

Colby



Colby College
Digital Commons @ Colby

Newsletters

Bern Porter Collection of Contemporary Letters

1-2000

Bern Porter Cosmographical: Volume 1 Number 1 (January, 2000)

Bern Porter

Sheila Holtz

Natasha Bernstein

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/porter_newsletters



Part of the [American Literature Commons](#), [Art Practice Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Porter, Bern; Holtz, Sheila; and Bernstein, Natasha, "Bern Porter Cosmographical: Volume 1 Number 1 (January, 2000)" (2000). *Newsletters*. 15.

https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/porter_newsletters/15

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Bern Porter Collection of Contemporary Letters at Digital Commons @ Colby. It has been accepted for inclusion in Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Colby.

Bern Porter Cosmographical

Volume 1, Number 1  January 2000

Good bye century Good bye to the past

CIAO

DAL PUNTO DI VISTA
DELLA SECONDA VOCE

LA
PAROLA
ORIGINALE
ITALIANA

IL
SIGNIFICATO
EQUIVALENTE
NELLA
LINGUA AMERICANA

CIAO
CIAO
CIAO

My father hates Art

I feel the world is mad

My feet hurt

(continued →)

Xip-Collage

12 of 12

12/1/99

i am here with this
paper i scratch with a pen
touch my tongue to find if the
scratch
is hot or cold
what i will do if it's hot or cold
i haven't gotten that far more later

12/2/99

a hat you know it's
the first
thing they put on a streaker
and he usually
freaks out
screams because
he's not naked anymore

12/3/99

it's not the division of the cell
not the lasting first kiss
but the last
///// i loved a man who studied the cell
i made love with a man who studied the stars when
love didn't enter but
burst free

12/4/99

my br
other
s and sisters in seattle
i salute
all
your
terrorist
activities
may you
bring
us
so
lu
ti
on

these riots i swear i feel it i feel it i feel these riots are the start the fresh start to take it back yes yes yes yes

11/27/99

last night at work...most disturbing...an old man went into the bathroom...he wasn't in there more than 2 minutes when a very normal (?) looking man came up started knocking but it was a strange steady knock knock knock knock knock knock he kept the pace i put my head around the corner and said "please don't do that, he'll be out soon, he just went in" the man stopped...looked at me...pinched his face into a grimace and screamed SHUT UP FAGGOT! he then pounded his fist on the door...i told him he had to leave the store...he said...i still can't believe it...real steady with steady eye contact "i'm going to put a bullet in your head faggot, i've got a gun faggot...I HATE FAGGOTS..." he went down the stairs screaming about FAGGOTS and DYKES and how we need to be eliminated...the police were very good when they came...i don't believe he'll be back...if he had been caught i would feel a little better...he is out there somewhere in the world right now...with his gun...with his scapegoats in mind...the police came by the store again today to take a more involved report.....what else can be said?...i know...i forgot...half an hour after that psycho left...a straight man (dressed like a squeaky clean yuppie complete with the small rodent-round glasses) came into the store...he was looking at lesbian porn...not unusual...but he at one point turned (i'm watching him on the video monitor upstairs) and stared at a young lesbian couple curled up together on a window seat reading a book together there aren't many places in this AWFUL world where lesbians and gay men can feel safe enough to do this where you tell me where they are why not Giovanni's Room for fuck's sake...the man continued to stare...i was on my way downstairs to ask him to take his sleazy yuppie ass out of the store...the one woman caught him staring and said something...instead of being embarrassed he said something back...then she yelled...then he called her a DYKE...that's when i told him i was calling the police...again...he got flustered said that he had done nothing wrong...but of course he had...he had harassed two completely innocent women trying the best they knew how to be safe in the world...i told him he had to pay...i told him he was a sleazebag and went to the phone...he scooted his ass out the door and down the street...that's two creeps too many loose on the street...i'm sick with the thought for the first time since working at the store that the front door is not any safer than any other door...that doom will not check itself outside

12/22/99

on the phone
with my mother
i
like to let her get her image
of me while we're talking, her defined
color perfect snapshot mind frame of her sonny
...then...

i say---

ME: Mom, I'm wearing a dress right now. (it's important to give her details) It's dark blue Mother, cotton, with an orange, yellow and light blue flower print.
MOM: (refocusing her image of me and a few seconds of silence pass) Hm. That's different.

12/23/99

after reading several pieces from *advancedELVIScourse* for an audience at a Philadelphia coffee house i am approached by the christian poet Helen

HELEN: (curled lip, mouth full of bitter) I heard your Elvis stories!
ME: Yeah?
HELEN: Yeah. I think it's cultish, this Elvis stuff.
ME: Hm. The word cult has gotten a bad name.
HELEN: YEAH! And for GOOD reason!
ME: Do you think so?
HELEN: *Do I think so!?* YES I think SO!
ME: Wasn't christianity a cult once?
HELEN: What!? Are YOU kidding!? The SON of GOD part of a *CULT!*?
ME: Sure, imagine, a small group of zealous believers in the first century A.D., lurking around, preaching to anyone who'll listen.
HELEN: Christianity is NOT and never WAS a *CULT!*
ME: I bet if you went back in time and asked anyone who didn't believe, I bet they'd think so.
HELEN: OH, you are---! OH! I am PRAYING for YOU CAConrad!
ME: Seriously though, don't you believe the only difference between a cult and a religion is the size of the congregation?
HELEN: I'm praying for YOU!
ME: Oh. Well, I guess that means the conversation is over then?
HELEN: I'm praying! I'm praying!

