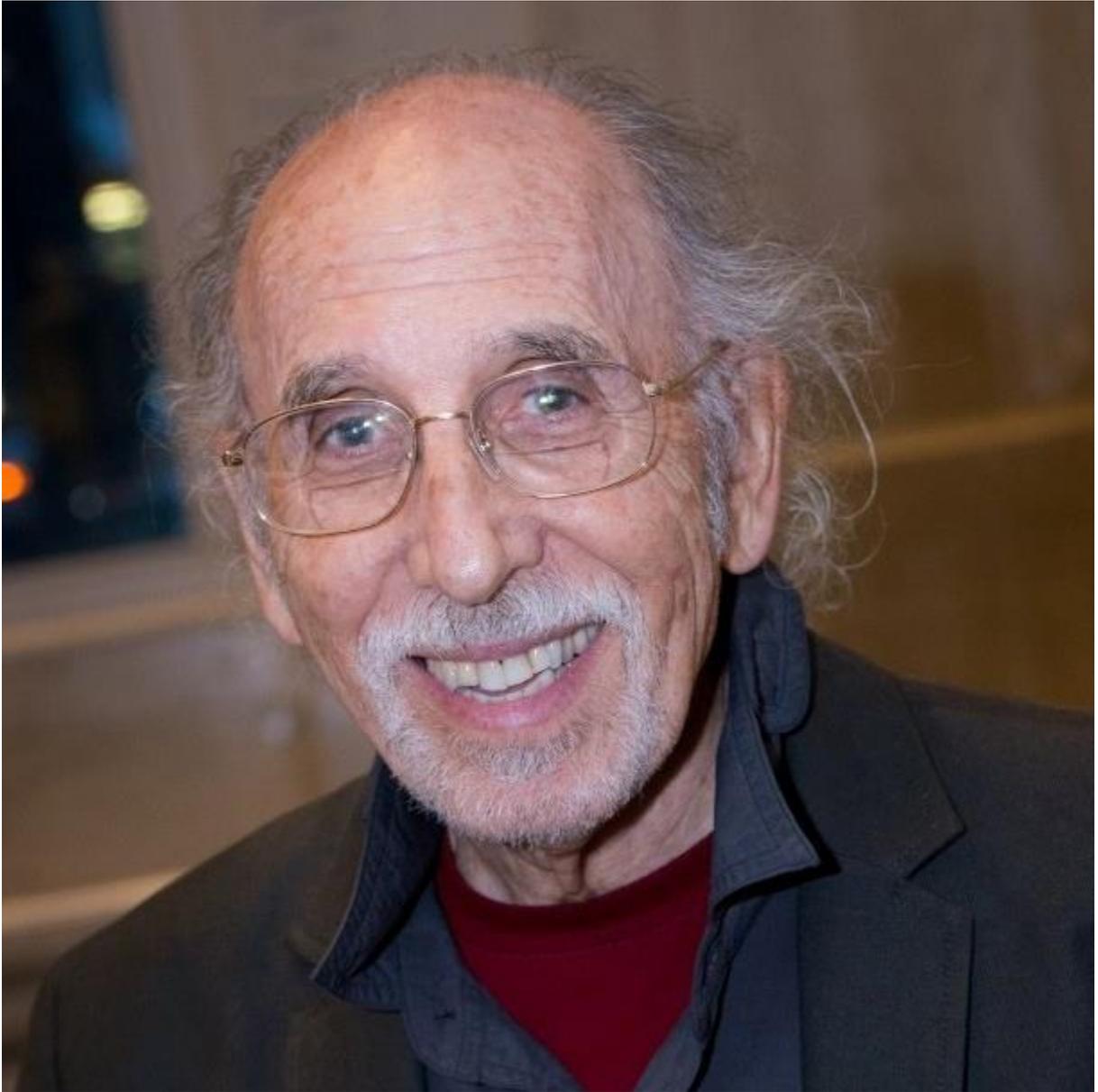


Contours

Jerry Zaslove Memorial Issue



This issue of *Contours* is dedicated to the founding director of the Institute for the Humanities, Jerry Zaslove. It is drawn from a memorial event held by the Institute on November 10, 2021. The publication of this issue has been significantly delayed, due in part to larger circumstances but mostly to my own considerable limitations, about which Jerry would unfailingly have been kind. The release of this issue has, however, fittingly become part of the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Institute, which are permeated with Jerry's vital presence and legacy. Included here is a short introductory statement from the 2021 memorial event. Normally, I would go on to describe the contents of the issue, but I think it more appropriate to leave the heartfelt words of the contributors to speak for themselves. Instead, this editorial introduction will be composed of an improvised photo collage, an assembly of images and fragments, with contributions from those who could not find the words. My hope is that Jerry would have appreciated the gesture.

