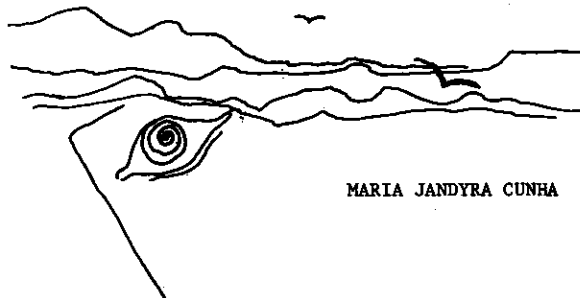


FOX, William L. - Monody , Laughing Bear Press, Box 14,  
Woodinville, Washington 98072, 1977.

MONODY is a new poetic version of an old story of the former Lake Lahotan - and, at the same time, an old account of an up-dated story - the story of the Great Basin, Nevada's desert. The magic of these poems is due exactly to the fact that you penetrate the desert and dream of what could have been a hundred thousand years ago. You go back and forth, waking and dreaming. You see the ancient lake and then you are back into the desert.

There is a lot of rhythm in these poems and they were meant to be read slow because slow was the geological development. MONODY should even be read aloud so that you can feel the changes in Nature from the lightness and balance of the waters to the dryness and compactness of the rocks. As William L. Fox himself says, MONODY is 'a poem in which a mourner bewails someone's death'. And in fact, as the lake becomes sand flat, as the fresh water changes into salt, you feel rather melancholy: the water is gone and with it the animals and vegetation: life is gone and with it fertility, creativeness, sensibility.

William Fox's book is illustrated by maps and pictures taken from Israel C. Russel's "Geological History of Lake Lahotan, a Quaternary Lake of Northwestern Nevada". These illustrations give you the desert atmosphere of the present or - who knows - the very future.



MARIA JANDYRA CUNHA