

Date: March 3, 2022 14:07 PM

From: Dr John WorldPeace JD

Subject: The 2022 Pulitzer Poetry Prize

To: Bud Kliment, Acting Administrator of Pulitzer Prizes

DISTRIBUTION by Pulitzer.org,

- 1) Lee Bollinger, President Columbia University
- 2) all administrators, all Board of Directors of Pulitzer
- 3) the judges for the 2022 Pulitzer Poetry Prize

Distribution by Dr Jwp JD

- 3) Many heads of English departments in the secular American universities
- 4) All those who publish poetry listed in the "Poets Market 2020"

Some Dr John WorldPeace JD websites:

<https://drjohnworldpeacejdpoetry.com/>

<https://drjohnworldpeacejdversuspulitzerorg.com/>

<https://johnworldpeace.com> This is my 15,000 page flagship website.

WORLDPEACE TEACHING PEACE

CONTRIBUTE TO MY CAMPAIGN FOR ALL MY WORLDPEACE PROJECTS:

<https://worldpeaceteachingpeace.com/contributions.asp>

This email is about my ongoing analysis of how the Pulitzer Poetry Prize selects winners. There is virtually nothing about winning a Pulitzer Poetry Prize on the internet; except my website.

<https://drjohnworldpeacejdversuspulitzerorg.com/>

I submitted 4 books for the 2022 Pulitzer Poetry Prize. Winners to be announced in a month; April 2022. There is nothing on the Pulitzer.org website contrary to this date at the time of this email.

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I. Dr John WorldPeace JD Poetry (<https://drjohnworldpeacejdpoeetry.com>)

I began writing free verse poetry on October 11, 1970, the night before leaving for Army boot camp as a draftee. I had just graduated from the University of Houston, in August, with a Political Science degree. I was trained for a year to go to Vietnam as an infantry sergeant. By the grace of God, I was sent instead to the NATO forces in Italy (SETAF).

I had one course in 19th century poetry in college. I was motivated by Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, Robert Frost, Carl Sandberg.

From 1970 to 2018, I simply wrote my poetry and put it away in a binder or folder. I wrote only in cursive except on rare occasions. I was not able to achieve inspiration with a typewriter. I am also an artist since 7th grade and I think pen or pencil and paper have an artistic dynamic that a typewriter then and computer now sterilizes.

Other than the above authors and E E Cummings, Edna St Vincent Millay who I somehow connected with over the years, I did not read poetry or engage in any poetry community because I was just too busy, picking up an Accounting and Law degree, running my own businesses, raising 4 children.

I am a high IQ, high energy, polymath and everything interests me. I have led a dynamic life, and I wrote poetry about all of it.

In 1990, after writing poetry for 20 years, I felt that I was in a rut. So, I photocopied all my poems and separated them into about 20 piles of categories. I could easily see the common denominators. And I could better see the rut I was in.

I did not know how to cure it. I never really thought about reading other poets. I really never found any poets who wrote like I write when I made an attempt; usually when going to the bookstores. I thought that by not writing for while I would break down the rut.

I wrote about 25 poems a year from 1991 to 2013. 80 a year in 2014 and 2015. I had a near fatal heart attack in 1997, after which I refused the bypass. In January 2016, I came very close to having another heart attack. I had no real change in attitude or philosophy, but I wrote several hundred poems in 2016 and more in 2017 and 2018. I did recognize that I was no longer in the rut that I was in 1990.

Over the years, I had tried many times to type all my poems, and in 1980 when the computers came out, I put a greater effort into getting all the poems into a data base. There were many attempts. Each time starting over it seems. So, in 2018 I had my original poems and copies, and copies of copies of copies. About 5,000 copies.

I hired a typist in 2018 and I began to sort down all the copies into one printed copy of all my originals. Then I would do minor editing to all the printed copies and give them to the typist. The ones that were not typed over the years, I had to type myself because my hand writing was impossible for the typist to work with.

It was a massive effort that did not end until October 2019, when everything I had written was typed and organized and self-published with KDP Amazon.