Morgan Young

Managing Editor, *Contours Journal*

October 24, 2023

Jerry Zaslove: A Memorial Event*

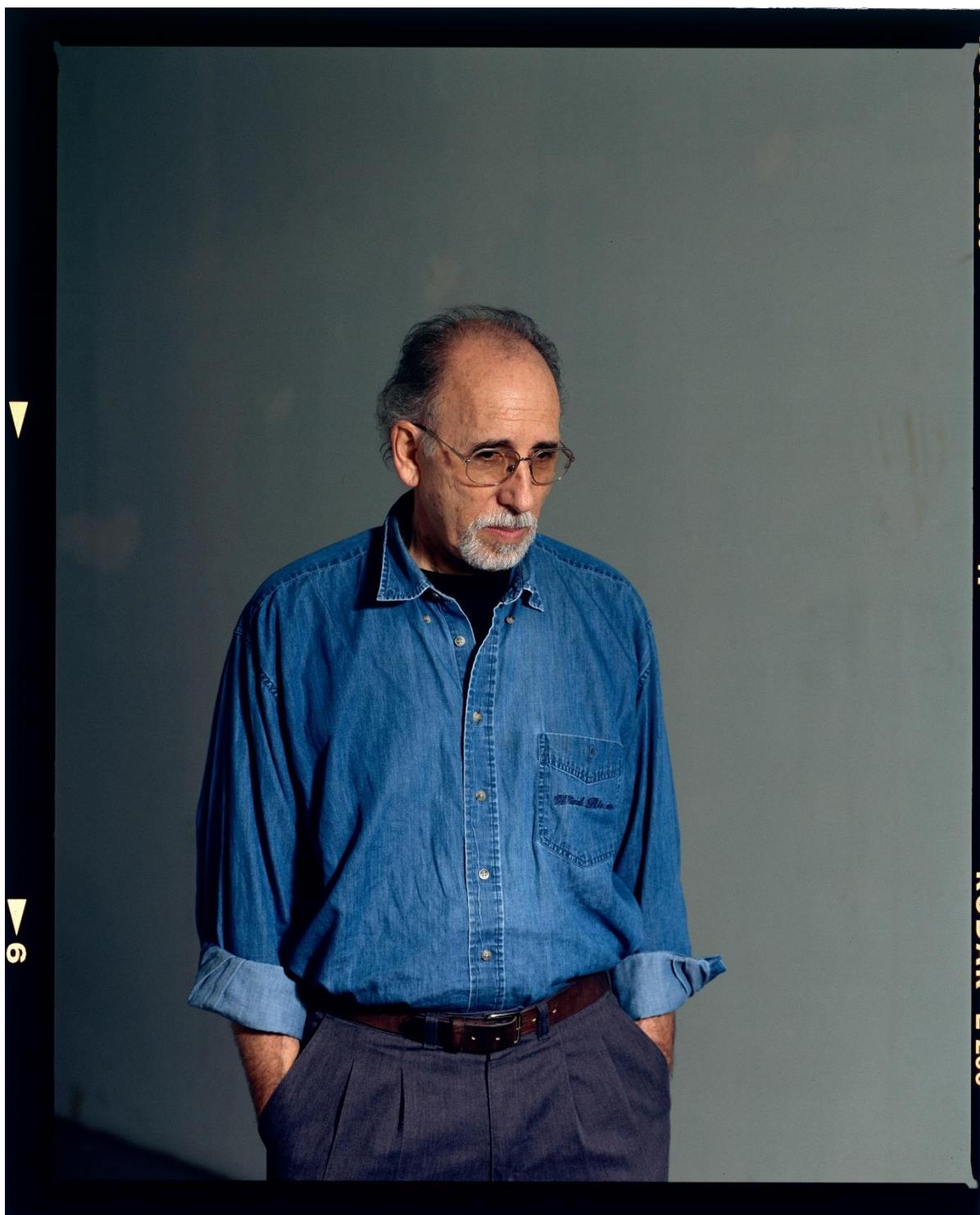
Friends, colleagues, students, and community associates are gathering together to remember and commemorate Jerry Zaslove, professor emeritus at Simon Fraser University in the departments of English and Humanities from 1965 until his retirement in 2000. Professor Zaslove was the founding director of the Institute for the Humanities from 1983 until 2000. He was also one of the founders of the SFU Prague Field School and its director for years. In 2012 he was appointed the Simons Chair in the Graduate Liberal Studies program and in 2017 the Simons Fellow in GLS, where he actively mentored students until his death on June 23, 2021.

Jerry was a lover of literature, especially German, Czech, and Russian, and could speak tirelessly about Kafka, Brecht, Woolf, Dostoyevsky, Bakhtin, and Voloshinov. He was a lover of the arts, be it photography, film, theatre, installations, or music. He took great delight in pop-up children's books and the world of cartoon satire. A long-time Deep Cove resident, where he and his wife Sibylle raised their children, and later North Vancouver, he loved the west coast but felt equally at home in cities such as Prague and Berlin, where he could reconnect with some of his long-time cherished friends. He was indeed a *mensch*.

People who represent various areas of Jerry's life have been asked to offer their tributes to this remarkable human being who was a beloved and respected member of our communities.

* The following memorial event for Jerry Zaslove appeared on the Institute for the Humanities' website in November 2021. It has been edited and reformatted for publication.

A JZ Collage



Portrait of Jerry Zaslove by Jeff Wall. Photo courtesy of Jeff Wall.

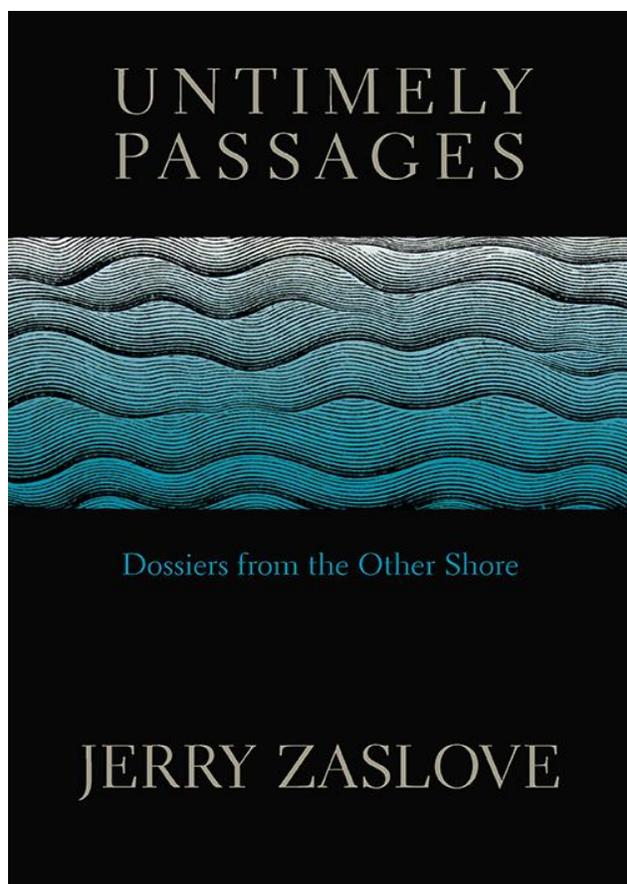


Photo and description courtesy of Charles Simard, Talonbooks.

