**Edward Merton Dorn (1929-1999)**

Born in Southern Illinois, Ed Dorn marks the trail westward for Black Mountain. He followed the advice of mentor Charles Olson “to dig” a subject tirelessly to understand the broader strokes of poetry, politics, race, and economics in the mid-twentieth century. The assignment took him across the West where Dorn dug into the culture and daily living of this iconic region and brought forth, among other works, the four-part epic narrative *Gunslinger*[[1]](#footnote--1)[[2]](#footnote-0). Marjorie Perloff refers to *Slinger* as the “great” example of a mid-century long narrative poem. Polemical, political, and intellectual, Dorn also edited *Bean News* and *Rolling Stock[[3]](#footnote-1)*. He secured most of his income by lecturing and teaching across the United States and England, giving rise to transatlantic collaboration and friendships with British poets and critics DONALD DAVIE, TOM RAWORTH, and J. H. PRYNNE.

**Collected and Selected Works:**

*\* Collected Poems: 1965- 1974*, Enlarged Edition (1983)

\* *Selected Poems*, edited by Donald Allen (1978)

*\* Collected Poems: 1965- 1974*, (1975)

**Works Cited:**

\* Olson, C. (1955) “A Bibliography on America for Ed Dorn,” *Collected Prose*, Berkeley, CA: U California Press

\* Perloff, M. (1985) *Dance of the Intellect*, Evanston, IL: Northwestern UP

1. Dorn on *Gunslinger*: <http://media.sas.upenn.edu/pennsound/authors/Dorn/Buffalo-74/04-20-74/Dorn-Ed_02_on-Gunslinger_Buffalo_04-20-74.mp3> [↑](#footnote-ref--1)
2. Dorn reading from all of *Slinger* for an S Press Recording (2 parts): <http://mediamogul.seas.upenn.edu/pennsound/authors/Dorn/Dorn-Ed_Gunslinger-Part-1-Bk-I_S-Press_2-20-75.mp3>

   <http://mediamogul.seas.upenn.edu/pennsound/authors/Dorn/Dorn-Ed_Gunslinger-Part-1-Bk-II_S-Press_2-20-75.mp3> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
3. A short article by Jennifer Dunbar Dorn about *Rolling Stock*: <http://epc.buffalo.edu/authors/dorn/DORN_CENTO/dorn_dunbar.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)