After the typing began in the Spring of 2018, and I could see I was going to get everything typed, I looked to see if there were any contests that would take a submission of all the poems. Only the Pulitzer Poetry Prize, deadline October 2019 for the 2020 prize.

As I said above, in 1990, I looked at all my poetry to see what I was writing about and my style of writing. The style has not changed from the first poem in 1970. I use very little punctuation, seldom write rhymes, and spread the poems out on the page to generate pauses. To me commas, periods, colons and semi-colons, exclamation and question marks in formal prose are just pauses. I do use some quotation marks. I hate apostrophes like “don’t” so if they exists in my poetry it is the spell-checker that is putting them in automatically. If that happens, I leave them in because it irritates me to have to take them out.

After typing and editing all those poems, about 3,300, I had a system to record my poems. I never had any trouble with creativity. Anything that caught my attention in life, I wrote a poem about it. Sometime in the late 1990’s I read some Haiku and liked it. The content more than the form. So a lot of my short poems now are what I would call, free verse Haiku.

After October 2019, I began to write about 100 pages of poems per month which comes generally to about 130 poems, because I write a lot of poems less than 15 lines. I have kept that up for 29 months including February 2022, which I just finished this morning.

II. The 2020 Pulitzer Poetry Prize

The only thing I could find in researching the Pulitzer Poetry Prize was that the poems had to be published, as opposed to written, between January and the first of October the prior year but selections, compilations, complete poems were acceptable.

I submitted all my poems, 2,700 pages about 3,300 poems, and went on about my life waiting for the awards in April 2020.

I did not win. The main reason was that my submission was never read. I have been trying for almost two years now to get an admission out of Pulitzer as to whether they read my submission. I have never received a comment from them.

The winner for 2020 was Traditions by Jericho Brown about 80 poems. The nominees were about the same length. The truth is that was always about the length of the submissions unless it was a selection or collection of poems.

With more research into the winners, based on categories I looked at (undergraduate university, occupation of the poet, awards the poet had received, and publisher.

I was astounded to find that the vast majority of winners since 2000 (the only years I researched) were full or part time professors of English, had won a significant number of awards. Secondary, categories revealed certain publishers with more winners, Ivy League undergraduate degrees, and some affiliation with Columbia University who manages the prizes. Reference this link.

<https://drjohnworldpeacejdversuspulitzerorg.com/list%20of%20winners%20and%20credentials%20210803.pdf>

None of this has been published anywhere. The information is there if you look at Wikipedia biographies. Until I did this research, no one else did this research and if they did they did not publish a summary of what they found. I feel sure the poetry publishers were aware of it but kept it to themselves.

I also found something interesting about cosmetics. A Pulitzer Poetry submission needs a professional artist cover and layout. It needs to be read by 2 or 3 professional editors so it is clear of grammar and spelling problems. Now this is very expensive. Maybe that has to do with the fact that from 1918 to the 1970's there were only about 50 submissions per year. Reference this link.

<https://drjohnworldpeacejdversuspulitzerorg.com/Notes%20from%20Pulitzer%20Prize%20Archive%20220212%200618.pdf>

For me, I am an artist and I have a Brand Cover that I designed and is 80% of all my covers. Basically, the only difference in my covers is the book title. I did this intentionally so if someone was interested in something I wrote, they could easily spot my books on a shelf in a bookstore. I use the same cover on my not-poetry as well.

The bottom line was obvious for me, I did not fall into any of those categories for winners so: "I did not have a dog's change in hell of winning the 2020 Pulitzer Poetry Prize." In addition, traditional wordsmith structured poetry had the inside track for the Pulitzer Poetry Prize.

I wrote about 900 poems that were eligible for the 2021 Pulitzer Poetry Prize but did not submit them because I felt that my research was inadequate to really understand the criteria for winning.

III. So what is a poem?

As I have said, I just started writing poetry on October 11, 1970. I would write a poem when I was inspired and then file it away. This went on until the Spring of 2018 when I determined to self-publish all I had written with KDP Amazon. Other than these moments of poetic inspiration, I did nothing related to poetry. My life was too busy.