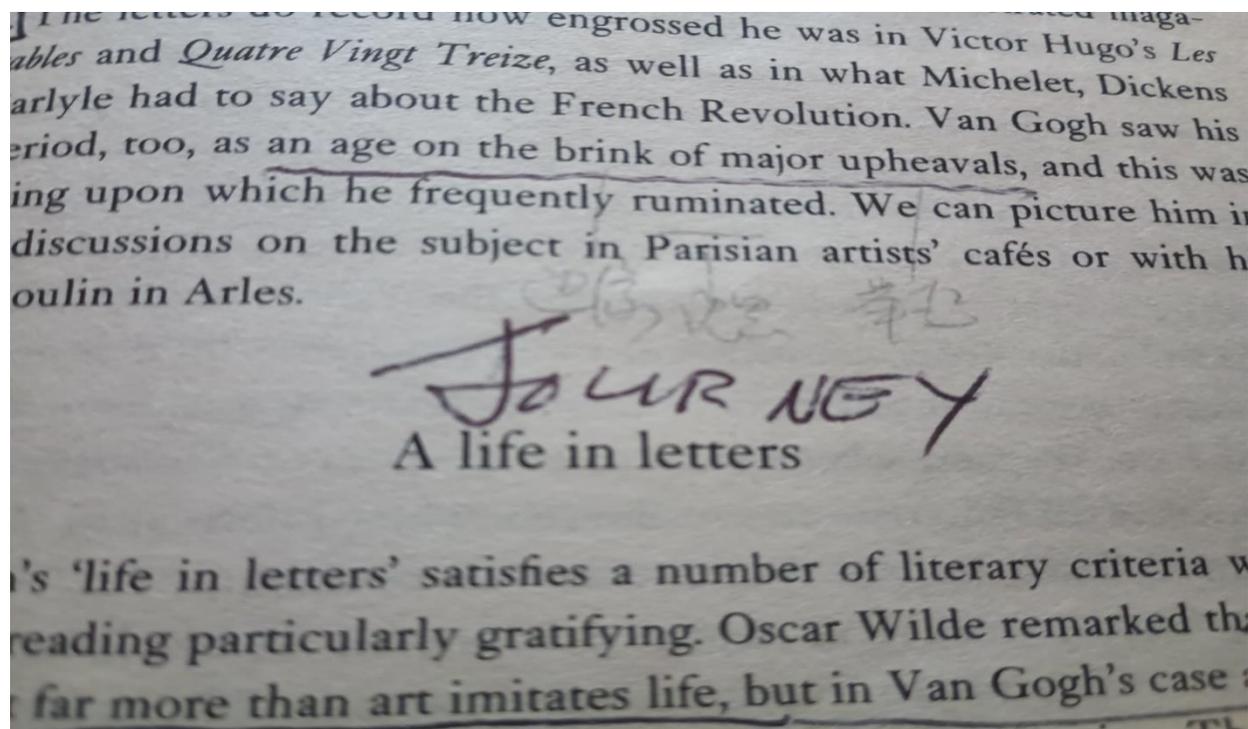
<https://talonbooks.com/books/untimely-passages>

**Untimely Passages: Dossiers from
the Other Shore**

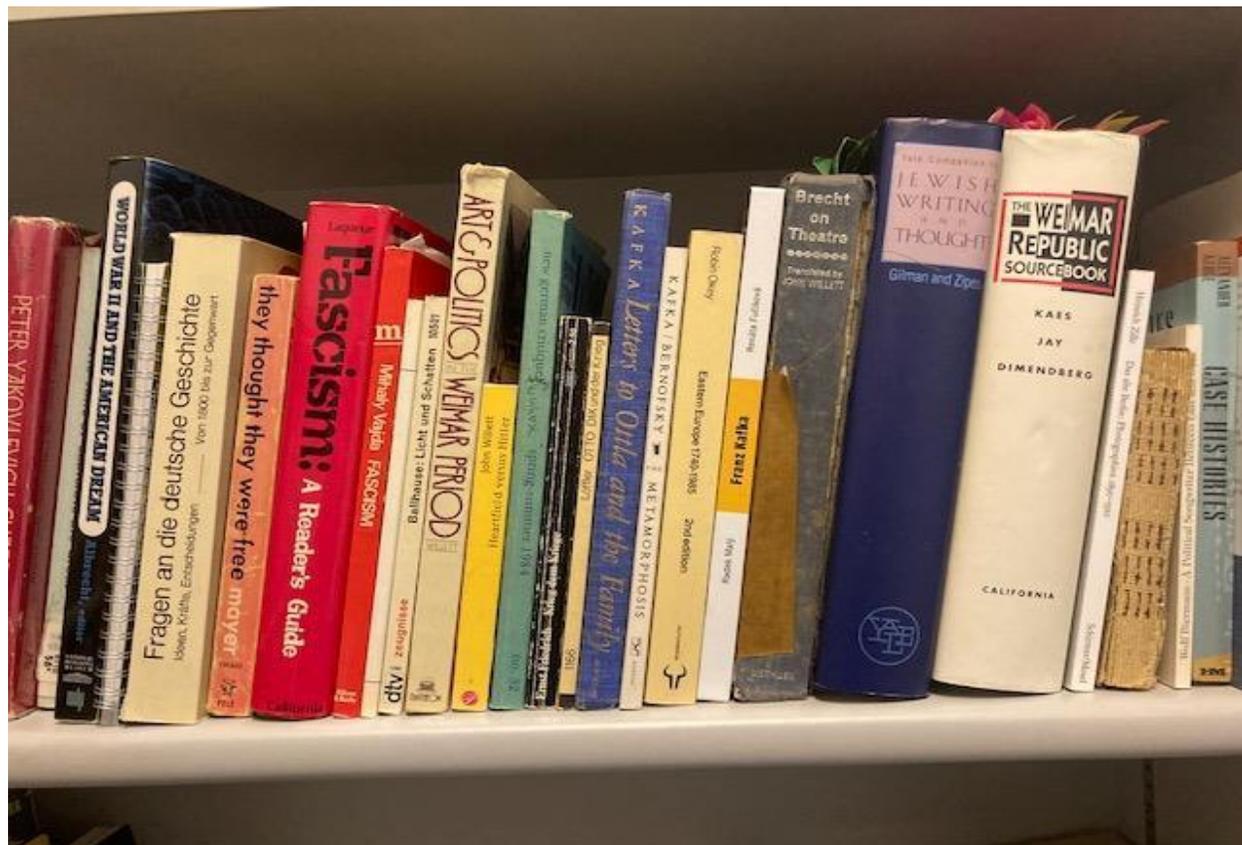
By Jerry Zaslove

These essays emerge from years of reading, writing, and teaching through the exemplary

controversies, commitments, and atmosphere of the crises of modernism that accompany the author's reading of European literature as a world literature. The author imagines the collection through the image of the Colporteur, who appears along the streets and waysides, walking the arcades of cities with books. One reads books, teaches them, speaks them, and they speak through us, then we write about them, and, if we are fortunate, we read them not just once but again and again. As a teacher of literature, the author is one of the fortunate ones. *Untimely Passages* is organized into "Dossiers," which are the imaginary bridges over the literary river crossings. The collection shows a life in writing by crossing rivers to the "other shores." While it is true, according to Heraclitus, that we can't "step into the same river twice," we can cross to the other shores and watch the rivers flowing, and even cross back again and again by rereading and writing by often posing the question of literacy: "Why Write?" The bridges become the authors we read, and we learn to listen to the noises coming from our bookcases.



