

The Solitary Plover

The Newsletter of the Friends of Lorine Niedecker Issue #1 Winter 2005



Welcome to our first newsletter.

Since the Lorine Niedecker Centenary Celebration in October 2003 we have come to appreciate just how far and wide the interest is and how many are passionate in their appreciation for her poetry. We have formed a Friends Of Lorine Niedecker Board to help us determine resources, people and activities to increase the visibility of Lorine Niedecker's poetry. There was so much to do and we think we are now organized enough to ask for your help.

We determined three priorities:

- Visibility for Lorine Niedecker
- Access to the Lorine Niedecker Archive and other information
- Communication about Lorine Niedecker activities

To support these priorities:

- We applied for a 501(c)3. We hope to receive confirmation of our tax-exempt status from the IRS by spring 2005.
- We purchased the URL www.lorineniedecker.org dedicated to information about Lorine Niedecker.
- Began to identify activities that will that will support the priorities.

We will primarily be focusing all information and exchanges on the Web or via e-mail.

NEEDS SUMMARY (please see related articles)

Help us find sites to link to us and sites for us to link to

Help us build our mailing list

Help us expand the bibliography

Send money

WE ARE

Amy Lutzke, Assistant Director Dwight Foster Public Library

alutzke@mwfls.org

920-563-7790

Ann Engelman, Friends Of Lorine Niedecker President, Volunteer Archive Coord.

aengelman@earthlink.net

920-563-041

THE WEB

The Web site was designed to introduce Lorine Niedecker to those who are coming for the first time but also to provide areas for those with interests in the archive, academic study and other activities. The site will grow as we find need and content. At this time we are asking you to help request that other sites link to our new URL. We are also willing to link to other legitimate Niedecker sites or information.

NEIDECKER NOTES

Between December 2003 and June 2004 Tom Montag spent hours at the Dwight Foster Public Library paging through each volume in the collection from Lorine's personal library. He recorded all manner of notes and marginalia and did the first known actual assessment of the materials in this collection. I won't try to recreate Tom's experience here because he does such a nice job of it on his blogspot at: http://middlewesterner.blogspot.com/2004_06_07_middlewesterner_archive.html#1086. If you haven't yet read this piece take a few moments to enjoy. We DO wish to thank Tom for his dedication, hours of work, and time away from his home and family. This is an incredible gift to the library and to the Niedecker community.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

One page in the Lorine Niedecker Web site is a bibliography. It currently contains a list of Niedecker's works, a list of books written about Lorine and her poetry, and a list of some of the periodical articles about Lorine. We are hoping to create a more definitive Niedecker bibliography and need your assistance. Please take a look at what is listed at <http://www.lorineniedecker.org/lbib.html>. Let us know of anything else you know of that should be listed here. We are looking for ANYTHING published about Lorine including dissertations, theses, articles, etc., especially materials published since Jan. 1, 2003. If there is anything else you feel should be included in this bibliography we would appreciate hearing about that as well. All submissions can be sent to contact@lorineniedecker.org. Please put "bibliography" in the subject line and thank you in advance for your assistance with this project.

MAILING LIST

We need one. The list we currently have is primarily from the Centenary Celebration. We have added names of people that we know will be interested in activities in the academic community as well as Niedecker poetry fans. We need your help in adding names and email addresses. If you have received a print copy of this newsletter please send your email address to newsletter@lorineniedecker.org in order to receive it in that format.

LORINE NIEDECKER FORT ATKINSON ARCHIVE

We are in the process of organizing information about what we have in the archive. Materials are located at the Dwight Foster Public Library and the Hoard Historical Museum. The terrific relationship between the organizations is allowing a complete inventory. This is currently in progress. We are planning to post the inventory to the Web site as the activity progresses.

FILM PROJECT

The Friends of Lorine Niedecker are interested in developing a biographical film about Lorine's life and work. This is a planned one hour documentary that will involve still photography, voice over readings of Lorine's poetry and interviews. We have been working with a producer and director to develop the idea and the budget. Next up will be obtaining funding for the project. We will be applying for grant money but could use the connections and expertise of the Niedecker community to bring this about. Do you know of particular foundations or other grant sources that may be interested in this type of project? Do you know of any individuals who may have an interest in helping to fund this type of endeavor? We would welcome any ideas you have on locating money for the film. We also have a 7 minute preview of the film available. If you are interested in this preview let us know. Send your ideas to contact@lorineniedecker.org and put "film" in the subject line. If you or anyone you know is interested in making a donation please contact Amy Lutzke at (920) 563-7790 or send an email to alutzke@mwfls.org.

FINANCIAL SUBMISSIONS

The Friends of Lorine Niedecker is a new non-profit organization incorporated in July 2004. Our goals are to provide education about Wisconsin's greatest poet, Lorine Niedecker, and to increase her visibility. The organization has no paid staff but relies on the efforts of a group of volunteers and some staff of the Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson, WI. One thing we don't have is money. In order for us to begin to pursue some of the goals and projects we have identified, we will need support for administrative costs associated with running our Web site, postage and printing. We would also welcome any financial support for other projects we have outlined in this newsletter. If you are interested in seeing the work of this organization go forward and in seeing Lorine get the recognition we believe she is due, please consider sending a donation to our organization. Our tax-exempt status is pending and we would be happy to let you know when it is finalized in order to make your donation tax deductible. Thank you for your support of our mission.

We will send another newsletter as developments occur. Our goal is to make this a quarterly publication. In the meantime, watch the Web site for updates to its information and for timely (we hope) reports on our work.