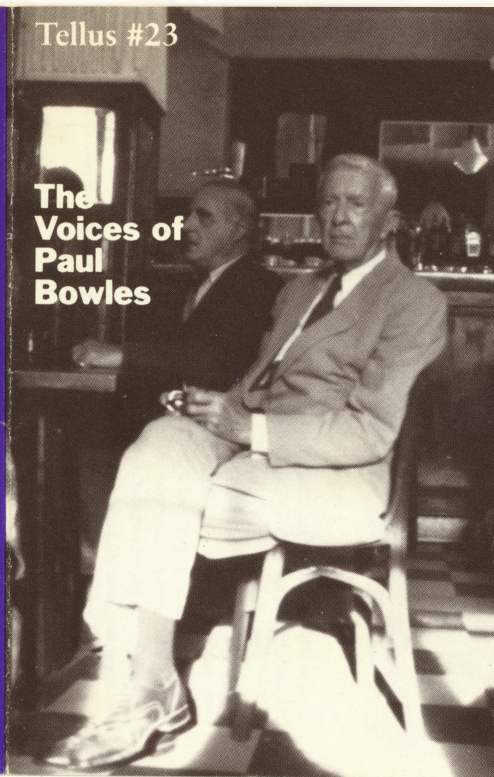


The
Voices of
Paul
Bowles



Tellus #23 The Voices of Paul Bowles
Guest Editor: Stephen Frailey
cover photograph: Antonin Kratochvil

Acknowledgements

The Voices of Paul Bowles is a unique project for TELLUS. It is the first issue we have ever dedicated to one artist, and it is the first time we have worked with an artist who is an accomplished composer, writer and historian.

There are many people who have helped to make this project possible. I would like to step back several years and thank an acquaintance of mine who on a very cold and grey day in New York City suggested that I read *The Sheltering Sky*, Bowles first novel. This book took me on an immovable journey, through an itinerary where I often return, and will never forget. For myself, the Bowles project began here.

I would like to thank Robert Stearns, Director of the Wexner Center and Carol Parkinson, Director of Harvestworks for making it feasible. Brenda Hutchinson, Richard Horowitz, Antonin Kratochvil and Tom Lopez have brought the production together and have given it a distinct identity.

This project would have been much more difficult if it was not for guest editor Stephen Frailey. His thorough knowledge of Bowles work as well as his patience with us was essential.

Last and certainly not least, Paul Bowles whose eloquence and wit has made this an extraordinary and intimate experience for us all. Many Thanks!

Claudia Gould

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Engineer/producer: Brenda Hutchinson. Post produced at Studio PASS, NYC. Copyright 1989. Guest editor Stephen Frailey. Sound effects recorded by Tom Lopez, ZBS Productions. Additional sound effects by Bob Bielecki and Connie Kieltyka. All stories written and narrated by Bowles and recorded by Richard Horowitz at Hotel Rif, Tangier, October 22, 1989. Cover photo by Antonin Kratochvil, 1989. Editors: Claudia Gould, Joseph Nechvatal and Carol Parkinson.

A special note of thanks to: Germano Celant, Mary Ehni, Bob George, Lee Gordon, Bill Horrigan, Brian Karl, Susan Morgan, Mohammed Mrabet, Joseph Nechvatal, Diana Meckley, Rich Rinsma, Sarah Rogers-Lafferty, and Gary Sankey.

Introduction

TELLUS #23 is an audio portrait of Paul Bowles, who has distinguished himself as a composer and musicologist, as a conservator of oral narrative and Moroccan music, and as an author of stunning lucidity and originality.

With the assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation, Bowles traveled throughout Morocco in the last months of 1959 to record indigenous folk music that, he feared, would soon be extinct despite its importance to a culture of almost complete illiteracy. Excerpts from these recordings, preserved by the Library of Congress, are included here and selected not for their ethnographic specificity, but as they embellish and amplify certain tendencies in the narrative.

Side one begins with the voice of the *muezzin*, whose haunting call to prayer echoes daily from the mosques and permeates the aural fabric of Islam.

From a collection of over sixty short stories, I have chosen three that, while exemplifying Bowles' precise rendering of psychological labyrinths, also illuminate the nuances of a culture that is often characterized by its incomprehensibility to those of a Western frame of mind.

Bowles suggested the inclusion of the lush and elegiac "Secret Words" and explained his realization that many of the themes which were to be later elaborated upon in his first novel "The

Sheltering Sky" were contained there. Together with the energetic "Music for a Farce", it should provide some understanding of his work from the Thirties and Forties, prior to his involvement with non-Christian communities.

My experience in Morocco has evolved simultaneously over the past decade with my understanding of Bowles' work and with this acquaintance, and this friendship has deepened my assimilation of an enigmatic culture that subverts the security of comprehension. Bowles has interpreted and illuminated this landscape.

Throughout the years, Bowles has displayed to us his generosity, benevolence and genteel good humor, in contradiction, perhaps, to the mythology of his detachment and dispassion. This portrait, then, shall serve as gift in return, a modest tribute.

Stephen Frailey
December, 1989

Suggested Reading
Caliban
P.O. Box 4321
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106

Tellus #23 The Voices of Paul Bowles

Side One

Le Coran Cheikh: Sourat Yassine (performed by Abdel Samad) Library of Congress/Music Division/AFSL63-L64	1:15
"Allal" (Paul Bowles, narrator)	26.38
Reh Dial Beni Bouhiya (played by Chikh Hamed bel Hadj Hamadi ben Allal and ensemble, in Segangan) Library of Congress/Music Division/AFSL63-L64	3:00

Side Two

Music for a Farce I (Paul Bowles, 1936) (performed by Chicago Pro Musica) Courtesy of Reference Recordings, San Francisco, CA	1:10
"Points in Time IV" (Paul Bowles, narrator)	5:40
Oukha Dial Kheir (sung and played by Chikh Ayyad ou Haddou and ensemble, in Tahala) Library of Congress/Music Division/AFSL63-L64	3:10
Interlude (conversations at Hotel Rif and (Prelude #2) from six preludes for piano 1934-45 recorded on American Piano Music, performed by Bennett Lerner, Etcetera	2:00
"The Garden" (Paul Bowles, narrator)	7:45
Aouda Trio (Played by Rais Mahamad ben Mohammed and ensemble, in Tamanar) Library of Congress/Music Division/AFSL63-L64	2:55
Secret Words (Paul Bowles, 1943) William Sharp, Baritone; Steven Blier, Piano ©1989 recorded Anthology of American Music, Inc., Courtesy New World Records NW369-2	2:30
"Points in Time XI" (Paul Bowles, narrator)	1:20