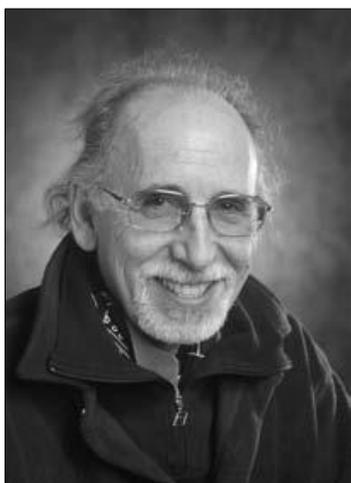
JZ note in his copy of *The Letters of Vincent van Gogh*. Photo by Morgan Young.



Jerry's bookshelf at his Harbour Centre office. Photo courtesy of Ellie Stebner.



Jerry Zaslove and Prague Field School students at Rimov in Sumova—"Stations of the Cross." Photo republished from *Humanitas*, Volume 3: Spring 2003.



Jerry Zaslove. Republished from *Humanitas*, Volume 1: Spring 2002.



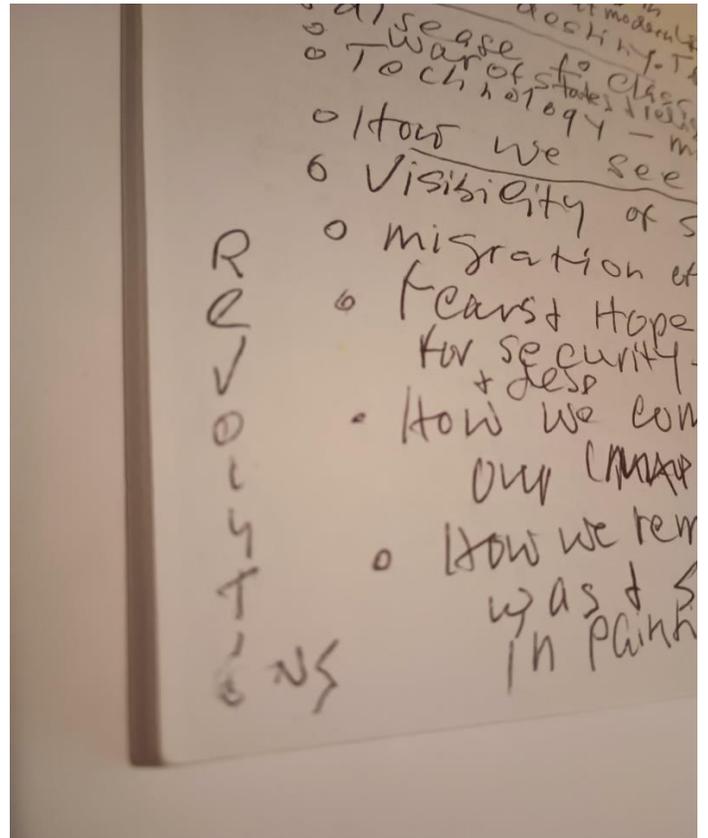
Jerry Zaslove. Republished from *Humanitas*, Volume 3: Spring 2004.



Roy Miki, Professor Emeritus, Department of English, SFU, Myrna Kostash, and Jerry Zaslove, Director Emeritus, Institute for the Humanities, SFU. Photo by Donald Grayston. Republished from *Humanitas*, Volume 3: Spring 2003.



Jerry Zaslove speaking at an Institute event, 2018.



JZ note in his copy of *The City in History* by Lewis Mumford. Photo by Morgan Young.



Left to right: Trish Graham, Alan Whitehorn, Jerry Zaslove. Photo courtesy of Nick Graham.



Left to right: Alan Whitehorn, Joy Kogawa, Trish Graham, Jerry Zaslove. Photo courtesy of Nick Graham.



Jerry Zaslove and Trish Graham at the Institute for the Humanities. Photo courtesy of Nick Graham.

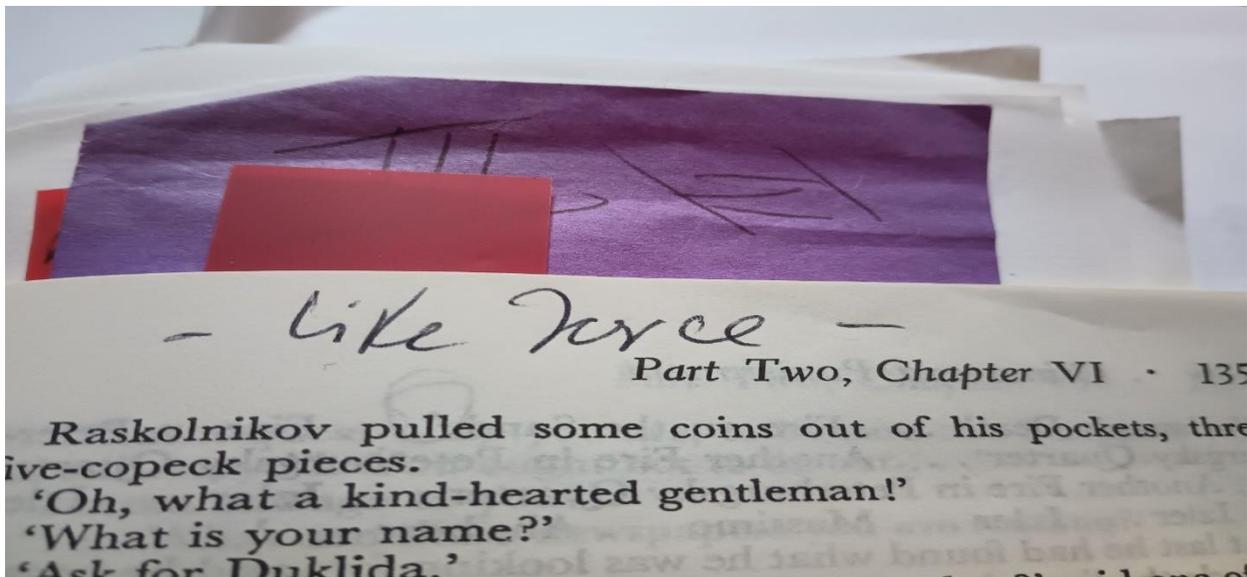


The Zaslove family and Trish Graham. Photo courtesy of Nick Graham.



