

Comments by Alexander Taylor:

The Wormwood Review was begun in 1960 by Morton Felix, James Scully and myself -- all of whom hoped to establish a quality, eclectic, poetry magazine which would encourage young writers as well as print quality poems by established authors. As I recall our conversations at that time, we were all somewhat disappointed in the quality of work in some of the established magazines. This dissatisfaction and a certain amount of egotism are necessary for the creation of any new magazine.

Wormwood was in the beginning printed by letterpress on an antique machine that we operated by spinning its flywheel by hand, its electrical system being defunct. We were located in a rather drafty, unheated barn on River Road in Storrs. In the winter there were many numb hands; occasionally the only way we could finish our work was to use martinis for antifreeze.

Our first two issues included poems by e. e. cummings, Donald Hall, James Wright, Jean Garrigue, R. W. Stallman, and Hollis Summers, among others. Our circulation was concentrated among friends and acquaintances. The original group of editors parted company, when two of them were released from the bondage of graduate school -- their new jobs carried them into other communities and other responsibilities. This co-incided with the release of the second issue, and an \$80 debt (contributors were paid modestly). There was considerable doubt about whether a third issue would be printed.

Poems:

Like It Was

Whistling up the path
past the forsythia
eager for the day,

up into the meadows
for a crack at ploughing

or for a few hours
roughing your fingers on stone
as the wall took shape,

before the ships set sail
from the harbor,

before the town was sacked,
and you came home in garlands,