

Dan Duffy
Mail Room
Viet Nam Generation, Inc.

Subscriber
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August 19, 1994

Dear Subscriber,

Here is Elliot Richman's *Walk On Trooper*, the second volume of poetry in our *White Noise* series. You should already have received David Connolly's *Lost in America* and our new "Viet Nam Generation 1994-1995" catalogue, the masterwork of our Business Manager, Steven Gomes.

The next mail from us should bring you issue 6:1-2 of *Viet Nam Generation*, the first of two double issues for 1994. There are five more volumes in the *White Noise* series for 1994 and 1995: *The Homesick Patrol*, poetry by David Vancil; *Throwing the Headlines*, poetry by Gerald McCarthy; *Symptoms of a Finer Age*, poetry by Joe Amato; *Stripping the Adult Century Bare*, poetry and performance texts by M.L. Liebler; and *Lessons Learned*, poetry by Dale Ritterbusch. In 1995 you'll also be getting the first of our *Widespread Panic* poetry and fiction series, David Willson's REMF prequel, *In the Army Now* and Renny Christopher's book of poems, *Viet Nam and California*. You can read about these books in our "Viet Nam Generation 1994-1995" catalogue, the comprehensive statement of our *oeuvre*. Do you have a copy?

In 1995 we will start bringing you scholarly anthologies again, including Bob Brigham's *Viet Nam and the West 1919-1975* and Michael Bibby's *The Viet Nam War and Postmodernity*. These will be our first focused collections of articles since our first series of books: Kali Tal's *The Future of the Past: Revisionism and Vietnam*; Susie Erenrich's *Kent and Jackson State: 1970-1990*; Grey and Doyle's *Australia R&R: Representations and Reinterpretations of Australia's War in Vietnam*; Harry Haines' *GI Resistance: Soldiers and Veterans Against the War*, Jackie Lawson's *Gender and the*

War: Race Issues and Viet Nam; and Kali Tal's *Southeast Asian-American Communities*.

If you don't know these books, consult our new "Viet Nam Generation 1994-1995" catalogue, the flagship of our new marketing effort. If you don't have a catalogue, let Steve know.

Now that we have shipped you Connolly and Richman's books and our elegant catalogue, and our first *Viet Nam Generation* issue of 1994 is at the printer, our immediate project is our second annual "Sixties Generations" conference, to be held at Western Connecticut State University, on November 4-6 of this year. Almost 80 researchers, teachers, writers and musicians will present their work in these three days. You should receive a copy of the schedule in the mail in September. We invite you to attend.

There has never been a conference of this scope in our field of study. In a letter asking for some discretionary funding for the conference from the Connecticut Humanities Council, I listed "5 literature panels of 18 scholars, 7 culture panels of 22 scholars, 9 history panels of 24 scholars, 2 arts panels of 5 scholars and 11 readers and performers, and 3 teacher's workshops of 8 scholars." Among those attending may be a number of the Vietnamese scholars already in the U.S. on projects sponsored by the Ford Foundation. I am working with our WCSU host, Ed Hagan of the English Department, and the university's public relations officer, to get word of the events out to schools and the local community as well as to area colleges. Our goal in scheduling events will be to make possible real discussion of work presented at panels, in an atmosphere that encourages the informal meeting and greeting and caucusing that leads to so many of the tangible results of a conference of any kind.

One hard result we hope to see from "Sixties Generations" is the increased sale of Viet Nam Generation, Inc. books as classroom texts. You, our subscriber, are the first audience for every one of our books. But we want to put every book we publish into the hands of students. Many, many students. See our useful new catalogue "Viet Nam Generation 1994-1995" for information on discounts on large orders.

The number, depth, and variety of presentations at "Sixties Generations" and even the hosting of the conference by Western Connecticut State University are results of Kali Tal's activity on the Internet, and especially of The Sixties Project she helped found. For more on this project, consult your informative "Viet Nam Generation 1994-1995" catalogue.