Photo courtesy of Trish Graham, with the following commentary: *Attached is a photo I just took of the some of the cartoon characters and figures that Jerry kept in his office at SFU and which I inherited!*

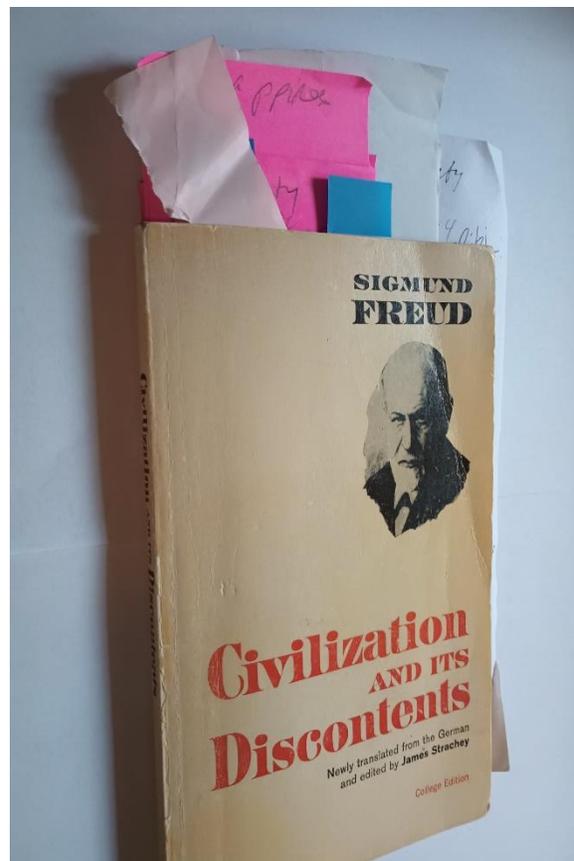
The composition is mine, but the figures were ones Jerry kept in a drawer. We want to call this “Jerry's play things” because of his love of cartoons (of all kinds), but particularly older cartoons, because he felt they embodied the ethic of play. I think the Freud and Moses figurines frame the cartoons nicely!



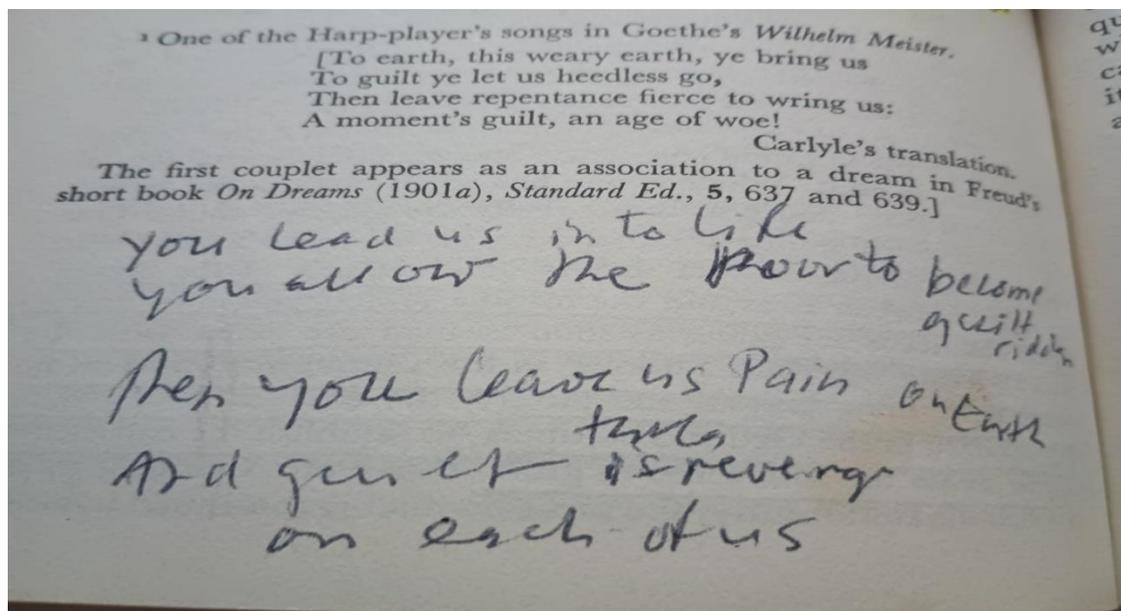
JZ note in his copy of Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*. Photo by Morgan Young.



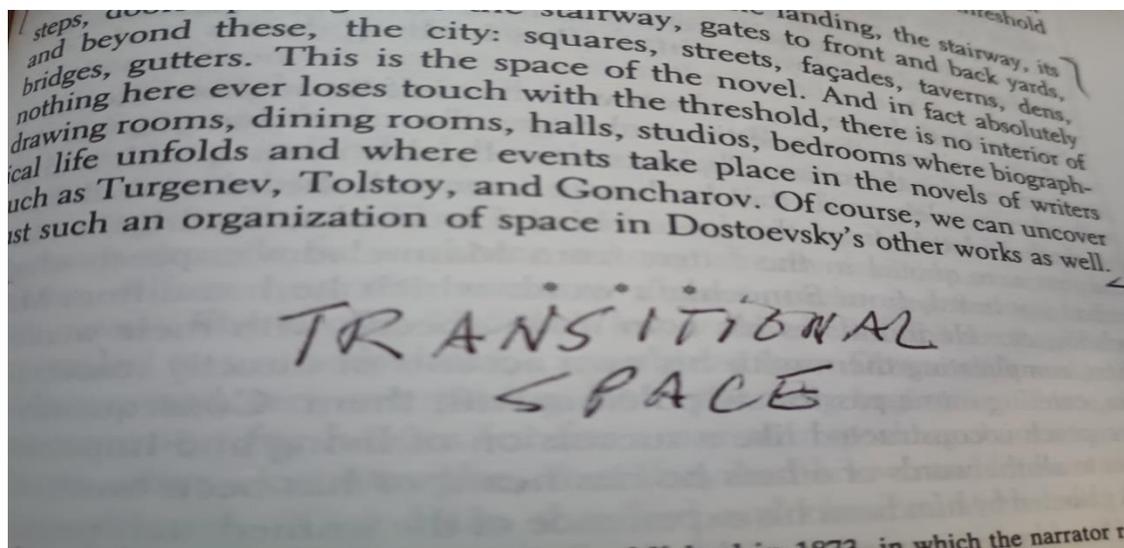
Some of Jerry's publications. Photo courtesy of Ellie Stebner.



