

ABBEY OF GETHSEMANI TRAPPIST KENTUCKY 40073

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Jan 22, 1968

Dear Jonathan:

I'm really sorry to be so bad about letters. Worse than ever this month because laid up a week with flu.

First thanks for your own poems. Your two lapidaries are in the first number which has gone to press. The typing is being done here by one of the other hermits, who has a decent typewriter for the purpose -- I much appreciate the offer of the job on the electric typewriter in Lexington but I am afraid the business of shipping stuff back and forth might complicate matters too much. I am already full in the editorial quandary of lost letters, mss, etc. This place is in a horrible mess.

Don't let me divert anything from Gnomon, though the poems by John Jones are the sort of thing I was thinking of. Do you have something of his? Even if it has been published elsewhere in some small out of the way corner, that's ok if it is something I'd like to use and he'd let it be used.

First issue has some very nice things: Lorine Niedecker, Jonathan Williams and some very fine Zen texts. I am happy with the way it has been going so far and hope to get copies to you soon: one more thing I do need though: Material for the notes on contributors about you. What you have published, about Gnomon, what you do now, and "thoughts" too (that kind of notes on contributors very chatty.)

Joachim of Fiore: interests me but I don't know nearly enough about him to write anything. We have material here, but it is hard to read in all respects and I have too much other stuff I'm getting nowhere with.

I don't think I'd better attempt any essays now (besides what I already have to do). I'll type up some of the poetry I spoke of one of these days and send some along.

If you can think of any good poets who would send some stuff for MONKS POND please do not hesitate to tell me or contact them direct. I only plan to run four or five issues.

Send more of your own work and if you have some interesting translations lying around...

My very best.

Tom.