



## LitChat: April 11, 2012

Topic of the Week: Celebration of Poets & Poetry

Moderated by @LitChat [Carolyn Burns Bass]

The transcripts below cover the #litchat conversation noted above. The order appears sequentially from opening post to the closing post within the #litchat moderated chat time.

Guest Host: @EdwardJMoran

Special Guest: @TanyaPlutzik, widow of poet Hyam Plutzik

LitChat Welcome to Wednesday's #litchat, the second of our CELEBRATION OF POETS & POETRY. Please join us for the next hour in #litchat. -4:00 PM Apr 11th, 2012

LitChat We're discussing the poetry of Pulitzer finalist poet @HyamPlutzik today with @EdwardJMoran. Are you with us Edward? #litchat -4:01 PM Apr 11th, 2012

EdwardJMoran Hello, Carolyn. Happy to be here. #litchat -4:01 PM Apr 11th, 2012

LitChat While #litchat is underway from 4-5pmET, please don't use the hashtag unless you're contributing to the topical convo. Thanks. -4:02 PM Apr 11th, 2012

EdwardJMoran And hello to everyone in hashland :- ) #litchat -4:02 PM Apr 11th, 2012

LitChat As everyone is gathering for today's special chat, let's have some introductions. Please tell us about yourself. #litchat -4:03 PM Apr 11th, 2012

julichilliard RT @LitChat: Welcome to Wednesday's #litchat, the second of our CELEBRATION OF POETS & POETRY. Please join us for the next hour in #litchat. -4:03 PM Apr 11th, 2012

LitChat The easiest way to follow #litchat is from <http://t.co/kV8PpfPh>. Simply authorize the app and you're in the convo. -4:03 PM Apr 11th, 2012

julichilliard RT @LitChat: While #litchat is underway from 4-5pmET, please don't use the hashtag unless you're contributing to the topical convo. Thanks. -4:03 PM Apr 11th, 2012

julichilliard RT @LitChat: Get to know the genius of Hyam Plutzik, Pulitzer finalist poet we're discussing 4pmET today in #litchat. <http://t.co/ojCOWNPm>. -4:03 PM Apr 11th, 2012

MyfanwyCollins RT @litchat: The easiest way to follow #litchat is from <http://t.co/afPxUQqd>. Simply authorize the app and you're in the convo. -4:04 PM Apr 11th, 2012

LitChat Today's guest host, @EdwardJMoran, is a @HyamPlutzik scholar and the literary consultant to the Hyam Plutzik Centennial Project. #litchat -4:05 PM Apr 11th, 2012

EdwardJMoran Edward Moran here. literary advisor to the film on Hyam Plutzik that Oscar-nominee Christine Choy and Ku-ling Siegel made in 2007 #litchat -4:05 PM Apr 11th, 2012

LitChat @EdwardJMoran Let's begin with a bit of your background. What drew you to study @HyamPlutzik? #litchat -4:06 PM Apr 11th, 2012

EdwardJMoran thank you for inviting me to participate. #litchat -4:06 PM Apr 11th, 2012

TanyaPlutzik Hello Ed nice to see you#litchat #litchat -4:06 PM Apr 11th, 2012

valerievaldes @LitChat Hello, I'm a sometimes poet peeking in on this conversation. Excited for this topic! #litchat -4:07 PM Apr 11th, 2012

EdwardJMoran I was working as a literary historian for the World Authors reference series (HW Wilson) when Chris Choy asked me... #litchat -4:08 PM Apr 11th, 2012

LitChat Welcome! Please introduce yourself to our audience. RT @TanyaPlutzik: Hello Ed nice to see you#litchat #litchat -4:08 PM Apr 11th, 2012

EdwardJMoran "Who is Hyam Plutzik?" The U of Rochester wanted someone to document his archives...we proposed a film #litchat -4:08 PM Apr 11th, 2012

TanyaPlutzik Ed, what was it like to meet Stanley Kunitz #litchat #litchat -4:09 PM Apr 11th, 2012