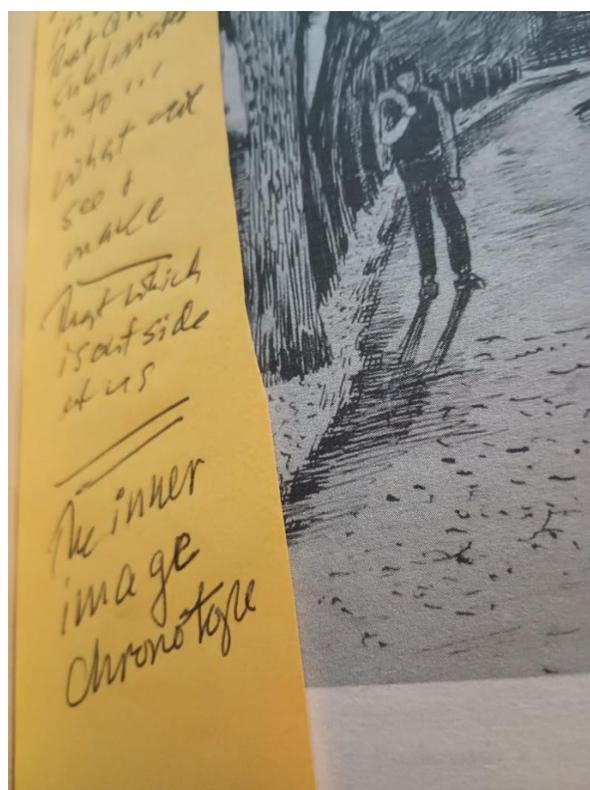
Jerry's copy of Freud's *Civilization and Its Discontents*. Photo by Morgan Young.



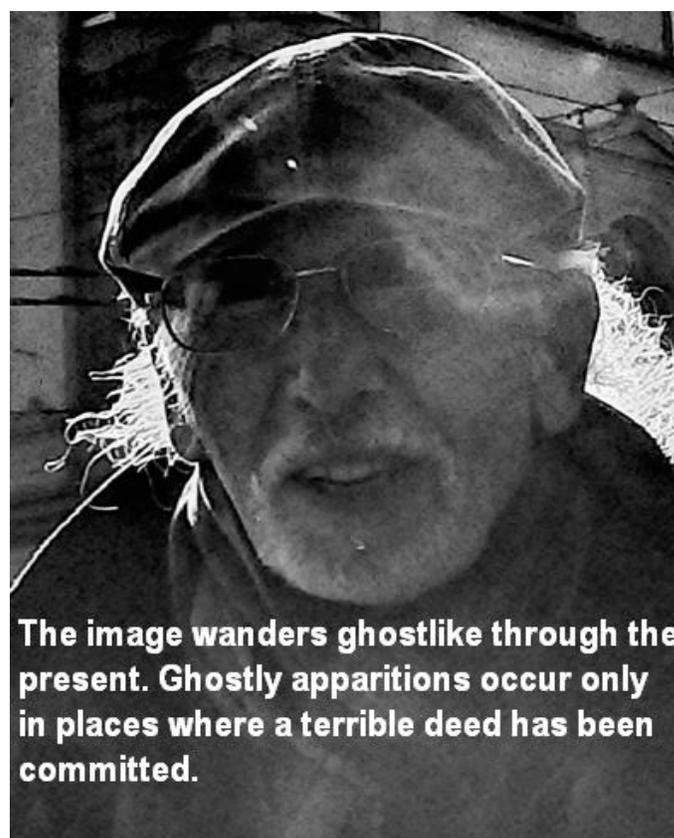
JZ note in his copy of Freud's *Civilization and Its Discontents*. Photo by Morgan Young.



JZ note in his copy of Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*. Photo by Morgan Young.

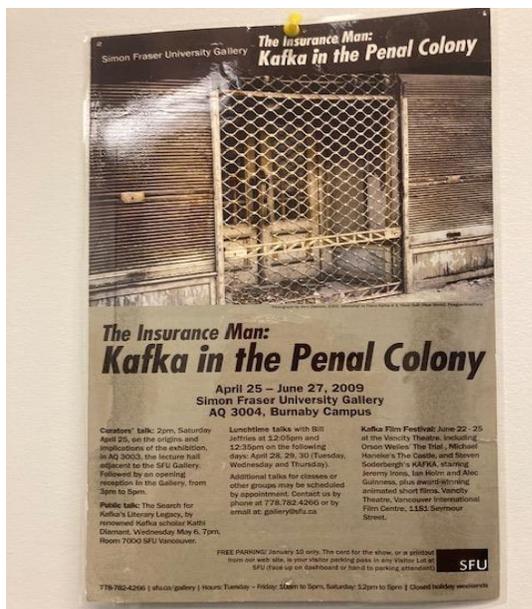


JZ note in his copy of *The Letters of Vincent van Gogh*. Photo by Morgan Young.

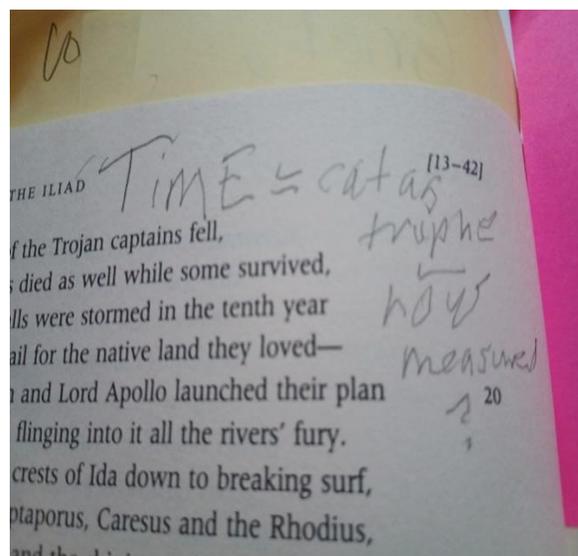


The image wanders ghostlike through the present. Ghostly apparitions occur only in places where a terrible deed has been committed.

