

**A Selectively Exhaustive Chronology of the Life & Works of
Robert Lax (1915-2000)**

Compiled by Paul J. Spaeth
[revised 2/06]

- 1915 (Nov.30) Lax is born in Olean, New York.
- 1934 Begins studies at Columbia University in NYC.
- 1938 Receives bachelor's degree from Columbia University.
(Summer) Brings Thomas Merton to stay at a cottage in the hills above Olean.
- 1939 (Summer) Brings Merton and Ed Rice to stay at the cottage, and introduces Merton to the campus of St. Bonaventure College.
- 1940 (Summer) Brings Merton, Rice, Ad Reinhardt, Robert Gibney, & other Columbia friends to stay at the cottage.
[Merton teaches English at St. Bonaventure College until Dec. 1941]
- 1941 Works on editorial staff of *The New Yorker* and at Friendship House in NYC.
[Merton enters the Trappist monastery at Gethsemani, KY in Dec.]
- 1943 Teaches English at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
(Dec.19) Baptized into the Roman Catholic Church in NYC.
- 1944 Receives fellowship to study philosophy at UNC at Chapel Hill; begins a dissertation on Thomas Aquinas.
- 1945 Works at *Time*, and later *Parade* in NYC.
- 1946 Works as a writer at Goldwyn Studios in Hollywood, CA until 1948.
- 1948 (Oct.-June 1949) Teaches English at Connecticut College for Women.
- 1949 Travels through Western Canada with the Cristiani Family Circus.
Visits Robert Gibney & Nancy Flagg in the Virgin Islands, along with Ad Reinhardt.
- 1950 (Spring) Staying in Olean, writes finalized version of *Circus of the Sun* in the Library of St. Bonaventure College.
(Sept.) Begins living in France, at Eau Vive, a Dominican House, in Paris while working for *New Story*, a short-lived literary magazine, and at Marseilles.

- (Dec.) Back in NYC for a short visit.
- 1951 (Jan.) Back in France, mainly in Marseilles.
 (Summer) Spends a month in Rome, and a month with the Alfred Court Zoo Circus traveling across the Italian peninsula to Pescara.
- "Circus of the Sun. Excerpt from a Novel in Progress"* in *New Story* 4 (June 1951) 34-36. [First published appearance of material that would become *Circus of the Sun*]
- 1953 Helps to found *Jubilee: A Magazine of the Church & Her People* in NYC, for which he acts as "roving editor" until 1967.
- 1955 Meets graphic artist Emil Antonucci in NYC, who begins producing small press editions & films based on Lax's work.
- Tree*. New York: The Hand Press.
- 1956 *The Juggler*. New York: The Hand Press.
 [PAX. New York, 1956-1985 A poetry broadside founded & edited by Lax]
PAX 1: [Three Poems] / Mark van Doren, Thomas Merton, Lax.
PAX 2: [Three Poems] / E.E. Cummings, Claire McAllister, Richard Gilman.
- 1957 *PAX 3: [Two Poems]* / Mark van Doren, Lax.
PAX 4: Five Poems / Thomas Merton.
PAX 5: The Anxious Man / William Maxwell.
- 1958 *"The Circus"* in *New World Writing* 13 (1958) 92-100.
 [2nd published appearance of material that would become *Circus of the Sun*]
Oedipus. New York: The Hand Press.
PAX 6: Four Poems / Soichi Furuta.
PAX 7: Two Poems and a Translation / Thomas Merton.
PAX 8: 27th & 4th / Robert Lax.
- 1959 *The Circus of the Sun*. New York: Journeyman Press.
PAX 9: Mystery / Claire McAllister.
PAX 10: Hymn / Jack Kerouac.
- 1960 *PAX 11: Four Poems* / Cesar Vallejo.
PAX 12: [Four Poems] / Ned O'Gorman.
PAX 13: Documents of Modern Art / Ad Reinhardt & others.
- Antonucci film: 27th & 4th (22 min.)
- 1961 *PAX 14: Two Fables* / Robert Lax.
PAX 15: The Sea, East Hampton / Ned O'Gorman.

PAX 16: Original Child Bomb/ Thomas Merton.
A Problem in Design, A Fable for the New Year. New York: The Hand Press.

- 1962 As part of a vacation returns to France, and visits Greece for the first time.
(May 27) Television broadcast reading on "Directions '62: A Catholic Perspective" (ABC) sponsored by the National Council of Catholic Men.
Program includes Lax and Kathleen Raine, John Fandel, Leonie Adams & Ned O'Gorman.