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EdwardJMoran Tanya, how great to see you. May I tell our audience who you are? #litchat -4:10 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran We interviewed Stanley Kunitz when he was 99...he was frail and had been ill, but still very alert when he read poetry. #litchat -4:10 PM Apr 11th, 2012
LitChat .@EdwardJMoran "Who is Hyam Plutzik?" How did you answer Choy? (Take as many tweets as you wish!) #litchat -4:10 PM Apr 11th, 2012
GLHancock @LitChat Sorry to say I've not heard of any of these people/projects. The Oscars & Pulitzer, yes. Lotsa nominees, few winners. #litchat -4:11 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran we interviewed him at his apartment in nyc...we could only visit with him for half an hour due to his condition, but he was great #litchat -4:11 PM Apr 11th, 2012
TanyaPlutzik okay Ed please do #litchat -4:12 PM Apr 11th, 2012
LitChat @GLHancock Think of today as a discovery, then! I was introduced to @HyamPlutzik about three years ago and have been a fan since. #litchat -4:12 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran I told Chris Choy Plutzik was a poet who fell out of fashion after the 1960s but was considered great by Ted Hughes, Thom Gunn, #litchat -4:12 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran I have the honor to introduce Tanya Plutzik, who is Hyam's widow. She graciously appeared in the film and told us so much #litchat -4:13 PM Apr 11th, 2012
TanyaPlutzik Thank you Ed #litchat -4:14 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran We could not have made the film without Tanya's vast knowledge and affection for Hyam's poetry. Thank you, Tanya #litchat -4:14 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran Welcome GLHancock and Valerie...glad you've joined us #litchat -4:15 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran let me use "HP" to refer to Hyam since Twitter requires us to be brief #litchat -4:16 PM Apr 11th, 2012
valerievaldes RT @LitChat: Welcome to Wednesday's #litchat, the second of our CELEBRATION OF POETS & POETRY. Please join us for the next hour in #litchat. -4:16 PM Apr 11th, 2012
LitChat .@TanyaPlutzik We often speak with authors and poets here, but seldom with their spouses. Thank you for joining us. #litchat -4:16 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran HP was a finalist for the Pulitzer three times, something we just learned recently. i am sure he would have won it had he lived. #litchat -4:17 PM Apr 11th, 2012
TanyaPlutzik Ed, can you please talk about the poem "Abraham Lincoln" #litchat -4:17 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran He died just a few months after being the finalist for the 1962 prize, for his long poem "Horatio based on the character in Hamlet #litchat -4:17 PM Apr 11th, 2012
LitChat We're discussing the poetry of @HyamPlutzik, Pulitzer finalist poet today with @EdwardJMoran. Join us. #litchat -4:17 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran Yes...HP was stationed in the South during WWII before going to England..he was appalled by the Jim Crow segregation there>>> #litchat -4:18 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran and wrote "To Abraham Lincoln: That He Walk By Day" to protest the racism he saw...>>> #litchat -4:20 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran I am sure he had in mind Vachel Lindsay's poem "Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight" when he composed it...poets resonate #litchat -4:20 PM Apr 11th, 2012
PieOfWits you can read that poem here: <a href="http://t.co/u3QTn8Hm">http://t.co/u3QTn8Hm</a> #litchat -4:21 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran In the Abraham Lincoln poem, HP wrote of "the weary ages of injustice and brutality...they burn deep and smolder..." >>> #litchat -4:22 PM Apr 11th, 2012

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EdwardJMoran Langston Hughes would have understood that sentiment, and Gwendolyn Brooks #litchat -4:23 PM Apr 11th, 2012

LitChat "Abraham Lincoln" exemplifies what Plutzik wrote about poetry: "I once looked at poetry as little more than beautiful language. --> #litchat -4:24 PM Apr 11th, 2012

EdwardJMoran thanks PieOfWits for posting the poem....may I introduce you? #litchat -4:24 PM Apr 11th, 2012

LitChat "Later it was a way of communicating the nuances of the world." --> @HyamPlutzik #litchat -4:25 PM Apr 11th, 2012