In fact, I wrote poetry in part to keep my creative connection that mostly had been applied to my art. But I could not, cannot, carry a bundle of art supplies around with me for when those times of inspiration come. So, I tasked my poetic ability to maintain that creative connection: and strengthen it.

I entered no contest, did not join a poetic community, took no classes, did not read the poems of other except Whitman, Dickinson, Frost and Sandburg.

In 2018, I had close to 3,000 poems; all written in cursive. I began my project to publish all my poems. I had no thoughts about marketing. I had to create a business plan to process my cursive poems into traditional poem books before I could market my poetry.

(Note: I realized in 2020 that I had made a big mistake in writing poems for 50 years and did not make any attempt at marketing them. Since 2020, I have been running fast to catch up my marketing on my poetry. I have no positive reviews of my poetry nor do I have any negative commentary. What I have at this point is 7,000 poems written over 53 years and still no commentary. That will change next month (April 2022) when the winners of the 2022 Pulitzer Poetry Prize is announced. The Pulitzer did not read my 3,300 submissions for the 2020 Pulitzer Poetry Prize. I do not think they will attempt to ignore me again. I have significantly challenged them since June 2020 with no response of any kind from them. A record of my efforts can be found on this website:

<https://drjohnworldpeacejdiversuspulitzerorg.com/>

This is the sister site to my poetry site at:

<https://drjohnworldpeacejpoetry.com/>)

Regarding my marketing efforts: First, order of business, I needed to sort through thousands of pages of poems I had typed over 47 years until I only had one typed poem for each cursive poem. That was a massive project. It took 15 months. As I sorted through the typed poems, I had to make decisions on which copy to keep because each time I would type poems I would do some editing. When I would make another run at typing my poem 5-20 years later, I may edit the original differently. Fortunately, most of my poems are short: less than 30 lines.

I was impressed by the Emily Dickinson format. And the poets I did read, I read the short poems first by skipping through their books. It was obvious that Emily Dickinson would be inspired by something and then write a poem on whatever was close a hand to write on. I did this the first

couple of years until I saw I was going to keep writing and I had to be more methodical and organized and so I always had a notebook, or writing tablet and now a steno pad and pen close by.

As I began to publish, I had to focus on a lot of aspects of my poetry. The first question for me, was what is a poem as opposed to prose. It has taken me 3 years to figure that out to my satisfaction.

Poetry like art evolved significantly in the 20th century.

My conclusion: Poetry is something that is written in a non-traditional structure, as opposed to structured prose written under long establish prose rules of grammar and punctuation, sentences, phrases, and paragraphs, etc.

So anything that does not look like traditional structured prose English to me, is poetry. The only way prose becomes poetry is if the poet says in one way or another, that he or she is writing his or her poetry in a prose format. That is ok if the subject matter is a poetic thought. For me poetry is a metaphysical spiritual statement. But that is a more cloudy concept because for me everything is metaphysical with a logical linear and abstract/ philosophical/ spiritual aspect.

I am 73 and I was always aware that I existed in two dimensions. An infinite immortal soul incarnate within a finite mortal physical human body, vehicle, container created from the dust of the earth. A body held together by biological laws, but animated by a soul. If the soul leaves the body, it degenerates back to dust. And this atomic dust, is then used by the earth to create something else.

So the atoms that were used for Einstein's body decomposed and some of them could presently exist in millions of human bodies, trees, plants, reptiles, water. The Christian thought that at the resurrection God is going to gather up all these earth atoms and recreate a soul's human body is just laughable. It is the kind of thing you learn in Sunday School Universities.

Since E E Cummings destroyed the tradition structure of poetry, anything is poetry that is not written in a traditional prose. There is an aspect of human writing that needs to be considered. An uneducated person who never learned to write proper prose, is not creating a poem unless he or she so states. A person with a third-grade education could naturally attempt to write prose that would always look like poetry. So there has to be some intent to write a poem with regards to these people.

What I have written as poetry, is so designated, and words following one to the other with an attempt to communicate a thought poetically but I use virtually no punctuation. I use space as punctuation.