New Poems. New York: Journeyman Press.
PAX 17: *Autobiography* / Robert Kaye.
PAX 18: "A square canvas..." / Ad Reinhardt. Photo by Lax.

Antonucci films: *Oedipus* (3 min.), *Some Fables* (9 min.)

- 1964 (Spring) Begins living on Greek Island of Kalymnos.

"*The Port Was Longing*" in *Poor Old Tired Horse* 10.

- 1965 (Nov. 18) Records poetry for Library of Congress in Athens, Greece.

Poetry reading entitled "One Stone" produced for Radio Brussels by Walter Van Dyke & D. R. Hazelton.

"*Sea & Sky*" in *The Lugano Review* 1:3-4.
"*The stone, the sea ...*" in *Poor Old Tired Horse* 17.

- 1966 "*Black & White*" in *The Lugano Review* 1:5-6.
How Does the Sun's Ray Seek the Flower? New York: Journeyman Press.
Sea Poem. Dunysyre, Scotland: Wild Hawthorn Press.
Thought. New York: Journeyman Press.
3 or 4 Poems About the Sea. New York: Journeyman Press.

- 1967 (Jan.) Abstract verse play entitled "Drama" produced for B.B.C. (Poetry Now) by George MacBeth.
(April-May) Poet-in-Residence at General Beadle State College (South Dakota, now Dakota State University).
Records poetry for the Lamont Poetry Room at Harvard University.

Antonucci film: *Thought* (3 min.)

- 1968 (Oct.) David Kilburn & Julian Mitchell present a reading of Lax poems produced for B.B.C. by George MacBeth.

- "Abstract Poem"* in *Green Island* (1968)
- Robert Lax Special Issue of Voyages* 2:1-2 (Winter/Spring 1968)
- 1969 *The Angel and the Old Lady*. New York: Journeyman Press.
"Shower Girl Song" in *Green Island* (1969).
Three Poems. New York: Journeyman Press.
- Antonucci films: *New Film* (20 min.), *Short Films* (20 min.)
- 1970 *Fables*. New York: Journeyman Press.
Homage to Wittgenstein. Kalymnos.
Tree [2nd edition]. New York: Journeyman Press.
"You will dissolve ..." in *Green Island* (1970).
- 1971 *Able Charlie Baker Dance*. East Markham: Tarasque Press.
Another Red Red Blue Poem. New York: Journeyman Press. [Broadside]
Black & White. New York: Journeyman Press.
An Evening at Webster Hall. New York: Journeyman Press.
4 Boats, 3 People. East Markham: Tarasque Press [Postcard]
A Guide for the Perplexed. New York: Journeyman Press.
A Moment. New York: Journeyman Press.
Mostly Blue. New York: Journeyman Press.
Red Circle – Blue Square. New York: Journeyman Press.
- Article on Lax by R. C. Kenedy in *Art International* 15:1 (1971)
Antonucci films: *Red & Blue* (25 min.), *Shorts* (18 min.)
- 1973 *Wasser / Water / L'Eau*. Zurich: Pendo Verlag.
- 1974 (Feb.-April) Exhibition of Wild Hawthorn & Journeyman presses at The Victoria
& Albert Museum (London).
(Summer) Artist-in-Residence, with Antonucci, at Artpark (Lewiston, NY).
- Circus Black – Circus White*. New York: Journeyman Press.
"Does the grass fear the dark ..." New York: Journeyman Press.
More Blacks & Whites. New York: Journeyman Press.
Pictures of Reality. New York: Journeyman Press.
Spring Song. Exeter, Devon, Eng.: Kontexts Publications.
Star Dialogue. New York: Journeyman Press.
13 Poems. New York: Journeyman Press.
"Try to see the air ..." New York: Journeyman Press.
- 1975 (Summer) Artist-in-Residence, with Antonucci, at Artpark (Lewiston, NY).

"Bird against the cloud ..." in *Journeyman 1* (1975)
Black Earth – Blue Sky. New York: Journeyman Press.
"Dr. Shakesprop" in *Journeyman 5* (1975)
"Game on the beach ..." in *Journeyman 9* (1975)
"G'bye Flo, I tell her ..." *New York: Journeyman Press. [Broadside]*
"I like get f'd ..." *New York: Journeyman Press. [Broadside]*
"Light dark, light dark ..." *New York: Journeyman Press. [Broadside]*
"My dog has fleas ..." *New York: Journeyman Press. [Broadside]*
"Oedipus" in *Journeyman 3* (1975) [First published in 1958]
Poèmes de Collines / tr. Catherine Mauger. Journeyman Press.
"Red Blue" in *Journeyman 12* (1975)
"Rosebud Is" in *Green Island* (1975).

