

1960

Editorial

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Recommended Citation

Bond, James (1960) "Editorial," *The Angle*: Vol. 1960: Iss. 1, Article 2.
Available at: <http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/angle/vol1960/iss1/2>

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Cover Page Footnote

Appeared in the issue: Volume 5, Spring, 1960.

EDITORIAL

Certainly enough has been said about the importance of communication in the world today. In a world of highly developed transportation techniques, boundaries and limits are said to have considerably narrowed. It is exigent, we are exhorted, that attempts be made to foster verbal and other communicative understanding among all people. Communicative understanding, they say, should not lag behind this almost uncomfortable contiguity. Nothing so ambitious is the purpose of this magazine. Nor could the magazine be called therapeutic; certainly it is meant to be enjoyed but it will not "take you away" like the popular cigarette. Nor is it meant to be didactic or persuasive; although we are certainly "committed" in the sense that we recognize and are striving for a "catholicity", a universality which transcends the printed page, we are neither sodality pamphleteers nor advertising copywriters. What then, in spite of the necessary oversimplification, could be considered the purpose of this magazine?

In its lowest terms it could only be this: to play with words; to try to achieve a surer and more valid grip on truth and reality through experimental juxtaposition of words or images or rhythms; to "metaphorize"; to bridge the gap between the visible and invisible. Less stress, it might be said, is placed on "gentle irony" and "brittle wit" than is fashionable in most magazines today. As we said above we are "committed"; but yet this does not, we think, parochialize our outlook. Rather it would seem to make it more universal; for with our bridge of analogy we are spanning more than the span between a thought and its metrical logic; rather we are spanning and attempting to concretize the whole gap between the visible and invisible worlds; to conceptualize in greater or lesser degrees a portion of reality; to see in the sun's light a portion of the light of Divine Wisdom.

J. B.

The use of the feigned history hath been to give some shadow of satisfaction to the mind of man in those points wherein the nature of things doth deny it, the world being in proportion inferior to the soul. . . . Therefore, because the acts or events of true history have not that magnitude which satisfieth the mind of man, poesy feigneth acts and events greater and more heroical.

—BACON, *THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING*

Non satis est pulchra esse poemata: dulcia sunt
Et quocumque volent animum auditoris agunt.

—HORACE, *ARS POETICA*