

THE CLARK ISSUE

"(you see, we are very accurate about our celebration, know such things as dates)"

- Charles Olson

"Letter for Melville, 1951"

My dear Maud -

I have thoroughly enjoyed the MINUTES, so don't take the following (as they say) "in the wrong way", BUT your "A LABOR OF LOVE" piece in #43 is a disgraceful, & pitiable, soft-shoed vitriolization shamelessly thrown out into the world. To pose an answer to your statement that your "criticisms are unanswerable", I offer up, with emphasis upon the word which seems to allude you, Clark's title: **Charles Olson: ALLEGORY of a Poet's Life**. Would it ever be possible for Maud to admit Clark the possibilities of an allegorical biography? Clark evokes Keats' Negative Capability not only for Olson's use of it but his own as well. He knows he is embarking on a journey full of unknowns in which he'll be forced to take leaps, draw connections, make bold statements. He may not follow the facts but what **are facts** save the stepping stones leading to the precipice from which one must leap if wishing to pass further.

Look, problem is:

1) Maud is scholar.
(D.T. - stick w/ him)

2) Clark is poet.

3) Olson is poet.

(over)

SCHOLAR + POET = ACADEMICS

POET + POET = POETICS

I'm sorry but you have yet to nip even the tips
of the outer realms of a Clark or an Olson.

Perhaps that is why you

receive no response.

Let the poets alone.



Patrick James Denagan

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