12/9/99(technical difficulties in the trailer park wig shop time machine)

JANET: If you could go back in time and have sex with Benjamin Franklin would you?

ME: YEAH! ABSOLUTELY!

JANET: I was just thinking if I could go back in time and have sex with Sappho that I wouldn't.

ME: No? Mmm, well I wouldn't mind a little prehistoric celebrity fuck!

12/10/99

poem in *PRAIRIE SCHOONER*

Eleanor Wilner wrote about a trip
she took while i was housesitting
for her i liked being in the unwritten
lines in *PRAIRIE SCHOONER*
liked my
quiet gravity
on our
cruise
ship Earth

12/11/99

ME: HEY! Did you turn my friends into pigs!?

CIRCE: Honey, they were already pigs, I'm trying to turn them into men.

ME: Oh. Okay, gee, thanks.

12/12/99

NAIL: Elvis is cool and all man, but, do you like the Beatles?

ME: 3 out of 4 of them.

12/13/99

your leading man Ellipsis
a light
at the end
of the street in
a movie
nothing really your own
or really own your nothing

12/14/99

ONE: (extracting a very expensive pen from pocket) Give me your name and address.

TWO: (wiping hands on apron) Oh. Ah, but why?

ONE: Because, when he dies in a month or so I want to send you a proper tip.

12/15/99

many a man once

jerked off into his

ink pot (just a guess)

mixture O magic

really though, all seriousness aside

i'm arranging chapter 3 of *advanced ELVIS course*

completely

naked, papers on floor

mixing, matching, i

talk to myself about it

and i love

that no one will know a naked man arranged chapter 3, they'll have no idea,
reading on the sofa, waiting for the pizza, and all along those pages were put together by a NUDE one AH!

12/28/99

for some
sincerity
it seems
is most important
when they're
insincere

12/29/99

MARWAN: My friend tells me my animal totem is Buffalo. What is your's Craig?
ME: Crow.
MARWAN: Why Crow?
ME: For starters, they're difficult to kill. Buffalo on the other hand are an easy target.
MARWAN: Yeah. They're big. A lot of guys like to kill big animals.
ME: Because there's a lot of guys who can't hit small ones.

12/30/99

say
"tender" once
a day

see what you
do to the
world

12/31/99

B R E A K F A S T

no words have been spoken yet...audrey hepburn is about to...oh...now she's out of the cab...the henry mancini soundtrack is still playing...she's standing in front of tiffany's...here she goes...here she goes...on seeing it for the very first time in your life...you...might...think...to...yourself...audrey hepburn has a cup of coffee in one hand and a croissant in the other so how on earth is she going to take the lid off the coffee she's audrey hepburn after all...she's not going to hold a croissant by her teeth is she...no...and the grace...the grace is a note...of silent fiction...pretty as a ketchup lid on the lap of the holy mother...audrey hepburn places the croissant on top of the coffee lid...she turns...she's quick and she's deft...lovely...and the note my dear friends is grace

1/1/00 (Xip completion)

SCHOLAR of the MONTH

C.A. Conrad's latest book
the advanced ELVIS course

is forthcoming from Buck Downs Books

P.O. Box 50376

Washington DC 20091

He lives in Philadelphia where he has
learned to love the world.

HERMES DREAMT
this morning's puddles hold
the rain slept through
pass an engraver on his knees
in a graveyard
tapping the last
few numbers
of a man

Quotable Quotes[®] for the New Millennium

"Warning: Dates in Calendar
are closer than they appear."
Bumper Sticker

"Finish each day and be
done with it. You have
done what you could; some
blunders and absurdities
have crept in; forget them
as soon as you can.
Tomorrow is a new day;
you shall begin it serenely
and with too high a spirit to
be encumbered with your
old nonsense."
Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Learn from yesterday,
live for today, hope for
tomorrow."
Anonymous

"You are today where
your thoughts have
brought you; you will be
tomorrow where your
thoughts take you."
James Lane Allen

"If you are planning for a
year, sow rice; if you are
planning for a decade,
plant trees; if you are
planning for a lifetime,
educate people."
Chinese Proverb

"Write the bad things that
are done to you in the sand,
but write the good things
that happen to you on a
piece of marble."
Arabian Parable

click it.
click it.
click it.
click it.
click it.
click it.
click it.



