

Jonathan Williams

From Wikipedia:

Jonathan Williams (March 8, 1929 – March 16, 2008) was an [American poet](#), publisher, essayist, and photographer. He is known as the founder of [The Jargon Society](#), which has published poetry, experimental fiction, photography, and folk art since 1951.

Overview

Williams was born in [Asheville, North Carolina](#), to Thomas Benjamin and Georgette Williams, and raised in [Washington, D.C.](#) He attended [St. Albans School](#) in Washington, and then [Princeton University](#),^[1] before dropping out to pursue the arts. Williams studied painting with [Karl Knaths](#) at the Phillips Gallery in Washington, D.C., and engraving and graphic arts with [Stanley William Hayter](#) at [Atelier 17](#) in New York,^[2] followed by a semester at the [Chicago Institute of Design](#). In 1951, he arrived at [Black Mountain College](#) to study photography with [Harry Callahan](#) and [Aaron Siskind](#).^[3] At Black Mountain College, Williams met and was influenced by the College's rector, [Charles Olson](#).

Also in 1951, Williams founded Jargon Books (later [The Jargon Society](#)) together with David Ruff, with the goal of publishing obscure writers.^[4] Based in [Scaly Mountain, North Carolina](#), as well as the Yorkshire Dales in England, Jargon was long associated with the [Black Mountain Poets](#). The press has published work by [Charles Olson](#), [Paul Metcalf](#), [Lorine Niedecker](#), [Lou Harrison](#), [Mina Loy](#), [Joel Oppenheimer](#), [Ronald Johnson](#), [James Broughton](#), [Alfred Starr Hamilton](#) and many other works by the American and British [avant-garde](#). Since Williams' death, The Jargon Society has continued publication through the [Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center](#).^[5]

Once described as "a busy gadfly who happened somehow to pitch on a slope in western North Carolina," Williams was a living link between the experimental poets of [Modernism](#)'s "second wave" and the unknown vernacular artists of [Appalachia](#).^[6] [Guy Davenport](#) likened Williams' use of "found language" to the use of "found footage" by avant-garde filmmakers, as well as describing Williams as a species of [cultural anthropologist](#). Williams for his part explained the fascination of such material in plainer terms:

1. ALPERT, Barry, ed. **VORT**; Vol. 2, No. 2 Summer 1974 Robert Kelly. Silver Spring MD: Alpert, (1974). Periodical. 4to, pp. 167. Editor's presentation on inside of front cover: "for Bob Buckeye, | Barry Alpert | VORT | Thanks for your Vermont and Metcalf | news." Illustrated with a photograph of Kelly. Paper wraps. Cover slightly faded and little soiled, o/w a VG tight copy. [54640] \$48.00
Work by Kelly, an interview with Alpert, and reviews and critiques by Theodore Enslin, Jonathan Williams, Norman Weinstein, Guy Davenport and others.

2. BERRY, Wendell. **SABBATH POEM VI**; for 2003 (Dedicated to Jonathan Williams). [Berkeley, CA]: Shoemaker and Hoard, 2005. First Separate Edition. Broadside, 14 x 11 in. The poem, beginning, "The yellow-throated warbler, the highest remotest voice ..." This is printed in a rule below a color printing of the Yellow Throated Warbler, plate 79 from Audubon's Birds of America. Fine. Freedman A127x. [57305] \$45.00
This was published in "Given" (2005).

3. DAVENPORT, Guy. **JONATHAN WILLIAMS, POET**. Cleveland, OH: 1969. First edn. 8vo, pp. 9. Paper wraps. Cover slightly stained, o/w VG. [16912] \$28.00
An essay in tribute to Williams.

4. FULLER, R. Buckminster. **UNTITLED EPIC POEM ON THE HISTORY OF INDUSTRIALIZATION**. Highlands NC: Jonathan Williams, 1962. First Edition. 8vo, pp. 227. Paper wraps. A VG tight copy. Essay by Russell Davenport. Jargon 44. [38001] \$64.00

5. GREENE, Jonathan. **A 50th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR JONATHAN WILLIAMS**. Frankfort, KY: Gnomon Press, (1979). 8vo, pages not numbered. [Truck 21]. Paper wraps. Spine slightly faded, o/w a nice copy. [22759] \$16.00
Poems, prose and photographs.

6. **JW**, On the road selling that old orphic snake-oil in the Jargon-sized bottles, 1951-1978. Washington, DC: Visual Press, 1979. 1/300 copies. Small 8vo, pp. [20]. Paper wraps. VG. [19165] \$16.00
Computer-manipulated photographs of Jonathan Williams, founder of the Jargon Society.