So take a paragraph of any prose and remove all the traditional punctuation and use short and long spacing horizontal and vertical to replace the punctuation. Then you have my style of writing poetry. And that style was within my first poem to my most recent poem.

I do use punctuation sometimes when a phrase just cannot be distinguished without some traditional punctuation.

And one thing more. Just because you take prose and write it so that it graphically looks like a fish or a dog or a flower, does not make it poetry. If the formal prose grammar and punctuation is there, it is not a poem unless specifically designated by the writer as poetry.

So the definition of poetry is that it is not written like prose or if it is written as prose it is declared a poem by the poet. It would be assumed that a prose poem in a book of poetry would be intended to be a poem; but without some initial statement from the poet that everything in the book is poetry, you will not know if a writing is poetry or prose.

When I put prose in a poetry book, I will usually designate it as a NOTE: If I have done this 5 times I would be surprised but I have done it.

I have not read much on this issue. But most of what I have read just about poetry is talking about the nuances of poetic expression within a poem. That said, I get bored really fast with and kind of technical poetry analysis. I always feel like I am being forced into some kind of box.

Some people have to learn how to write poetry. Some are just natural poets and learning things about poetry more often than not retards the poet's creativity. I feel the same about art teachers.

What is Dr John WorldPeace JD definition of a "heart of a poem"

A heart of a poem is almost always a phrase in a poem that could be a free standing poem.

Here is one example of a "heart of a poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay that I built a different poem around. Some poets write a lot of poems with these hearts. They do not even know what they have done generally speaking. Most poets don't have this spiritual connection to their poetry such that their poems have none of these hearts in them.

Hearts of Poems is the one metric I have for defining a favorite poet of mine and a worthy poet.

THE IVORY BOX, PEARLS AND GOLD

*"Once the ivory box is broken
Beats the golden bird no more"
Edna St. Vincent Millay*

The decaying
 piano
 collapsing
 in an ancient
 garage

I removed the ivory keys
 and walked
 away

The demolition
of the estate
begins tomorrow
but the ivory
from the keys
I have saved

There is nothing
so angelic
as ivory

There is nothing
so heavenly as
pearls

Save not my
flesh and bones
let them
evaporate
in the
dirt
or in the fire

Just write
my name
on a golden medallion
and place it
in an
ivory box
filled with
pearls

Jwp 2021

211202-0247 (Note: I always date and time my poems because I seldom attach a title and because I write so many poems. This is the best way to find them. Presently, my first publication of my poems is in a monthly book in chronological order. Then I will write some collections and selections. But the month-to-month poems since October 2019 are titled Complete Poems in chronological order: as an index of all my poems.)

Here are some other hearts of poems

Robert Bly

hands that clumsily hold heavy books
penetrated like the noise of crickets
heavy green smoke close to the ground
roads that feel around in the darkness
sending out beams of black light to the open sea

they live in the casket of the sun, and the moon's coffin
the grass blades are leaping in the wind
they half stand, half dance, half rage, half shout
I see my shadow reach for the latch

Langston Hughes

The butterflies dance on rainbow wings
If dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird, that cannot fly
the nails of conscience in a soul
the day-people laughed, the night-people cried
a blue cloud-cloth
embrace white death, the vilest of whores
he slept like a rock or a man that's dead
you will find the rain better than shelter from the rain
she would break down doors to wander naked in the cold
from the topless tree of eternity

Octavio Paz

The sleeping tree speaks all green oracles
all vanish before this plain flower
among the black stones the white voice of love-struck water
the day at a standstill in the trees
not a wrinkle in the sky
lost in the streets of my skull
I heard my blood singing in its prison
I turn the page of the day writing what I am told by the motion of your eyelashes
to the debate of wasps the dialectic of monkeys
the butterfly with black wings burns
flames that climb the walls like yearning ivy

IV. The problem with judges and judging my poetry

In October 2019, I submitted my complete poems over 50 years for the 2020 Pulitzer Poetry Prize. It was never read. (In two years and lots of emails to Pulitzer, there has been no denial of this fact.

The question is Why?

The answer is simple.