TanyaPlutzik Exactly Ed. Professor Brunner associates HP's poetry with those two poets. #litchat -4:25 PM Apr 11th, 2012

LitChat "More recently I have begun to look at poetry as the great synthesizer, the humanizer of knowledge." @HyamPlutzik. #litchat -4:25 PM Apr 11th, 2012

PieOfWits Phil Witte here-- graduate of UR where HP taught literature. I work with Ed advising the Hyam Plutzik centennial project #litchat -4:25 PM Apr 11th, 2012

EdwardJMoran You're speaking of Edward Brunner, author of "Cold War Poetry" ... HP wrote during that postwar period/McCarthy Era #litchat -4:26 PM Apr 11th, 2012

LitChat .@TanyaPlutzik Do you or @EdwardJMoran believe that being raised by immigrants informed his stance against segregation in South? #litchat -4:27 PM Apr 11th, 2012

EdwardJMoran The poets of the Cold War era were very concerned about America's role as a superpower, about civil rights and repression at home #litchat -4:27 PM Apr 11th, 2012

EdwardJMoran Thanks, Phil. I should add Phil participated recently in a dramatic reading of "Horatio" at the U of R>>> #litchat -4:28 PM Apr 11th, 2012

TanyaPlutzik Still very relevant today! #litchat -4:28 PM Apr 11th, 2012

EdwardJMoran Phil edited the script that was performed by Nigel Maister ... anything you want to add, Phil? #litchat -4:29 PM Apr 11th, 2012

EdwardJMoran yes, Tanya, very relevant. Remember HP's poem "Hiroshima" in which he wrote about the bombers and the victims...very powerful poem #litchat -4:30 PM Apr 11th, 2012

EdwardJMoran yes, HP came from Jewish immigrants from Belarus...he was born in Brooklyn...his family was concerned about social justice issues #litchat -4:31 PM Apr 11th, 2012

TanyaPlutzik No, I don't think so. Hyam was born in America, his father was a very sophisticated citizen. #litchat -4:31 PM Apr 11th, 2012

EdwardJMoran yes, Tanya, wasn't his father a leader in their Jewish community, even a rabbi? #litchat -4:33 PM Apr 11th, 2012

mvw888 What would u say are the concerns of current poets? "@EdwardJMoran: The poets of the Cold War era... #litchat" -4:34 PM Apr 11th, 2012

EdwardJMoran poets of every era are concerned about human freedom...in our era concern about terrorism and the debasement of language #litchat -4:35 PM Apr 11th, 2012

LitChat .@EdwardJMoran: Please tell us more about "the debasement of language." #litchat -4:36 PM Apr 11th, 2012

EdwardJMoran today, language is debased by the State as well as a consumer culture...an era that has lost its intellectual moorings #litchat -4:36 PM Apr 11th, 2012

TanyaPlutzik Yes, his father was a leader and very appreciative of Hyam's talents. #litchat -4:37 PM Apr 11th, 2012

EdwardJMoran language used only for a mercenary or political aim...when language should express the depths of human aspiration>>> #litchat -4:38 PM Apr 11th, 2012