IZEN
POB 891
Athens OH 45701 USA

*Our Lady of
Guadalupe,
Mother of
Life,*

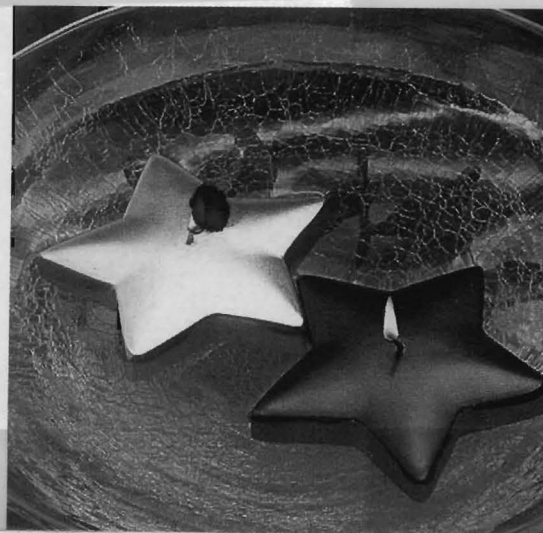
[wysiwyg://63/http://www.ourladyofguadalupe.org/](http://www.ourladyofguadalupe.org/)

Reader's Digest and the Pegasus logo are registered trademarks of the Reader's Digest Association, Inc.

MILLENNIUM COLORS

It's not too late to be up-to-date! Deanne Heuschel, one of the trend-spotters for American Greetings, predicts that purple is an "ascending" fashion color that will be especially big as we enter the new millennium. That being the case, use the color purple, set off by metallic silver, to set the tone for your millennium party. Carry out the theme with purple and silver party goods, helium-filled metallic balloons, purple and silver streamers, metallic candles or bows in your centerpiece or even a sprinkling of silver confetti on the tabletop. Make your own place mats with a purple background and silver stars. Heuschel reports that candles continue to be popular, and that floating star-shaped candles in a cut glass bowl filled with purple tinted water can add a magical glow to your dinner table. Happy New Century!

14 CRAFTS & NEEDLEWORK



PAGE 7

॥ ॐ नमः शिवाय ॥

As seed catalogs start to pile up on the bookcase beside my desk, visions of spring tempt my mind and inspire thoughts of gardening projects. But one glance out the window has put an abrupt end to those fantasies.

As the snow piles outside like I wished it had in December, I find myself longing for a January thaw, for further motivation to pore over those catalogs and madly order seeds.

While seed and plant catalogs help ease the transition from winter to spring, the one perennial sign of spring's inevitable arrival is the sun. Each clear morning I look out the front windows of my house and note the sunrise. Each day, each incremental movement of the sun toward its summertime position in my portion of sky is cause for a little celebration that spring planting will soon come.

The sun was used for measuring time long before clocks or calendars were created. People looked to the sun, moon and stars to formulate notions of an annual calendar. The sun's position in the sky and the length of shadows cast from objects sitting in the sun were valuable tools used to track time. Planting and religious rituals were done in keeping with the movement of the sun, the moon and, in turn, the seasons.

A reader wrote asking how to use the phases of the moon for planting and harvest. I know little about using the moon. I do look at May's calendar every year, and I avoid transplanting tender plants until after the full moon passes. Somewhere along the line, someone told me this tidbit of folklore (I'm quite sure there's no scientific basis for it), and I do keep it in mind, regardless of the occasional urge to discount it.

Others have advised me to cut back unruly saplings on the full moon in August. They say this is the only way to keep them from growing back. I find the use of the phases of the moon and sun intriguing and know that many of you have more interesting information to contribute. Do you know any facts or folk tales about using the sun, moon or stars in planting? I'd love to share them with readers. I'll also do some investigating myself and will incorporate readers' contributions in a column at the end of February.

DIANA GEORGE CHAPIN

Bangor Daily News

"On this first page, on this first day, my prayer for the new millenium: (I desire):

- Enlightenment for all sentient beings...
- Equal distribution of all wealth...
- Truth and justice, along with peace, as we all do see God in each other...

Make me humble in your service;
 Make me joyous in your service;
 Heal the earth of her scars;
 Make us whole and one before the time of dissolution comes,
 And the oceans merge into the Primal waters,
 And the airs merge into the Elemental Air,
 And the fire merge into the Universal Fire,
 Awake us all, Divine Mother! "

॥ ॐ नमः शिवाय ॥

{ Sheila Holtz, excerpt page 1 ~ Journal }
Volume 79 ~ January 1, 2000

MBBA is actively recruiting and say they welcome people from all walks of life as long as they can complete the initiation process.

Dowling said applicants must dress in shorts and a short-sleeved shirt and spend at least 15 minutes in the Jacksonville Cemetery on Memorial Day without swatting.

Mainers take timeout to support winged nemesis through Blackfly Breeders Association

"And no bug dope,"

BERN PORTER COSMOGRAPHICAL, mail address:
 Sheila Holtz, P.O. Box 44, EastOrland, ME 04431

Spring dreams on wintry days