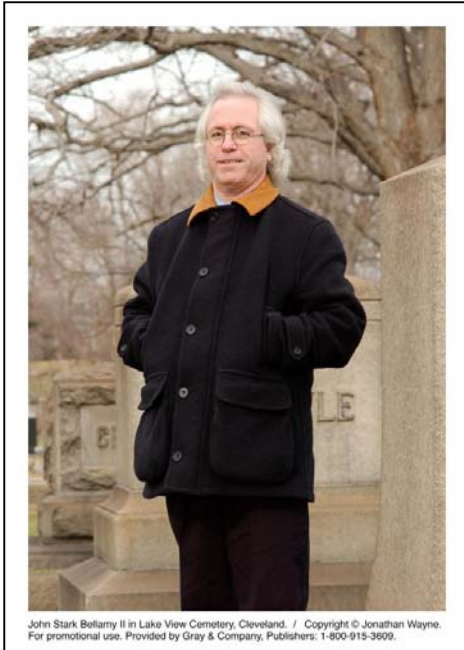


FRIENDS OF THE KENT STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES NEWSLETTER

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2003 BOROWITZ LECTURE Thursday, October 2nd



John Stark Bellamy II in Lake View Cemetery, Cleveland. / Copyright © Jonathan Wayne. For promotional use. Provided by Gray & Company, Publishers: 1-800-915-3609.

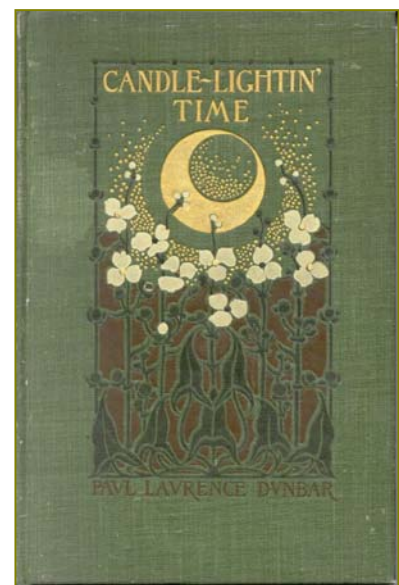
The 2003 Borowitz Lecture will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 2nd, in the Special Collections and Archives Reading Room (Library Room 1212). The speaker is John Stark Bellamy II, a life-long Clevelander and chronicler of its criminal past. His books include *They Died Crawling* (1995), *The Maniac in the Bushes* (1997), *The Corpse in the Cellar* (1999), *The Killer in the Attic* (2002), and *By the Neck Until Dead* (2003). Bellamy's accounts of true Cleveland crimes and disasters include such relatively unknown figures as Martha Wise, the Merry Widow of Medina, who poisoned a dozen relatives with arsenic because she enjoyed going to funerals, and big-city girl Velma West who was driven by the slow pace of life in Painesville to murder her small-town husband. Bellamy also provides his views on prominent cases like the Torso Murders of Kingsbury Run and the sensational Sam Sheppard case. Bellamy balances his writing career with the position of History Specialist for the Cuyahoga County Public Library. The lecture is free and open to the public. It will be

followed by a reception. A small exhibit of items on Ohio crime, including Bellamy's publications, will be on display in the reading room. For further information, call Cara Gilgenbach at 330-672-1677.

FALL/WINTER EXHIBITION

The fall/winter exhibit in Special Collections and Archives features the works of selected Ohio poets, from the roots of Ohio poetry to writers featured in this semester's Wick *Celebration of Ohio Writers* series. Earlier Ohio poets featured include Hart Crane, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Ralph Hodgson, Langston Hughes, Kenneth Patchen, William Henry Venable, and James A. Wright. Contemporary writers on display are Maggie Anderson, Nin Andrews, Rane Arroyo, David Baker, Jeanne Bryner, David Citino, Diane Gilliam Fisher, Elton Glaser, William Greenway, Leonard Kress, Sarah Perrier, Maj Ragain, Scott Russell Sanders, Will Toedtman, Ann Townsend, and Paul Zimmer. Also exhibited is a selection of items from the Richard Morgan collection of pre-1850 Ohio imprints.

The exhibit, which runs from September 1 through December 12, is free and open to the public during the Department's public service hours, Monday through Friday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Please call Cara Gilgenbach at 330-672-1677 for more information on the exhibit. For information on the Wick Poetry Series, please call 330-672-2067.



JOSEPH CHAIKIN (1935-2003)

Actor, director and writer Joseph Chaikin died in June of this year. Chaikin, whose papers are housed at Kent State University, acted in the Living Theater and was co-founder and director of the influential avant-garde Open Theater ensemble company from 1963-1973. The Open Theater earned international recognition for productions such as *The Serpent*, *Viet Rock*, *America Hurrah*, and *Terminal*. Chaikin collaborated with many important theater figures including Judith Malina, Julian Beck, Jean-Claude van Itallie, Susan Yankowitz, Samuel Beckett, and Sam Shepard. He also founded The Other Theater with van Itallie, and directed productions of van Itallie's Chekhov translations. In 1976 he founded the Winter Project, an annual twelve-week workshop with actors, musicians, and writers who explored storytelling for the theater. He directed a highly successful production of Beckett's *Endgame* in 1980. In 1984 Chaikin suffered a stroke that left him aphasic. Drawing upon this experience, he collaborated on three pieces dealing with aphasia, as co-author and actor including the critically acclaimed *Struck Dumb*. He was awarded six Obies, including the first ever Obie for lifetime achievement in the theater, The Drama Desk award, the Vernon Rice Award, the Brandeis University Award for Distinguished Actors, the New England Theater Conference Award, the prestigious Edwin Booth Award, as well as two Guggenheim fellowships and grants. Chaikin wrote and was the subject of numerous scholarly articles on the theater. In 1972 he published the book, *The Presence of the Actor*. He was the first American director to be included in the Directors in Perspective series of books on the most influential theater directors. Kent State University awarded him an honorary degree in 1990.

Chaikin began donating his papers to the Department of Special Collections and Archives in 1972 and added to the collection annually since that time. Included are manuscripts of *The Presence of the Actor*, a rich series of correspondence, clippings, journals, and photographs. Special Collections houses the papers of several of Chaikin's fellow artists including Jean-Claude van Itallie, Susan Yankowitz, and Peter Feldman, as well as the archives of the Open Theater. Chaikin and other former members of the Open Theater visited Kent State in 1983 for a national conference to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the ensemble.



Joseph Chaikin reads from *The War in Heaven* and *Struck Dumb* at a 1988 Honors Week event at Kent State University.