THREE MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATED WRITING PROGRAMS ARE BRIEFLY DISCUSSED. FOR ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN INTERESTED IN EMPLOYING WRITERS, A LIST IS PROVIDED OF WRITERS WITH PUBLICATIONS OR GENERAL REPUTATION OR WITH PERSONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAFF MEMBERS OF GRADUATE WRITING PROGRAMS. THE FIRST VOLUME OF "INTRO," AN ANNUAL ANTHOLOGY OF FICTION AND VERSE CONTAINING THE WORK OF WRITERS IN ABOUT 20 WRITING PROGRAMS, WILL BE PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER 1968. THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN "THE ADE BULLETIN," NUMBER 17, MAY 1968, PAGES 33-35. (BN)
Associated Writing Programs

by Verlin Cassill, Brown University

AWP is a cooperative organization drawing its membership from the writing programs attached to English Departments in several colleges and universities.

Its major objectives are:

1. To place writers more usefully and effectively in the mainstream of literary education. As we know, very few if any Art Departments any more attempt to teach art without including practicing painters and sculptors on their staffs. To teach literature as an art—rather than as a subject of knowledge—it may be essential to bring practicing poets and novelists more vigorously into teaching situations.

2. To encourage new publishing and reading activities within the swelling academic community. Perhaps more than ever the talents of young writers have difficulty in finding the publishing outlets to bring their work to the attention of the young readers who might be their natural audience.

3. To support and define the MFA as a terminal degree for those whose primary and long-term commitment to letters is a commitment to writing and its relevant disciplines. The MFA appears to be an increasingly popular degree. There remains considerable confusion about the standards to be maintained in granting it, as there is confusion about its worth in the academic marketplace.

During the past months we circularized a number of established and younger writers, inquiring about their interest in teaching and their availability to teach or lecture during the 1968-1969 academic year. The names which follow are of those writers who signified their readiness to teach.

The AWP is not now running a "placement service" in the conventional sense. It is our thought that in the case of writers, probably the best recommendation would come from their publications or general reputation. The second best recommendation—in the case of young writers preparing themselves in graduate writing programs—would be the personal recommendation of the staffs directing these programs.

The following lists are—very roughly—divided between those who have already a substantial list of publications to their credit and those whose talent and promise have elicited the confidence of their teachers. Department chairmen interested in employing any of these people are invited to correspond with them directly, rather than through the AWP.

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Robert Hardy Andrews
John Ashberry
Daphne Athas
Jonathan Baumbach
Millen Brand
Chandler Brossard
Alan Caruba
James Dickey
William Derry Eastlake
Seymour Epstein
Rocco Fumento
Richard Gehman
Curtis Harnack
Mark Harris

Fiction/Non-fiction. 139 South Beverly Drive, Suite 333
Beverly Hills, California
Poet. 178 East 95th Street, New York, N.Y. 10028
Fiction. Box 785 Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Novelist. Brooklyn College, Dept. of English, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Novelist. c/o Crown Publishers, Inc., 419 Park Avenue South
New York, N.Y. 10016
Novelist. 162 West 4th Street, New York, N.Y.
Non-fiction. 9 Brookside Road, Maplewood, N.J. 07040
Novelist. Eastlake Ranch, Cuba, New Mexico 87013
Novelist. 15 Bronxville Road, Bronxville, N.Y.
Novelist. 1404 Westfield Drive, Champagne, Illinois 61820
Fiction. English Dept., University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
Novelist. 205 West 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10019
Novelist. c/o Mrs. Ad Schulberg 300 East 57th Street, New York, N.Y.

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The initial moves to place writers as teachers are, in our view, being supplemented by the moves to stimulate new publishing outlets for young writers. The AWP contemplates organizing intercollegiate literary magazines, book distribution services, and generally publicizing, among their contemporaries, the activities of young writers.

In the past year we have planned and assembled, with the aid of Bantam Books, the first volume of an annual anthology of fiction and verse drawn from the work of about twenty functioning writing programs. Part of the editorial plan for this volume is to leave the selections and as much of the editing as possible to the directors of the programs. This permits them to wield their editorial judgment and allows a much higher payment than is usual to young authors contributing to such a volume.

The first volume of this anthology--called INTRO--will be published in September, 1968. The collection is a remarkably good one. It will serve to bring about sixty young writers to the attention of publishing circles at the beginning of their careers. It should also be of interest to departments in search of junior staff members.

But above all it is hoped that distribution of the volume will serve to bring the work of these writers to the attention of other students now on campus. Is it not possible to raise a new generation of writers and readers sharing a common consciousness of the spirit and literary modes of their own times...the new things happening among them? We would like to recommend this volume to teachers in search of truly contemporary expression for inclusion in their reading lists.

ADE calls your attention to the following Questionnaire on Junior College Pre-Programs. Those attending the NCTE-CCCC Regional Conference on English in the Two-Year College in the spring of 1968 have been asked to contribute information about programs.