Juries of judges selected by Pulitzer are for the most part professor poets. And these professor poets have careers to consider in judging any poetry.

Now I put before these judges 2,700 pages of about 3,300 poems writing over 50 years. Never published, never marketed, never submitted to anyone for comment.

In a word, no opinions of any kind in the world human society exists regarding my poetry.

As one of my crusty friends said about these kinds of situations: “They (the judges) shit down both legs” when they saw my submission.

1) I had submitted the equivalent of 33 typical 100 page submissions. From what I read in the Pulitzer archives the average number of submissions is less than 100 a year based on the number of submissions from 1918 to 1980.

2) For a judge to render an opinion on 3,300 poems written over 50 years, and no guidance as to anyone’s opinion about a single poem, means that the judge’s career was in perilous jeopardy. If wrong, his career would be over. Not to mention a guy who changed his name to WorldPeace who wrote poems. No career professor poet was going to put his or her career on the line over my intimidating submission for 2020.. So the easy thing to do was just trash can the entry. There was no definition by Pulitzer over 80 years as to the acceptable length of a submission.

(Note: and after this, the Pulitzer did not add a rule stating that submissions had to be 100 pages or less. Their thinking I am sure was, this WorldPeace submission is a one-time anomaly. That was reinforced when I did not make an entry for the 2021 Prize. (Because I did not know the rules, but I did write 900+ poems in 2020.) So no rule change and I entered 4 books of about 1,400 poems total for the 2022 prize.)

3) So, the bottom line is that the Pulitzer has no metric for an Emily Dickinson scenario when her friends gather up about 1,800 poems after her death and finally, professionally, they were published in 1998. Some poems were published in 1890 4 years after her death

So here I am John WorldPeace, 130 years after the death of Emily Dickinson, self-publishing 3,300 poems and submitting them for the 2020 Pulitzer Poetry Prize. With my poems for February 2022 finished, I now have about 7,000 poems.

So, I wrote as many poems between October 2019 and February 2022 as I did from 1970 to 2019.

Why? Because I finally figured out what I was doing after publishing all my poems in 2019. What I was looking for in 1990, I found in 2019. So now I know what I am doing and the poems are flowing steadily at about 125 a month. I am 73 and not brain dead by any means.

4) So what does the Pulitzer need to do. First off, they knew my level of production in October 2019. But did nothing to redefine the parameters of an entry for future Pulitzer Poetry Prizes. So they have to deal with what I submitted and that means they have to read all my poems that I submitted for the 2022 prize.

And it means they have to hire about 10 judges to evaluate my 2022 submission. Why 10?

10 judges because with 10 judges they can form a herd of judges and whatever they decide, no one poet’s career will be on the line.

Second, it will take 10 judges to read all my poems. What needs to happen is that they need to look at not only my 2022 submission but also my 2020 submission of 3,300 \poems that we never considered by the judges much less even read.

The Pulitzer has a complete archive going back to 1918. They still have my books unless they literally did throw away my 4 copies of 4 volumes of poems from my 2020 submission. Now we are talking about 2,700 pages from 2020 and 1,400 from 2022. They do not have the 900 pages I wrote for 2021 to consider.

5) So will the judges and board again just ignore Dr John WorldPeace JD. That would be an admission that the Pulitzer Poetry Prize is not concerned about a search for the best poet submission for the 2022 award.

My poetry is the biggest Elephant in the room in the history of poetry. I have 3 times the production of Emily Dickinson and roughly twice as many poems as published by the most noted American poets in their individual lives.

What is interesting to me, is that the Pulitzer cannot admit that for a second time they have refused to read my poetry. I publish everything I write. I don't write crap. The majority of major poets are only recognized for a few handful of poems if not just a few poems.

I don't edit out what I do not think are stellar poems. I am a democratic writer of poems and I feel every poem I have ever written was written for someone, no matter how far he or she will appear in the future.