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mvw888 @EdwardJMoran does technology play a role (sorry, Twitter)? #litchat -4:39 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran as HP wrote in his poem "Seeking Always the Word Nearest to Silence" or "To Those Who Look Out of the Window" ... in the latter>>> #litchat -4:39 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran where HP asks us to feel "the torment of beauty deep in the throat." Now THAT's language at its most UNdebased... #litchat -4:40 PM Apr 11th, 2012
LitChat Glad to hear he was supported by father. RT @TanyaPlutzik: Yes, his father was a leader and very appreciative of Hyams talents. #litchat -4:40 PM Apr 11th, 2012
TanyaPlutzik @EdwardJMoran Poets have diverse interests, just like other concerned members of society. #litchat -4:40 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran re technology...HP actually was thinking of majoring in science...he wanted to find the connections with poetry,science,religion #litchat -4:42 PM Apr 11th, 2012
TanyaPlutzik @susanjmcleod says that this is her favorite poem. #litchat -4:42 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran when i think of Tweeting with 140 characters or less I think of poetry like haiku, or Emily Dickinson... #litchat -4:42 PM Apr 11th, 2012
LitChat .@HyamPlutzik was only 50 at his untimely death. Did he leave papers and poems yet unpublished? #litchat -4:43 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran or Marianne Moore, who wrote in her poem "To A Snail" about the contractility of style... #litchat -4:43 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran oh yes, he left many unpublished poems...also outline for a proposed poem on the Holocaust, plus letters to and from poets & family #litchat -4:44 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran this was a man of great depth and breadth who we are just beginning to rediscover...he certainly would have written much more #litchat -4:46 PM Apr 11th, 2012
TanyaPlutzik yes, @susanjmcleod does too! You must use economy of language which leads to appreciation of every word. #litchat -4:46 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran when he died, the U of R established the Plutzik Poetry Series in his honor, bringing all the great writers to campus for 50 years #litchat -4:47 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran tomorrow, US Poet Laureate Philip Levine will be reading in the series on the Rochester campus #litchat -4:47 PM Apr 11th, 2012
LitChat .@EdwardJMoran "just beginning to rediscover." Tell us about the Hyam Plutzik Poetry Centennial and how people can get involved. #litchat -4:48 PM Apr 11th, 2012
TanyaPlutzik The poet laureate Philip Levine will be at UR tomorrow evening at 5 p.m. #litchat -4:49 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran go to the website at <a href="http://t.co/v5priI5E">http://t.co/v5priI5E</a> for details. there will be events in NYC, Miami, Connecticut, even in Norwich UK>>> #litchat -4:49 PM Apr 11th, 2012
LitChat RT @TanyaPlutzik: The poet laureate Philip Levine will be at [University of Rochester] tomorrow evening at 5 <a href="http://t.co/TB1c3L2r">http://t.co/TB1c3L2r</a> . #litchat -4:50 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran Plutzik was stationed in the US Army in Norwich during WWII and wrote some important poems there #litchat -4:50 PM Apr 11th, 2012
TanyaPlutzik Since Hyam's passing, as part of the Series, 300 writers have performed at the University. #litchat -4:50 PM Apr 11th, 2012
valerievaldes @EdwardJMoran Can you discuss the subtext of The Last Fisherman or The Old War? #litchat -4:51 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran yes, Tanya, including several Nobel Prize winners, US Poets Laureate, Pulitzer winners...the real cream of the literary crop #litchat -4:51 PM Apr 11th, 2012

