

This first issue of Write On has the purpose of illustrating that we would like to have our own magazine although the resources to maintain one have not yet been built up. It is up to you, our readers and writers to supply material and to give feedback on what you would like to see appear on these pages. Recurring subjects will be *What other groups are doing* and the *Presentation of Poets*. We would very much like to present you and your poetry here. Please let us know more about what you are working on and we will contact you for an interview. You may also send us complete manuscripts of your views on current topics of interest to fellow poets and writers.

Write on!

Poetry is increasingly becoming a universal language



It is doubtful if poetry has ever been more popular than now. Poetry reading and writing is on an upsurge in recent years with close to 300000 poetry pages on the Internet and poetry being

the 8th most popular search subject on search engines.

It is easy to believe that poetry belongs to the past, and to get the idea that anyone writing poetry is likely to be an unrealistic airy fairy hippie like individual with little notion about what is important in the world. This, of course, couldn't be more wrong. Poetry is actually one of the fastest growing literary activities on earth. True that we often think of people who are long since gone, when we hear the word poet. There were some great poets in the Dead Poets Society and they still deserve to be read, but there are some great poets around today as well. Modern poets from all walks of life have picked up the heritage and are managing it well.

Despite any jargon people may have that poetry is detached from world events, it is often in modern poetry one will discover the true facts about worldly situations and where one gets an opportunity to confront ones own feelings about things that matter. When it comes to expressing something in words, there can be no more concentrated and exact way to communicate than poetry. Every word counts, every line and group of lines, the rythm and the imagery created. A photograph of something, forinstance a picture from a war, showing death and people in terror, leaves little room for the imagination of the viewer. Most often it shows reality as it is. The horrible things on the photo is happening to someone else. It is like reading headlines in a newspaper about traffic accidents. You are not compelled to be involved. A poem about the same events creates an imagery which lets you participate, sometimes forces you to participate and that is a different story altogether.

The world of today is overly concentrated on material things. We have created wonderful gadgets for the purpose of communication but have too little to communicate about. Perhaps that is why there is such a resurgence of poetry. At this moment there are almost 300 000 web pages a

poetry on the Internet. Poetry currently ranks as the eight most popular search subject on Lycos. The poetry sites are receiving many millions of hits each month. While yesterdays poetry might have been a pastime for the intellectual and the privileged, todays poetry is for everyone. It will take tremendous talent to write poetry as immortal as the poems by Shakespeare, but almost anyone who is sincere, can write a poem that will communicate to other fellow beings and which will help them get an external view on their own situation. Poetry has that power and you the poets are the ones that continue to unleash it.

Poetry on Mountaintops, or at Least Hilltops



A group called *Dialogue Through Poetry* is coordinating worldwide readings of poetry on mountaintops, called *Poetry on the Peaks*. There have been or will be readings on the seven summits — the

highest peak on each continent. Readings will be done on Denali (a k a Mount McKinley) and Rainier and other massive mountains. But there will also be events on lesser heights.

A clipping from the New York Times of March 2002 is available at:

http://dialoguepoetry.org/mountain_nytimes_article.htm