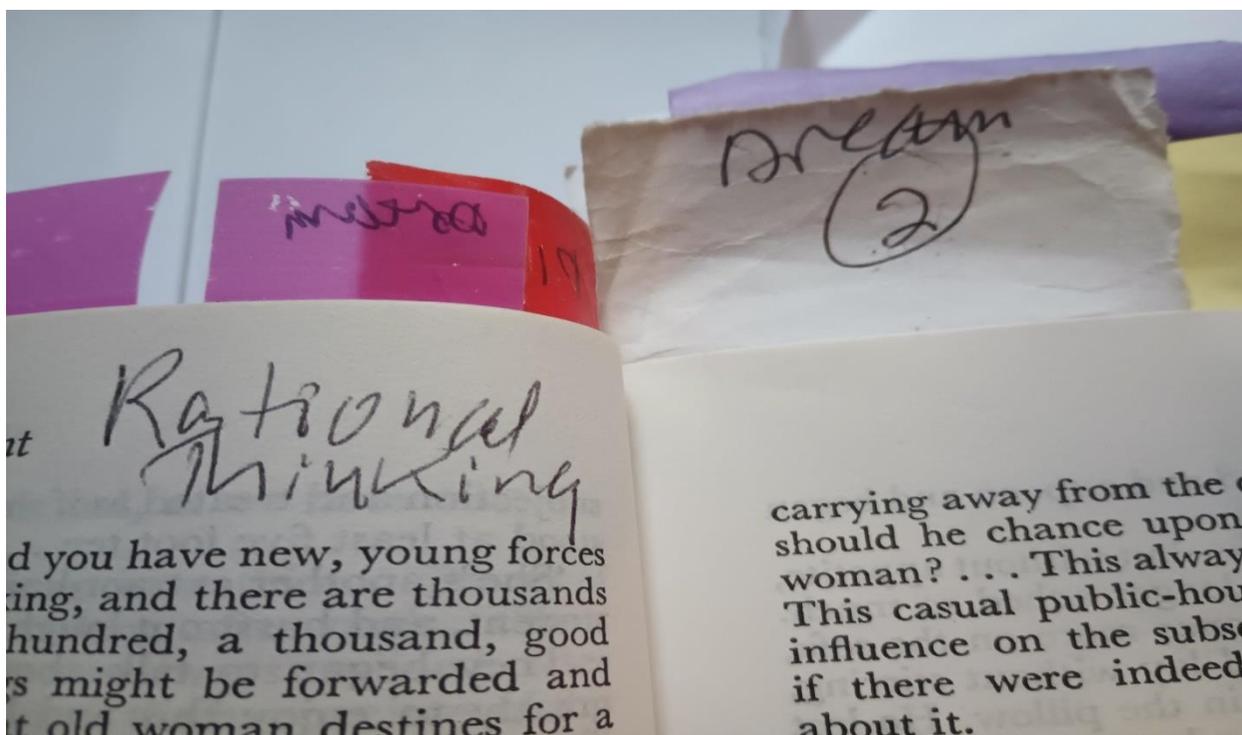
Photo courtesy of Wayne Knights.



Poster in Jerry's Harbour Centre office. Photo courtesy of Ellie Stebner.



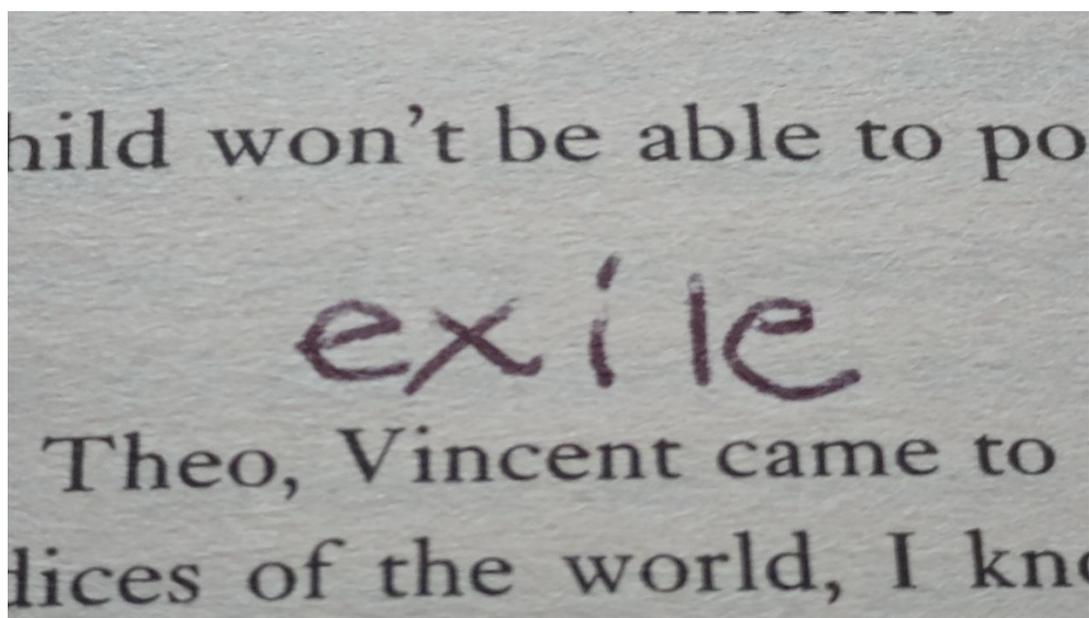
JZ note in his copy of *The Iliad*. Photo by Morgan Young.



JZ note in his copy of Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*. Photo by Morgan Young.



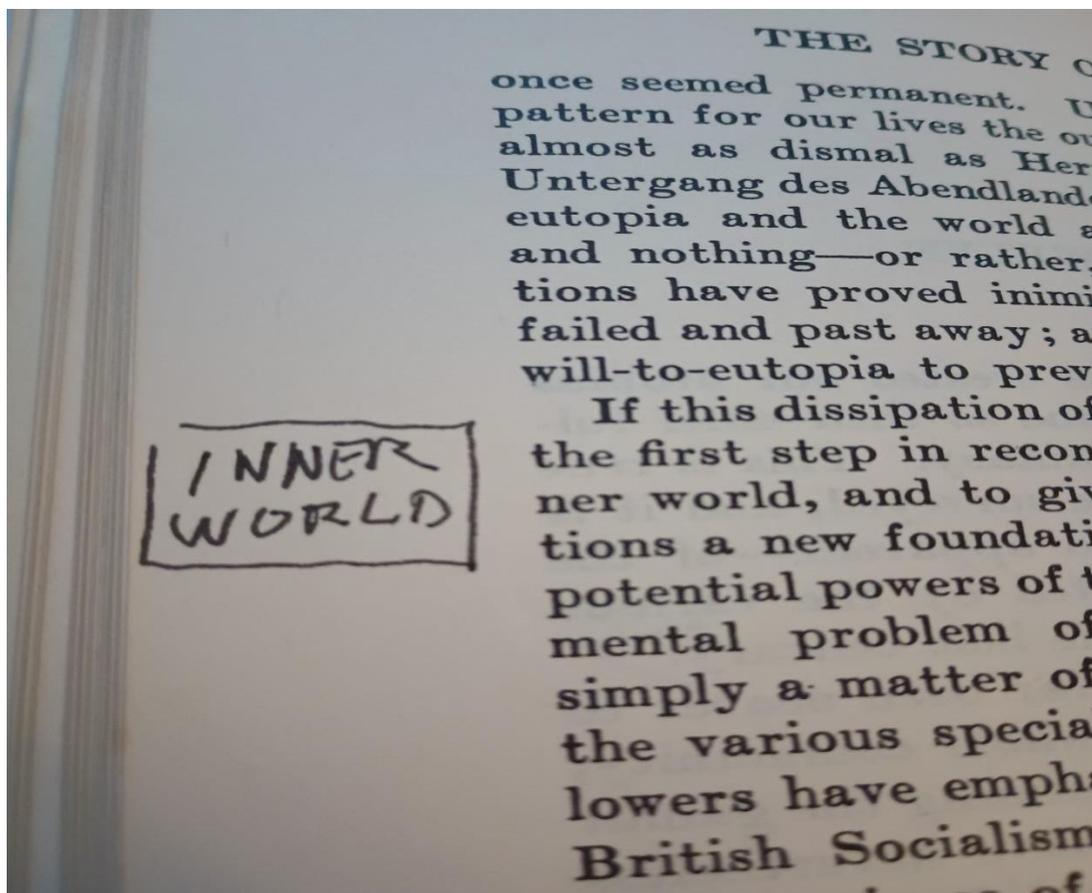
Annotated map in Jerry's Harbour Centre office. Photo courtesy of Ellie Stebner.