After the "Sixties Generations" conference I will return to Viet Nam and stop hectoring you about using the catalogue. I will stay in Ha Noi for six months,

continuing to develop relations with literary and publishing people there. A major foundation has offered us a grant to publish Viet Nam Generation, Inc. material in Viet Nam, and to bring material from Viet Nam to publish here. The same grant also would support the attendance of scholars from Viet Nam at our next "Sixties Generations" conference.

Some of you may not know that I have been working for three years to bring out work by and about Vietnamese people, and the other peoples of mainland Southeast Asia. In a couple of months you will receive a promotional copy of my *Viet Nam Forum* 14, published by the Yale University Council on Southeast Asia Studies. The purpose of this mailing will be to inform you of the availability of this new teaching resource, which focuses on literature in the new Viet Nam, and to introduce to you the entire *Viet Nam Forum/Lac Viet* series from the Yale Council on Southeast Asia Studies. This series, totaling 30 volumes on the literature and history of Viet Nam, is an astonishing legacy of translation and scholarship collected and published over eight years by the genius Huynh Sanh Thong. He invited me to take over the series two years ago.

I have produced one *Lac Viet* book - Bruce Lockhart's *The End of the Vietnamese Monarchy* - and the *Viet Nam Forum* issue you will receive. I have been working in Ha Noi with Viet Nam Generation, Inc. author Lady Borton, with the support of the Ford Foundation, on another *Lac Viet* book, an index to and anthology from the former Foreign Languages Publishing House's *Vietnamese Studies*. That *Lac Viet* book will also include an index and anthology to *Viet Nam Forum*, making a central resource for researchers, teachers and students on English language scholarship on Viet Nam. Eventually I will get all the Yale books onto one cheap CD-ROM. Until then, I am doing my best to keep them all available, using funds from a couple of grants and from sales revenues to reprint depleted titles.

Despite its prestigious institutional backing, *Viet Nam Forum/Lac Viet* does not now offer me the staff or budget necessary to publish a journal on a regular basis. I will continue my work to keep Huynh Sanh Thong's legacy available through the Yale University Council on Southeast Asia Studies, and carry out special projects there. In the next few years, many of my future acquisitions by and about Vietnamese people will come to you directly from Viet Nam Generation, Inc., which can produce and distribute my books and pay me a salary. Starting in 1995, you will begin receiving books from my *Mekong Review* series, devoted to work by and about the peoples of mainland Southeast Asia.

In the pipeline there is a comic book by Cambodian-American teenagers about life in the US, edited by leading comics author Joyce Brabner and co-produced with

Writers and Readers, Inc., the publishers of *Lenin for Beginners*. There is the bilingual edition of Outhine Bounyavong's *Beloved Mother*, the first collection of short stories from Laos to appear in the US, published in cooperation with the Asia Resource Center. Then, in 1996, there will appear the first *Mekong Review* journal. If funding permits, and the gods smile, I will bring this out simultaneously in Ha Noi and the US, in English and in Vietnamese.

If you haven't noticed, Kali Tal, Steven Gomes and I are turning Viet Nam Generation, Inc. into the professional non-profit business, able to sell books and get grants and pay staff, that everybody always thought we were. Our strongest muscle - what none of the university presses and commercial operations we will soon be in direct competition with will ever have - is the help of our dedicated subscribers. One of our books reached print on the basis of donations of fifty dollars or less from forty subscribers. One subscriber has used our Big Book as a course text *twice* since it was mailed in March of this year. Another uses our books in his courses, is working to get one of them into his college's core curriculum, and has invited both Kali and I to speak at the campus. Another subscriber just finished his dissertation and started his first job, where his first act was to instruct the library to buy two copies of all of our books. One subscriber gives lectures about us in Japan. The father of one of our authors, a retired book distributor, is taking our fetching new catalogue around to bookstores in Florida. Our most promising offer of grant support came from a foundation executive who subscribes. That's why the Vice-President of this corporation is sitting in the mail room sending out your subscriber's copy of Elliot Richman's *Walk On, Trooper*.

You do have a catalogue, don't you?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Duffy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan Duffy