

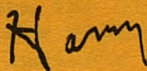
Memorial, but there wasn't enough space left and it was too late to redesign the book....

16 dec 67

... It would be so very appropriate that the poem come out in Wormwood, as CP so often appeared there and was exceptionally fond of Wormwood.... Your readers are well acquainted with him. And to know that G E R A N I U M would thus be permanently preserved in all major libraries in the English speaking countries is a most satisfying thought....

Regarding an introduction to the poem. If it is possible to contact Tom Lipps, he might have something valuable to contribute.... He was perhaps the only person Chris read the poem aloud to and the person he spoke to the most about the poem and its sources. Tom gave me a few brief indications. It seems Christopher wrote the entire poem at one sitting, probably through one long night of inspiration. He read it to Tom early the next morning. The beginning is autobiographical, every detail referring to the exact events and impressions of a certain moment and place. The opening lines invoke a folk (and blues?) singer Buffy Sainte-Marie (unknown to me). The police "bash" in the head of a drunken war veteran in front of a greyhound bus station. This brutal act is witnessed by the 14 year old CP who is in transit (returning home?). This must have happened in 1944.... He discussed many other details with Tom, explaining personal allusions and movements of thought and image deriving from particular incidents in his life. But -- how to find Tom Lipps?! I will try through Anne Hedley and David Allen -- except for these two contacts, I've no idea where to look....

All the best!



Harry Bell

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