The bottom line is this:

- 1) The Pulitzer board is going to have to ask the judges if they actually read every page of my submissions and what their conclusions were.
- 2) Then, the board is going to have to consider the fear of the judges of being the first to comment on my submission and putting their careers in jeopardy. This reality is going to require the board to independently decide if one or all of my submissions win.
- 3) I believe, I should win the 2022 Pulitzer Poetry Prize, the two nominations and a special award.
- 4) I would also say that my book "Raw White Racism" is absolutely on point to the backward movement of the Civil Rights movement AND the fact that today's news states that Right Wing Poles are harassing Black and Arab refugees from the Ukraine.

The board recognized Gay Black Males in 2020 and Female- Hispanic-Native Americans in 2021.

This is the year to acknowledge WorldPeace as Putin murders Ukrainians as the world applies sanctions to the Ukrainian Holocaust. And the Black issue with WorldPeace.

V. My 4 Submissions for the 2022 Pulitzer Poetry Prize

Dr John WorldPeace JD Complete Poems 2021 January to September (761 pages)
SUBMITTED FOR THE 2022 PULITZER POETRY PRIZE
Paperback available on Amazon.com

**Dr John WorldPeace JD Eastern Religion as Poetry: Krishna, Buddha, Lao Tsu,
Patanjali, Confucius (468 pages)**
SUBMITTED FOR THE 2022 PULITZER POETRY PRIZE
Paperback available on Amazon.com

This is a reinterpretation of some sacred scripts of Eastern Religion by Dr John WorldPeace
JD with a WorldPeace orientation

THIS IS THE LINK TO A CROPPED VERSION OF THIS BOOK.

<https://drjohnworldpeacejdversuspulitzerorg.com/Dr%20John%20WorldPeace%20JD%20Eastern%20Religion%20as%20Poetry%20final%20Cropped%20%20220301.pdf>

RAW WHITE RACISM (written in 2020 published in 2021) (one poem 74 pages)
SUBMITTED FOR THE 2022 PULITZER POETRY PRIZE
Paperback available on Amazon.com

THIS IS THE LINK TO A CROPPED VERSION OF THIS BOOK.

<https://drjohnworldpeacejdversuspulitzerorg.com/RawWhiteRacism%20211020f%20Pulitzer%20final%20Cropped%20version%20220301.pdf>

A THIRD THOUSAND PETAL ZEN LOTUS: POEMS 3000 TO 3200 (written 2021)
(200 poems 80 pages)
SUBMITTED FOR THE 2022 PULITZER POETRY PRIZE
Paperback available on Amazon.com

THIS IS THE LINK TO A CROPPED VERSION OF THIS BOOK.

<https://drjohnworldpeacejdversuspulitzerorg.com/A%20Third%20Thousand%20Petal%20Zen%200Lotus%20220301%20Cropped.pdf>

VI. Amanda Gorman (the Joe Biden inauguration poet)

**Two Poets Amanda Gorman and Dr John WorldPeace JD (114 pages)
A comparison of myself as a poet and Amanda Gorman - Published Jan 3, 2022
WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR THE 2023 PULITZER POETRY PRIZE
Paperback available on Amazon.com**

THIS IS THE LINK TO A CROPPED VERSION OF THIS BOOK.

<https://drjohnworldpeacejdversuspulitzerorg.com/TwoPoetsamandagormananddrjohnworldpeacejd.pdf>

**VII. Poetry: The Dr John WorldPeace JD Journal of the Last War
in the World Human Society: Russia vs. Ukraine 2022.**

**THIS BOOK WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR THE 2023 PULITZER POETRY PRIZE
Paperback available on Amazon.com**

THIS IS THE LINK TO A (draft) CROPPED VERSION OF THIS BOOK.

This book cannot be published until the war is over or the submission date for the 2023 Pulitzer Poetry Prize comes before the war is ended.

<https://drjohnworldpeacejdversuspulitzerorg.com/the%20jwp%20journal%20of%20the%20last%200war%20Russia%20v%20Ukraine%20220302a.pdf>

Of all the Pulitzer Poets still living, as far as I know, none have attempted or are attempting a poem book like this.

I have no peers as a poet. What I do not have I any respected commentary on my life's work in poetry.

**Very sincerely,
Dr John WorldPeace JD
March 3, 2022**