Article on Lax by David Miller in *Lugano Review 2* (1975)

- 1976 (Summer) Artist-in-Residence, with Antonucci, at Artpark (Lewiston, NY).
(Aug.19) Poetry reading for WBAI radio, NYC.

Color Poems. New York: Journeyman Press.
Color Poems. Scotland: Wild Hawthorn Press.
Red Blue. New York: Journeyman Press.

- 1978 (May26) Poetry reading for WBAI radio, NYC.

A Catch of Anti-Letters / Lax & Thomas Merton. Kansas City: Sheed Andrews & McNeel. [Reprinted 1994]
Selections. Hove: X-Press & Joe DiMaggio Press.
A Suite for Jiri Valoch. Davie, Florida: Falkynor Books.

- 1979 (May14-18) Exhibition of Journeyman publications and Antonucci films at Zona Gallery (Florence, Italy) organized by Maurizio Nannucci.

Color. Florence, Italy: Exempla.

- 1980 (Sept.25-26) Takes part in "A Maritain-Merton Symposium" (Louisville, KY)

[*Mythoi*] / translation of *Fables* by Moschos Lagouvardos. Thessalonica.

- 1981 *Circus/Zirkus/Cirque/Circo*. Zurich: Pendo Verlag.
10 Poems / edited by John Landry. Fall River, Massachusetts: Patmos Publication.

- 1982 (May14) Takes part in the 5th Bielefelder Colloquium Neue Poesie [in Athens]
(Oct.23) Takes part in a festival entitled "fone, la voce e la traccia" (Florence) along with Brion Gysin, Bernard Heidsieck, Maurizio Nannucci, Emmet Williams.

- 1983 *At the Top of the Night*. Furthermore Press.
Clouds. Furthermore Press.
 [Ennea Poimata] / translation of *Nine Poems* by Moschos Lagouvardos.
Episodes = Episoden / edited by Robert Butman. Zurich: Pendo Verlag.
Fables = Fabeln. Zurich: Pendo Verlag.
In & Out of Ourdah. Furthermore Press.
 "Nine Poems" in *The Blue Boat* 1.
Said's. Furthermore Press.
Shepherd's Calendar. Furthermore Press.
Tiger. Furthermore Press.
The Way. Furthermore Press.
Whole. Furthermore Press.
- 1984 (May4) Takes part in the 7th Bielefelder Colloquium Neue Poesie.
- Act in This Moment*. Furthermore Press.
Arc. Furthermore Press.
As Long As. Furthermore Press.
Astrophysical Masterpieces. Furthermore Press.
Cloning for Yellow. Zurich: Seedorn Verlag.
Cloud Over the Hill. Furthermore Press.
Fat Ladies. Furthermore Press. [Drawings]
From the Top of the Ferris Wheel. Furthermore Press.
In His Dreams. Furthermore Press.
- Just Midnight*. Furthermore Press.
 "Light" in *Aggie Weston's* 21 (1984)
The Love That Comes. Furthermore Press.
 "The port was longing ..." in *Green Island* (1984).
Spider. Furthermore Press.
21 Pages = 21 Seiten. Zurich: Pendo Verlag.
Water Sunlight Writes. Furthermore Press.
- 1985 (April20-May26) Lax retrospective exhibition at Archiv Sohm, Neue
 Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, curated by Thomas Kellein.
 (April21) Reading Neue Staatsgalerie Stuttgart.
 (June21) Radio broadcast "Robert Lax: Ein Eremit in Greichenland" by Sigrid
 Hauf for Westdeutscher Rundfunk.
 (Oct.8-Nov.3) Lax material included in exhibition entitled "Bild/Sprache" at
 Galerie im Taxispalais (Innsbruck, Austria).
- Above the Rock*. Furthermore Press.
Dark Earth, Bright Sky. Furthermore Press.
Ghost. Furthermore Press.
I Can't See You. Furthermore Press.
The Nights, the Days. Furthermore Press.

Other Notes. Furthermore Press.
Some Short Notes of Robert Lax. Furthermore Press.

“*Craft Interview with Robert Lax*” by William Packard in *New York Quarterly* 30.

- 1986 (May2) Takes part in the 9th Bielefelder Colloquium Neue Poesie.
Journal A = Tagebuch A. Zurich: Pendo Verlag.
New Poems 1962-1985 / edited by Heinz Gappmayr. London: Coracle Press & Aachen: Ottenhausen Verlag.
- 1987 Start of Lax Archive at St. Bonaventure University (St. Bonaventure, NY).
(Oct.1-31) Lax material included in exhibition entitled “Abstract Poetry” at Nigel Greenwood Books (London).
(Nov.10) Reading at Theater an der Winkewiese (Zurich) with jazz piano by Tessa Weigner.

