

The Bern Porter Occasional Symposium Series

*The Bomb, the National Security State and the Advanced Thinking of Bern Porter*

Friday, 5 August 2011 -- Colby College Special Collections -- 10am -- 4pm

*Symposium is free and open to the public – Symposium schedule inside*

ABOUT BERN PORTER

Bern Porter (1911–2004) was an artist, writer, philosopher, and scientist involved in the development of the cathode ray tube, the Saturn V rocket, and the Manhattan Project, which he renounced upon learning of the bombing of Hiroshima. Also a pioneer in the arts, he is known for his landmark work as an author and publisher. He was an early practitioner of mail art and found and performance poetry and experimented with **typography, sculpture, photography, artists' books, and collage throughout his life.** Porter lived and worked in Michigan, New York, New Jersey, England, France, Illinois, California, Mexico, Guam and Pacific Micronesia, Texas, Venezuela, Tasmania, Alaska, Scandinavia, Russia, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, and Alabama. He finally settled in his native Maine, where he ran for governor and established the Institute of Advanced Thinking. In 1979, Porter was given a major retrospective at Franklin Furnace in New York City, and **a show of Porter's** work housed in The Museum of Modern Art Library was shown at MoMA in 2010.

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#### SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

9am: Light refreshments available

10am:

Welcoming remarks and poetry readings:

Jacob Fricke, Belfast Poet Laureate

Sheila Holtz, newsletter editor, *Gazette Le Duc*

Joel Lipman, professor, University of Toledo English Department

Mark Melnicove, literary executor, Bern Porter Estate

Scholarly talk -- Part 1: Joel Lipman and Mark Melnicove

Noon-ish: Picnic lunch in/outside Miller Library -- music provided -- bring your lunch or buy on campus

1pm: Scholarly talk -- Part 2: Joel Lipman and Mark Melnicove

2:30pm:

Panel discussion facilitated by Joel Lipman and Mark Melnicove

Panelists:

Bob Higgins, writer, Portland Daily Sun

Bill Higgins, principal engineer, ABB Combustion Engineering

Don Hudson, president emeritus, Chewonski Foundation

Paul Josephson, professor, Colby College History Department

Bill Linnell, co-founder and spokesperson, Cheaper, Safer Power

Peter Neils, president, Los Alamos Study Group

#### ADDITIONAL FEATURES

Book sales: *Found Poems* by Bern Porter, just reprinted by Nightboat Books/UPNE -- also other books by Porter

Exhibit: archival materials from the Bern Porter Collection, Colby College Special Collections

Materials to browse and view: mail art and other periodicals, **Porter's security files** -- also audio-visual recordings from private collections

Web site: Scholarly talks and panel discussion will be video-recorded for webcasting. Symposium will have a blog and livetweet. Flip recorders will be available to capture comments by symposium attendees.

#### SYMPOSIUM SPONSORS

The Office of the Dean of Faculty, Colby College  
Colby College Special Collections

Special thanks to: Colby College Bookstore, ITS, Media Resources and the staff of Miller Library

PORTER AT COLBY: <http://libguides.colby.edu/porter>

The **Bern Porter Collection of Contemporary Letters**, housed in Colby's Special Collections, is an eclectic mix of published and unpublished materials. It reflects the complexity, creativity and humor of Porter himself. Materials in the collection were received from Porter (Colby Class of 1932) for decades, continuing until his death in 2004.

Published books (approx. 2200 titles) appear in the Colby Libraries web catalog and represent the work of Porter, Henry Miller, the Beat Generation, other avant-garde writers and 20th century Maine authors.

Periodical publications (approx. 70 linear feet) include small press items, artists' books, mail art and small-circulation newsletters, newspapers and journals. A list of periodical titles is in progress.

Unpublished materials (approx. 70 linear feet) include correspondence between Porter and his **contemporaries, scrapbooks and other works "of, by or about" Porter, and manuscripts given to him. There is a small amount of material related to Porter's childhood in Houlton, Maine.**

OFFICIAL BERN PORTER SITE: <http://bernporter.com/>

The Bern Porter Estate presents everything Bern Porter related, with contributions from the various Bern Porter archives worldwide, and from friends and colleagues, which means you.

The intent of this website-in-progress is to post here everything about and by Bern Porter. I welcome your contributions, attributions, and ablutions.

--Mark Melnicove, Literary Executor, Bern Porter Estate

BOTH OF THESE WEB SITES WILL LEAD YOU TO MANY OTHER PORTER RESOURCES!