7. LAYTON, Irving. **THE IMPROVED BINOCULARS**. Highlands (NC): Jonathan Williams, 1956. First edn. 8vo, pp. 106. Little dusty printed wraps. Jargon 18, one of 500 copies printed. Introduction by William Carlos Williams. Wallace B70. [19448] \$100.00
Selected poems by this Canadian writer..

8. LAYTON, Irving. **A RED CARPET FOR THE SUN**. Highlands, NC: Jonathan Williams, 1959. First edn. 8vo, pp. 212. Printed wraps (leaves little loose in the casing) Jargon # 35. [19449] \$65.00
A collection of poems by the Canadian writer of material written between 1942 to 1958.

9. METCALF, Paul. **GENOA**; A telling of wonders. Highlands NC: Jonathan Williams, (1965). First Edition. Large 8vo, pp. 190. Paper over boards, stamped in black. Edges of leaves and cover little soiled, o/w a VG tight copy in chipp-ed and soiled dj. [52456] \$34.56

10. METCALF, Paul. **BOTH**. [NP]: Jargon Society, 198. Jargon 92. 4to, pp. 120. Designed by Fielding Dawson and Jonathan Williams. Signed by the author. A nice copy in little chipped and soiled dj. [20295] \$52.00
A juxtaposition of material concerning Poe and Booth.

11. SORRENTINO, Gilbert. **THE DARKNESS SURROUNDS US**. Highland (NC): Jonathan Williams, 1960. First editon of the author's first book. 8vo, a very nice copy. [17681] \$75.00

A collection of poems.

12. WILLIAMS, Jonathan. **PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHS**. Frankfort KY: Gnomon , 1979. One of 1800 copies. Square 8vo, pp. not numbered. Thirty color portraits, tipped in, with short essays on facing pages. Paper wraps. A nice copy in slightly soiled tissue dj and paper slipcase. [45029] \$48.00
Subjects include William Carlos Williams, Myrna Loy, Herbert Read, Allen Ginsberg, David Hockney, Dorothy Brett.
13. WILLIAMS, Jonathan, ed. **EDWARD DAHLBERG. A TRIBUTE**; Essays, reminiscences, correspondence, tributes. NY: David Lewis, (1970). First Edition. 8vo, pp. 196. Illustrated. The book first appeared as *TriQuarterly* 20, Fall 1970. A nice copy in somewhat chipped and soiled dj. [44937] \$16.00
Among the many contributors are Anthony Burgess, Kay Boyle, Gilbert Sorrentino, Paul Metcalf, Thomas Merton, Muriel Rukeyser, Jack Kerouac.
14. WILLIAMS, Jonathan, Ed.. **MADEIRA & TOASTS FOR BASIL BUNTING'S 75TH BIRTHDAY**. Highlands, NC: Jargon, 1977. 1/1250 copies. 8vo, pages not numbered. Paper wraps. VG. [19957] \$40.00
Tribute poems and letters and a drawing or two.
15. WILLIAMS, Jonathan. **62 CLIMERIKEWS TO AMUSE MR. LEAR**. Rosewll/Denver: DBA/JCA Editions Christmas, 1983. 4to, printed wraps. This is one of 200 numbered and inscribed for friends of the author and illustrator. This is # 62 signed for Paul and Nancy (Metcalf) and signed "JW". Nice copy. [18316] \$150.00
16. WILLIAMS, Jonathan. **AN ARABESK FOR FREDERICK DELIUS AT THE YEAR'S END**. Drawing by John Furnival. Buffalo, NY: State University of NY, 1981. (Series: Christmas Broad sides, Series 2, No. 3). One sheet, 8-1/2x11, folded once. Inscribed by the author to the poet Paul Metcalf. VG. [19194] \$28.00
A short poem and a drawing of Delius.
17. WILLIAMS, Jonathan. **BEAUTY? BEAUTY MY EYE!** An essay to accompany a craft show by Kentucky folk artists. (1975) 11 x 17, folded once. [18899] \$32.00
18. WILLIAMS, Jonathan. **A CELESTIAL CENTENNIAL REVERIE FOR MR. CHARLES IVES**. (The Man Who Found Our Music In The Ground). [Highlands, NC]: Johnathan Williams, February 20-27, 1975. Produced on a Xerox 4000 in an edition of 100 copies for friends. 4to, pp. 24. Self wraps in a plastic binder. Inscribed by the author for Paul and Nancy Metcalf: "For the Ives of Chester from the Wrath of gawd Highlands May 1975." A nice copy. [18318] \$150.00
19. WILLIAMS, Jonathan. **DEMENTATIONS ON SHANK'S MARE**; being `meta-Fours in PlusFours' and a few `Foundlings' collected from Rambles (and Drives) in Herefordshire, Gwent, Powys, Avon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Cumbria and North Yorkshire. New Haven: Truck Press, 1988. First edn. oblong wraps, a nice copy. [16238] \$25.00
20. WILLIAMS, Jonathan. **EDWARD DAHLBERG'S BOOK OF LAZARUS**. Reprinted from The Texas Quarterly Summer, 1963. Drawings by James Kearns and Ben Shahn. Paper wraps, 8vo, pp. 14. VG. [17241] \$20.00
A critical essay on the work of Edward Dahlberg.
21. WILLIAMS, Jonathan. **ELITE/ELATE POEMS**. Selected Poems 1971-75 by . The Jargon Society, 1979. First edn. .. A portfolio of photographs by Guy Mendes. Introduction by Guy Davenport. 4to, pp.