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TanyaPlutzik @susanjmcleod remembers Margaret Atwood in particular. #litchat -4:52 PM Apr 11th, 2012
LitChat She has popped into #litchat on occasion. RT @TanyaPlutzik: @susanjmcleod remembers @MargaretAtwood in particular. #litchat -4:53 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran Valerie, HP was an avid fisherman...he loved being alone with his fishing rod...I think of the great nature poets>>> #litchat -4:53 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran who wrote of human engagement with the forces of nature...in "The Last Fisherman" he writes of the wonder of transient beauty>>> #litchat -4:54 PM Apr 11th, 2012
TanyaPlutzik @susanjmcleod also Eavan Boland was fantastic and moving and Salmon Rushdie #litchat -4:54 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran "Time runs out as the hook lashes the water/Day after day, and as the days wane/Wait still for the wonder." #litchat -4:55 PM Apr 11th, 2012
valerievaldes @EdwardJMoran Is the poem meant to feel almost post-apocalyptic? #litchat -4:56 PM Apr 11th, 2012
TanyaPlutzik @susanjmcleod great nature poet #litchat -4:56 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran "The Old War" was inspired by his WWII service, when he helped prepare planes for the D-Day invasion...mourning the loss of life #litchat -4:56 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran based near the barley fields in Norfolk, England, he saw connections between the harvesting of crops and casualties of war #litchat -4:57 PM Apr 11th, 2012
TanyaPlutzik HP was a pacifist, but believed that some wars are justified, such as WW11 #litchat -4:58 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran yes, I think so...an apocalypse that ushers in a period of peace and renewal #litchat -4:58 PM Apr 11th, 2012
LitChat .@TanyaPlutzik What is your favorite @HyamPlutzik poem? #litchat -4:58 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran not a dystopic apocalypse at all #litchat -4:59 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran yes, Tanya, he wrote of the fiendish menace of Nazism, which he saw to be twisted and inhumane #litchat -4:59 PM Apr 11th, 2012
TanyaPlutzik I have many favorites, but "To My Daughter" is very special. #litchat -5:02 PM Apr 11th, 2012
valerievaldes @EdwardJMoran Was pacifism a recurring theme in his poetry? #litchat -5:02 PM Apr 11th, 2012
LitChat We have been visiting with the widow of @HyamPlutzik and @EdwardJMoran, literary consultant to Hyam Plutzik Poetry Centennial. #litchat -5:03 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran yes, even in the "war poetry" he writes of its anguish #litchat -5:03 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran Thank you everyone, it has been a pleasure...please continue to read HP's work and participate in upcoming centennial events #litchat -5:05 PM Apr 11th, 2012
LitChat Just read it. Powerful. <a href="http://t.co/brmN78vE">http://t.co/brmN78vE</a> @TanyaPlutzik I have many favorites, but "To My Daughter" is very special. #litchat -5:05 PM Apr 11th, 2012
TanyaPlutzik A pleasure. Thank you. #litchat -5:05 PM Apr 11th, 2012
EdwardJMoran and thank you, Tanya, for your spirited contributions #litchat -5:05 PM Apr 11th, 2012
LitChat We're at the end of the hour @EdwardJMoran promised us today. Let's give him a huge round of THANKS and #litchat {{{APPLAUSE}}} -5:06 PM Apr 11th, 2012
PieOfWits All of HP's published poems are available to read at <a href="http://t.co/geCtplv4">http://t.co/geCtplv4</a> #litchat -5:06 PM Apr 11th, 2012
valerievaldes @EdwardJMoran Thanks so much! #litchat -5:06 PM Apr 11th, 2012

Topic of the Week:  
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LitChat It's been a profound honor to have @TanyaPlutzik, widow of @HyamPlutzik, join us today in #litchat. {{{THANK YOU}}} -5:07 PM Apr 11th, 2012

valerievaldes RT @PieOfWits: All of HP's published poems are available to read at <http://t.co/geCtplv4> #litchat -5:07 PM Apr 11th, 2012

LitChat RT @PieOfWits: All of [@HyamPlutzik's] published poems are available to read at <http://t.co/ny1MWzbQ> #litchat -5:07 PM Apr 11th, 2012

valerievaldes @TanyaPlutzik Thanks to you as well. #litchat -5:08 PM Apr 11th, 2012

LitChat Having read through @HyamPlutzik online catalog in months preceding today's session, I can't recommend his work highly enough. #litchat -5:09 PM Apr 11th, 2012

LitChat Take time this April of National Poetry Month to get to know poets and enjoy their poetry. #litchat -5:10 PM Apr 11th, 2012

ErikaRobuck RT @LitChat: Take time this April of National Poetry Month to get to know poets and enjoy their poetry. #litchat -5:10 PM Apr 11th, 2012

LitChat We'll be back on Friday for Poets Open Mic, where poets are invited to talk about their own work, or that of their favorites. #litchat -5:11 PM Apr 11th, 2012

alisonwells RT @LitCha: We'll be back on Fri for Poets Open Mic, where poets are invited to talk about their own work, or that of their favorites #litchat -5:11 PM Apr 11th, 2012

LitChat This month, take a look at @HyamPlutzik's body of work cataloged at the Hyam Plutzik Poetry Centennial: <http://t.co/4C9Xd9Nc> #litchat -5:12 PM Apr 11th, 2012