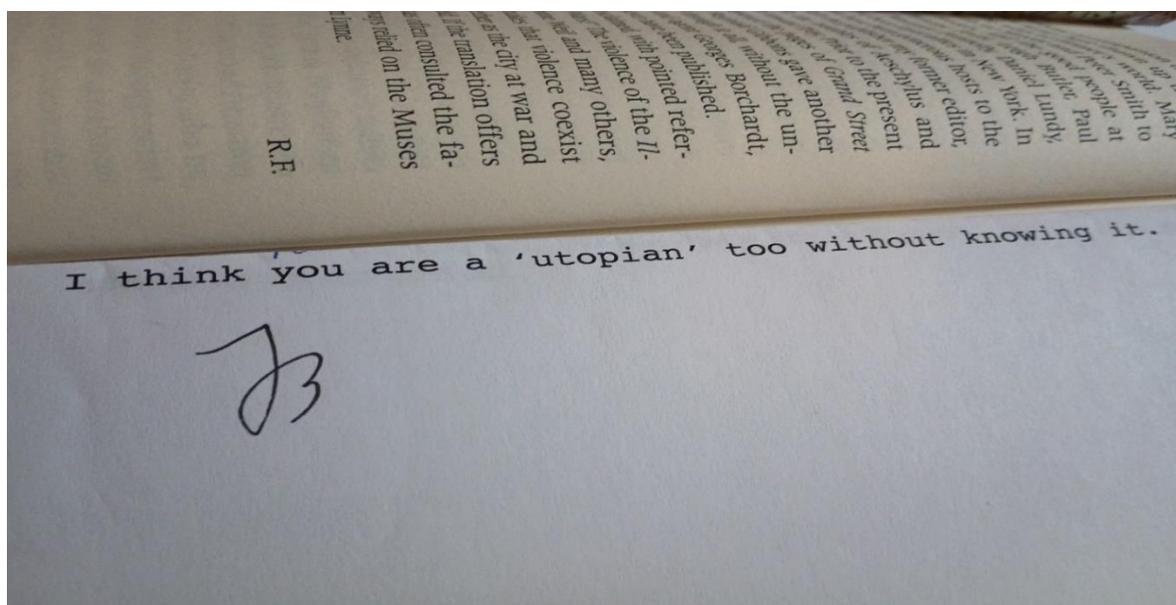
JZ note in his copy of *The Letters of Vincent van Gogh*. Photo by Morgan Young.



Photo courtesy of Wayne Knights.



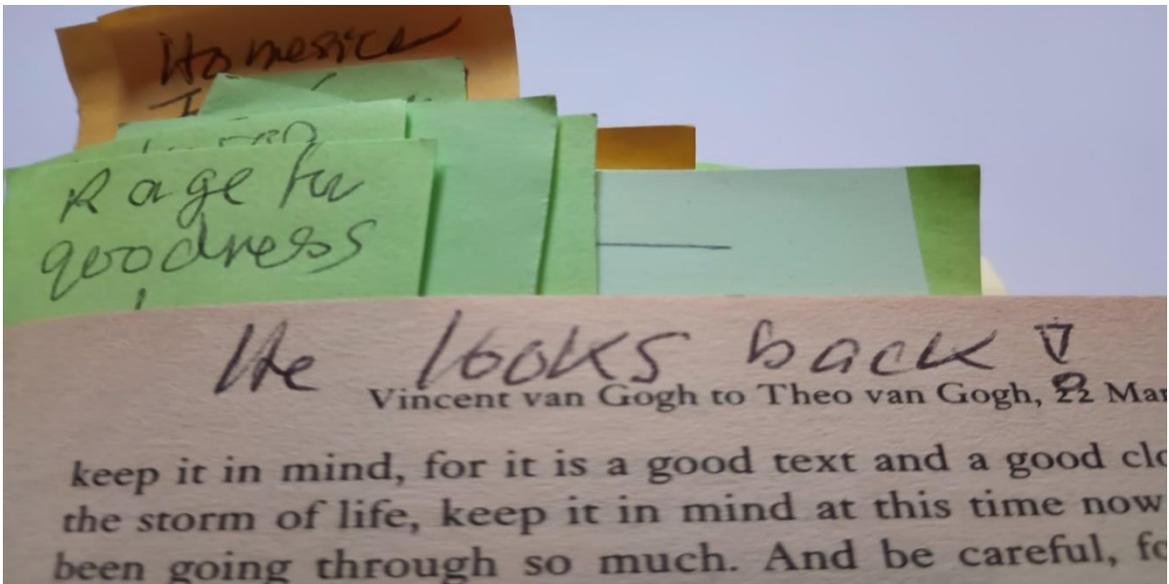
JZ note in his copy of Lewis Mumford's *The Story of Utopias*. Photo by Morgan Young



JZ note in his copy of *The Iliad*. Photo by Morgan Young.



Jerry in the rearview mirror: self-portrait. Photo courtesy of Sharon Callahan.



JZ note in his copy of *The Letters of Vincent van Gogh*. Photo by Morgan Young.