220. Little streak on the cloth o/w a fine copy in little worn dj. Inscribed by the author to Paul and Nancy Metcalf with love. #36 of 150 copies. The Metcalf's are noted as one of the advance subscribers. Nice association copy. [17159] \$200.00

22. WILLIAMS, Jonathan. **GLEES SWARTHY MONOTONIES RINCE COCHON & CHOZZERAI FOR SIMON**. Roswell, NM: DBA Editions, 1980. First edition, 1/128 copies distributed to friends, not for sale. 4to, pp. 94. A very good copy inscribed by the author to his friend, poet Paul Metcalf: "# 74 for Paul from the Colonel Highlands, 1980." In addition, the author has circled in pen the statement on the title-page "May contain language that is offensive to children." [18324] \$100.00

23. WILLIAMS, Jonathan. **HOMAGE, UMBRAGE, QUIBBLE, & CHICANE**. Roswell, NM: DBA Editions, 1981. First Edition. One of 120 copies produced for friends. 4to, pp. 72. With a list of recipients in the rear. This is # 68, inscribed to Paul and Nancy Metcalf: "#68 more of the same you poor devils love to both from JW Highlands 1981" [18319] \$125.00

24. WILLIAMS, Jonathan. **THE LOCO LOGODAEDALIST IN SITU**, selected poems 1968-70. Embellishments by Joe Tilson, notes by the poet. [London]: Cape Goliard in association with Grossman publishers. 8vo. Printed wraps. A VG copy. [16241] \$45.00

25. WILLIAMS, Jonathan. **THE LUCIDITIES**, sixteen in visionary company. London: Turret Books, 1967. First edn. 18pp, bound in cloth with illustrations by John Furnival on foil. A fine copy. Of a total edition of 280 this is one of 250 for sale. Inscribed by the author to his friends, poet Paul Metcalf and his wife Nancy: "For the old Poke Weed Folks who shed a lot of light on their own always love from Jonathan Aspen 1968 March". [18323] \$125.00

26. WILLIAMS, Jonathan. **LULLABIES TWISTERS GIBBERS DRAGS**; (...la maniSre de M. Louis Moreau Gottschalk, Late of the City of New Orleans). Highlands, (NC): The Nantahala Foundation, 1963. Oblong wraps. VG copy. Inscribed by the author to poet Paul Metcalf: "for them Buncombe County traitors | from the voice of Macon | cheers! | Chester | 1963 | post-Koufax" [16338] \$75.00

27. WILLIAMS, Jonathan. **MAHLER**. [London]: Cape Goliard, (1969). First UK Edn. 8vo, little soiled illustrated wraps, a VG copy. [16240] \$45.00
A poetic response to Mahler's work.

28. WILLIAMS, Jonathan. **MY QUAKER-ATHEIST FRIEND....** [London]: Jonathan Williams, 1975. "Published as a New Year MCMLXXV greeting by Larry and Ruby Wallrich." Inscribed by the author to the poet Paul Metcalf. Two sheets, 8-1/2x11, folded in half and stapled. VG. [19365] \$52.00
A poem.

29. WILLIAMS, Jonathan. **SHANKUM NAGGUM**. Rocky Mount, NC: Friends of the Library NC Wesleyan, 1979. 1/550 copies. Paper wraps, tall 8vo, pp. unnumbered. Inscribed by the author to the poet Paul Metcalf: "JW's thanks for hot times at Wild Thymes. April Fools' 1979." VG. [18235] \$36.00
Short poems.

30. WILLIAMS, Jonathan. **UNTINEARS & ANTENNAE FOR MAURICE RAVEL**. [St Paul, MN: Truck Books, 1977]. First edn. Printed wraps, a very nice copy. Inscribed by the author with love to poet Paul Metcalf and his wife Nancy. [16237] \$50.00
Williams was Metcalf's friend for years and his Jargon Society published many of Metcalf's books.