Spark & Flame. Frankfurt: Kunstverein.
33 Poems / edited by Thomas Kellein. Stuttgart & London: Hansjorg Mayer.

- 1988 Lax material included in exhibition entitled “Visual Poetics” at The Museum of Contemporary Art (Brisbane, Australia) curated by Nicholas Zurbrugg.

Journal B = Tagebuch B. Zurich: Pendo Verlag.
33 Poems / edited by Thomas Kellein. New York: New Directions.

- 1989 (March26) Reading at Kunsthalle Basel.

The Light / The Shade / illustrated by Lax. Zurich: Pendo Verlag.

- 1990 (Sept.24-Oct.12) Visiting Professor at St. Bonaventure University; awarded honorary doctor of letters degree.
(Dec.1-Jan.27) “Robert Lax and Concrete Poetry” exhibition at the Burchfield Art Center (Buffalo, NY) & at the Poetry/Rare Book Room at SUNY at Buffalo.
Lindenmeyer for Bayerischer Rundfunk.
(Nov.30) Radio play “erwartet bobo sambo ein gerauch? Erwartet er eine stimme?” for and with Lax by Hatmut Geerken for Bayerischer Rundfunk.
(Nov.30) Radio broadcast “Is Was – Was Is” by Sigrid Hauff for Bayerischer Rundfunk.

Journal C = Tagebuch C / edited by David Miller. Zurich: Pendo Verlag.
Red, Blue, Yellow. Piesport: Edition Hot.
To the Sea = à l'amère: poème et variation / Lax & Frédérick Leboyer. France: Livre á Livre.

- 1991 Prepares five poem prints on fabric with Francesco Conz (Verona).

- (Sept.) Reading at the Sound Poetry Section of the Festival de la Batie (Geneva).
 (Sept.27) Reading of Circus of the Sun at the Kantonsschule Kuesnacht (SZ).
Psalm / illustrated by Andrew Bick. Exeter, England: Stride Publications.
Psalm & Homage to Wittgenstein. Zurich: Pendo Verlag.
The Rooster Poems / edited by Judith Emery, illustrated by Lax. Exeter, England:
 Stride Publications.
 “white dark, black dark ...” / illustrated by Andrew Blick, essay by David
 Miller. Edinburgh: Morning Star Publications. [Morning Star Folio 2/3]
- 1992 (Oct.13) Reading at Kunstmuseum Wintethur.

Mogador's Book = fur Mogador / edited by Paul J. Spaeth. Zurich: Pendo Verlag.
- 1993 (June29-Aug.15) Exhibition entitled “Robert Lax: Vizualni Texty” curated by Jiri
 Valoch in Brno, Czech Republic.

Journal D = Tagebuch D. Zurich: Pendo Verlag.
- 1994 (Nov.2) Reading at the Stadtbucherei Stuttgart.

 27th & 4th / illustrated by Steve Farnie, afterword by Paul J. Spaeth. Devon,
 England: Stride Publications.
Dialogues = Dialoge / illustrated by Lax. Zurich: Pendo Verlag.
- 1995 (June17) “Robert Lax: A Roundtable Discussion” held at the 4th General Meeting
 of the International Thomas Merton Society being held at St. Bonaventure University.
 (Oct.25) Reading at Kunsthalle Basel.
 (Oct.30) Reading at Zurcher Puppen Theater (Zurich).
 music by John Gilmore for Bayerischer Rundfunk.
 (Nov.24, Dec.1, Dec.8) Radio broadcast “Die innere Biografie des Robert Lax”
 pts.1-3 by Sigrid Hauff for Bayerischer Rundfunk.
 (Dec.8) Radio play “bob’s bomb” by Hartmut Geerken & Herbert Kapfer for
 Bayerischer Rundfunk.

Notes = Notizen. Zurich: Pendo Verlag.
Xiliamondi. Exeter: Trombone Press.

Middle of the Moment (motion picture) / Nicholas Humbert & Werner Penzel of
 CineNomad.
Journal E = Tagebuch E. Hollywood Journal / edited by Paul J. Spaeth. Zurich:
 Pendo Verlag.
Love Had a Compass / edited by James Uebbing. New York: Grove Press.

