approx. 10 x 16 inches, approx. 30 cards, and approx. 20 posters of various sizes, approx. 13 x 19 inches.

## Assorted Other Items

Other items include VHS recordings documenting readings, photographs of Violi, family and friends, and correspondence from Violi to his family while he was in Nigeria as part of the Peace Corps, 1966–1967 (his long poem *Harmatan*, published by Sun Press in 1977, is about his experiences in Nigeria).

*The archive comprises approximately 38 linear feet (29 boxes, plus oversize) and is housed at Granary Books.*

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