



State University of New York
College at Oswego

Oswego, New York 13126

U.S.A.

Department of English
Program in Writing Arts
39B Swetman Hall
21 September 1988

A. Baron
ITMA
93C Venner Road
Sydenham
London SE26 5HM
England

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of 5 August. I can't imagine why it took your library a year to come up with a copy of THE NEW BOOK OF FORMS -- it's listed in BRITISH BOOKS IN PRINT and the publisher has a London address as well as one in the U. S. A. Perhaps the problem had more to do with your library than with the book's distributor in the U. K.

The forms you have invented are known as "nonce" forms (see the Index of Terms, page 275). It takes the general adoption of a particular form by generations of poets for it to be considered "traditional." Your "Baron" meter differs by only one foot in the shorter line from Poulter's measure (p. 202), a very ancient verse form in English prosody.

Thank you for your booklet, which I have enjoyed reading. I wish to reciprocate by sending you one of my collections, AMERICAN STILL LIVES, written largely in the triversen form invented by William Carlos Williams early in this century and widely adopted by American poets (TNBOF PP. 252-3).

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lewis Turco
Professor of English
Director, Program in Writing Arts