

FORUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004

WILLIAM LEE PRYOR
Editor

HILDA JAFFE
Associate Editor

SYLVAN N. KARCHMER
Fiction Editor

ARCHIBALD HENDERSON
Poetry Editor

PHILIP C. BURTON
Art Director

DAVID J. COHEN
Circulation Manager

CONNIE HARVELL
Secretary

February 25, 1980

Mr. Donald Barthelme
113 W. 11
New York, N. Y. 10001

Dean Don,

Under separate cover I am sending you the latest issue of Forum -- one devoted entirely to creative writing. It is the first such issue in Forum's more than twenty years of publication. I hope you may find it to be of interest.

Next scheduled are two issues of Forum to be devoted to studies of eighteenth century literature.

Although I still have hopes of catching up, they have been dampened somewhat by the fact that the graphics person who has been doing Forum's work has resigned, and, as of this moment, the University has not been able to find a replacement. I am, therefore, having to make other arrangements.

At any rate, I do have the material for some excellent future issues. Please believe me when I say that I am doing everything within my power to get them printed.

Thank you for your continued support.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



William Lee Pryor
Editor of Forum

P.S. Look forward to seeing you
when you return - Let's have
lunch -

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Mr. Donald Barthelme
113 W. 11
New York, N.Y. 10001

Dear Don,

Under separate cover I am sending you the first of two issues of Forum devoted to eighteenth century French studies.

The second issue is in "dummy" form and, hopefully, will be coming out in the near future.

These issues include the work of some of the most outstanding scholars working in this field, both here and abroad. I hope you will find them to be of interest.

Please allow me to send you good wishes and to thank you for your continued interest in Forum.

Sincerely yours,



William Lee Pryor
Editor of Forum

WLP/ab

Glad you will be with us
next year! As I had recommended
that you be invited here several
years ago (you will remember that
I telephoned you concerning it), I was
pleased to be able to make the
formal motion that you be hired to the
U. of H. soon.

c/o Melanie Jackson Agency
1500 Broadway, Suite 2805
New York, New York 10036

Hello Don,

by the time your kind invitation caught up with me, it was already too late-- on May 17th I was between coasts, Arkansas or Lubbock or someplace like 'at, so I couldn't have been there anyway. But thank you for asking me-- since I'm feeling more and more these days like a one-shot flash-in-the-pan amateur, it is at least a pleasant fantasy for me to think about mingling with you professional folks.

"Very likely the last such ever to be held" ? Ominous words. Say it ain't so. I'd rather think of it as the first annual. How'd it go? Or will I be reading about it in People magazine or the NYRofB?

I thought I saw you on the street once last year or maybe the year before, in the Village, but on the off chance it was Solzhenitzin, I failed to say hello. Another social lapse. I'm sorry. How are you, anyway?

Changed mail drops (see above) but still have no fixed address. It would be nice to hear from you again, though whether you'd hear from me is problematic, what with this decade of Writer's Block I seem to be having & all.

anyhow, cheers,



Thomas Pynchon

THE PARIS REVIEW

541 EAST 72 STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10021

UN. 1-0016

2 February 1978

Dear Donald ~~Bartheleme~~,

The Paris Review seems to have reached a rather lofty plateau for magazines of its kind -- namely the age of twenty-five years! It's a rare enough thing for any magazine, much less a literary quarterly, and in celebration the editors are planning to commemorate the event with a special issue devoted to contributors who have published work in the magazine that we are particularly proud of. We very much hope that you will be able to find something for us to publish in this special issue -- an original work, or a reminiscence ... whatever you think might be suitable. We hope to have materials in hand by the end of spring. Perhaps you could let us know if you think you might have something to contribute by then.

Best wishes,



George A. Plimpton
Editor

We truly would be honored.



[1978]

THE PARIS REVIEW

541 East 72nd Street

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10021

UN. 1 - 0016

Dear Donald -

The Paris Review is now preparing its 25th Anniversary issue. The Magazine's editors are eager to consider quality fiction, literary memoirs or chronicles from those who have contributed in the past for possible inclusion in this issue. We are hoping to put together an issue of considerable distinction. In addition to fiction, poetry and art, the issue will carry interviews with three writers of world renown, continuing the Magazine's series on the Craft of Writing. Another feature will concern itself with the Magazine's curious history, with contributions from William Styron, Peter Matthiessen, George Plimpton (the Magazine's editor since its founding) and numerous others who have been involved with the quarterly.

If you have any questions, or would like to see a recent issue of the Review, speak to Miss Hallie Gay Walden at (212) UN 1-0016.

Need we hardly say that our standard rates prevail! Material should be in our hands by the first of April for consideration.

With apologies for the form letter, we look forward to hearing from you.

I hope that this year we can get the interview in the Craft of Writing done. Do let me know if there anyone in particular you'd care to have question you.

George [Plimpton]

THE PARIS REVIEW

541 EAST 72 STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10021

UN. 1-0016

Mr. Donald Barthelme
113 West 11th St.
New York, NY

Don

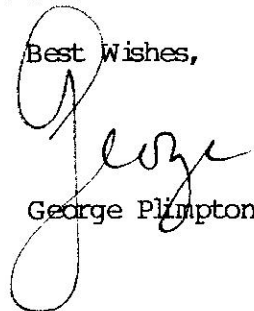
19 June 1984

Dear ~~Mr. Barthelme~~

This magazine seems to have reached, indeed just passed, a thirtieth anniversary. As we did with our twenty-fifth (also somewhat belatedly celebrated), we've planned to bring out a special anniversary double issue this fall... to which we'd like to ask some of our more illustrious contributors to offer material, whatever its nature, once again. May we count on you? The deadline would be in the neighborhood of late July—which gives plenty of time to rummage around for something already done, or, even better, to produce something fresh.

We'd like to think of the Thirtieth Anniversary Issue as a kind of landmark showcase...offering the kind of variety—fiction, poems, works-in-progress, notes, polemics, photographs, diaries, reminiscences, documents, etc.—which has given the Review its special distinction. We hope you will be able to contribute.

Best Wishes,



George Plimpton

I hear the ink is not very nicely indeed.

Columbia University in the City of New York

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
Writing Division

404 Dodge
New York, N.Y. 10027

April 18, 1978

Dear Donald Barthelme,

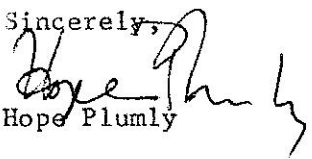
Many, many thanks to you for reading here yesterday. We're all admirers of your work and it was enormously enjoyable and interesting to hear you read from it.

Naturally I must ask you this--as futile as it may be: would you consider teaching a fiction seminar (on any books or subject you wished) here next year, either fall or spring semester? Not a workshop, so no conferences would be involved; simply two hours a week discussing the form and theory of fiction.

I will send off the check as soon as it arrives, which should be in the next two or three days.

Again, thank you. For the students and faculty and myself. It was certainly one of the best fiction readings I've ever heard and we all could have listened on for hours and hours.

Sincerely,


Hope Plumly