

2016-17 THEMES FOR VOLUME 37
(DEADLINES & GUIDELINES)

Waterways

Poetry in the Mainstream

37 years of publication 1979 — 2016

Themes are excerpts from poems by

Kit and Arthur Winfield Knight

#2 – deadline July 15, 2016

I remembered
the way you sat
on the edge of the bed
reading to me
after my first operation,
remembering your saying
“We fit together so nicely,”
after we’d made love
the first night;
I didn’t know if I’d ever
see you again, and now
I still didn’t know.

Arthur from FINAL MOMENTS
Waterways v7#1 January, 1986

Arthur taught English at California University of Pennsylvania, where he met Kit. They were married in 1976.

#4 – deadline October 15, 2016

One book said the James boys
turned to robbing banks
because they were former guerrillas
and when the Civil War ended
they were bored. More likely,
there was still so much upheaval,
lawlessness, stealing, killing
and violence going on that
no one could settle down. And
they were bored. Now,
over one hundred years later,
the bank has been renamed
The Jesse James Bank Museum.

Kit from SIXTY ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS
Waterways v10#9 October, 1989

Arthur Winfield Knight grew up in Petaluma, California, and received an M.A. in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University.

#1 – deadline June 15, 2016

My mother told me
they were my first shoes,
and I examine them,
wondering why
I’ve kept them
since they provide
no clue as to who I was,
bring back no memories
and, certainly,
serve no function,
I realize
baby shoes are stupid,
but I put them back
on the shelf anyway.

Arthur from BABY SHOES
Waterways v5#4 April, 1984

#3 – deadline September 15, 2016

I net sixty dollars
and a nickel-plated watch
robbing two trains,
and my career lasted
109 days; I know
that don’t make me Jesse James.

Arthur from AL JENNINGS
Waterways v9#10 November, 1988

Kit and Arthur’s press

*— The Unspeakable Visions of the Individual —
published work by and about the Beats.*

Together they edited THE BEAT VISION (1983).

#5 – deadline November 15, 2016

I think about phoning my father
to wish him a happy birthday,
but he’s often cranky,
belligerent,
when I talk to him
long distance
since his retirement.

Arthur from THE AGENDA
Waterways v10#9 October, 1989

A MARRIAGE OF POETS, a collection of Kit and Arthur’s poetry was published in 1984.

Sample issues of
Waterways: Poetry in the Mainstream
may be viewed online at
www.tenpennyplayers.org/mags.html

#6 – deadline December 15, 2016

Ginny was four
when the angel lifted
her little sister out
of the crib & held her
aloft & steady
while the burglar
lifted the vacation money
from the rented cabin
by the lake. The parents
were playing cards
with other adults
in another room.

Kit from GINNY'S ANGEL
Waterways v14#5 May, 1993

*Arthur's play KING OF THE BEATNIKS (1986) is based on
the lives of Kerouac, Cassady, and Corso.*

#7 – deadline January 15, 2017

Paulita's mother asks my guard
if he'll unlock the irons
so Paulita and I can go
into the bedroom
for an "affectionate farewell,"
but he tells her,
"I ain't Santa Claus,"
and laughs when I stumble
toward Paulita,
my chains clanking.

Arthur from BILLY THE KID
Waterways v14#5 May, 1993

*Kit served as
poet, columnist,
and film critic for
The Russian
River Times
(1988-92).*

#8 – deadline February 15, 2017

Paul dramatically ripped
his shirt apart
and handed it to me. I
was speechless. I know,
writers are always supposed
to know what to say. But
no one had ever given me
- - literally - -
the shirt off his back.

Kit from PAUL'S SHIRT
Waterway v20#3 March, 1999

*Kit's book, WOMEN OF WANTED MEN,
was published in 1994.*

#9 – deadline March 15, 2017

... Anna could even calm
her husband's rages
when he'd slam his fist
on the table and roar,
"I'll do the thinking
around here!" Then Anna
would just barely get
a crushed-petal look
and say—privately, softly—
"He has a bum head."

Kit from PRIVATE GRIEF
Waterways v21#5 May, 2000

#10 – deadline April 15, 2017

Our greyhound awakens us,
yelping, at 3 a.m. Kit says,
"She's having a bad dream."
I know. Nikkie lived in a crate,
on concrete, for five years
when she wasn't running.
She would have been killed
when her running days were over,
but she came to us, shaking,
covered with dandruff.
It took her months
to learn not to be afraid.

Arthur from THE DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL
Waterways v27#4 September, 2006

*Arthur Winfield Knight (1937-2012) passed
away on September 7 at home in Nevada.*

#11 – Deadline May 15, 2017

There's a certain kind of beauty
only the last rose can possess.

Arthur from THE LAST ROSE OF SUMMER
Waterways v7#10 November, 1986

Coming in September, 2016

Ten Penny Players will publish Kit's chapbook, THE SOUND OF SADNESS (MY YEAR OF GRIEF).