Hermits / Peter France. New York: St. Martin’s Press. [chapter on Lax]
- 1997 (May7-16) Exhibition of Lax/Conz fabric poem prints at Sommerville College Art

- Society (Oxford, Eng.).
 (Sept.4-Oct. 12) Exhibition of Lax/Conz fabric poem prints at Kunstverein
 Rosenheim (Germany) as part of exhibition entitled "Konkrete Poesie Konzept
 Kunst".
 (Sept. 8-9) Performance of Black/White Oratorio with John Beer and Vincent
 Barras at the Festival de la Batie (Geneva, SZ).
- Journal F = Tagebuch F. Kalymnos Journal* / edited by John Beer. Zurich: Pendo
 Verlag.
More Scales. Eschenau: Summer Press.
Sleeping Waking / edited by John Beer. Charleston, Illinois: Tel-Let.
A Thing That Is / edited by Paul J. Spaeth. Woodstock, NY: Overlook Press.
 [Poems written in Greece during the 1970's]
36 Poems / edited by John Beer. Westerly, Rhode Island: Ring Tarigh.
- 1998 *Dr. Glockenspiel's Invention* / illustrated Ray Malone. Exeter: Apparitions Press.
- 1999 (Aug.6-Sept.24) First showing of *Three Windows: homage a robert lax* at Haus
 der Kunst, Munich. A video installation produced 1993-1999 by Nicholas
 Humbert & Werner Penzel of CineNomad.
 [3 synchronized, looped films on a 45 min. cycle]
- Aug 30 / 98 + Sept 29 / 98*. Eschenau: Summer Press.
The Hill = Der Berg / edited by Paula Diaz. Zurich: Pendo Verlag.
Red Blue. Eschenau: Summer Press.
Sea & Sky / illustrated by Elisabeth Mase. Basel: HMB Siebdruck.
- The ABCs of Robert Lax* / edited by David Miller & Nicholas Zurbrugg. Devon,
 England: Stride Publications, 1999. [An anthology of critical writings on the
 work of Robert Lax reprinting important earlier pieces along with new
 materials, with some items by Lax]
Robert Lax Multimedia Box / edited by Harmut Geerken & Sigrid Hauff. Verlag
 Michael Farin, 1999. [Contains biography & bibliography of Lax's works, a catalog
 of an installation & video of a film by Nicholas Humbert & Werner Penzel on Lax,
 two cds of Lax reading from his own works and another of a
 radio play based on Lax's writings]
- 2000 (Sept.26) Lax dies in family home in Olean, NY and is buried in the cemetery of
 St. Bonaventure University.
- Circus Days & Nights* / edited by Paul J. Spaeth. Woodstock, NY: Overlook
 Press. [Contains *Circus of the Sun*, *Mogador's Book* & *Voyage to Pescara*]
Earth & Sky / edited by William Ciocco. San Francisco: Hawkhaven Press.
Moments = Hohe Punkte / edited by John Beer. Zurich: Pendo Verlag.
One Island / illustrated by James Brown. Oaxaca, Mexico: Carpe Diem Press.

- 2001 (May5) Posthumous Arts Award from St. Bonaventure University.
- Peacemaker's Handbook = Handbuch für Friedens Stifter* / edited Judith Emery & Michael Daugherty. Zurich: Pendo Verlag.
- When Prophecy Still Had a Voice: The Letters of Thomas Merton and Robert Lax* / edited Arthur W. Biddle. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky.
- A Religious Poetics in Contemporary American Poetry: Resituating Notions of God, the Other, the World and the Self in the Christian Faith* / Jeannine Nicole [Thyreen] Mizingou. Thesis (Ph.D.).-Duquesne University.
[large section on Lax]
- Speaking into Silence / Robert Garlitz, Nicholas Zurbrugg, Robert Lax, Rupert Loydell. Exeter: Stride Publications.*
- 2002 *Room Full of Voices* / edited by John Beer. San Francisco: Hawkhaven Press.
- The Way of the Dreamcatcher* / interviews with Lax by Steve Georgiou. Ottawa: Novalis.
- 2003 (Dec.9) "A Celebration of Robert Lax: Peacemaker" (City Lights Books, San Francisco) with John Beer, William Cirocco, Steve Georgiou. Readings & reminiscences,
including a performance of Room Full of Voices.
- 2004 (Sept.19-Jan.16) Exhibition entitled "Three Islands: Richard Stankiewicz, June Leaf, Robert Lax" at Museum Tinguely, Basel, SZ.
[large exhibition book issued for each artist]
- The Green Minnow* / illustrated by Louise Victor. San Francisco: Kater Murr's Press.
- Sea and Sky: Robert Lax and the Spiritual Dimensions of Minimalism* / Steve Theodore Georgiou. Thesis (Ph.D.).—Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA.
- 2005 *Tertium Quid* / edited by Sarah Katherine McCann. Exeter, Devon, Eng.: Stride Publications.

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