

Sligo Press

PROSPECTUS

A Limited Edition of

Norman Mailer's Letters, 1963-1966, on *An American Dream*

edited by J. Michael Lennon

- Publication Date: fall 2003
- Price: \$150
- Limited edition: 110 numbered copies, signed by Norman Mailer
- Fine paper, handsomely bound, 6" x 9"
- Approximately 100 pp., including editor's introduction, timeline, correspondent biographies, appendices and illustrations.

In December 1963 Norman Mailer, the celebrated author of *The Naked and the Dead* (1948) and *Advertisements for Myself* (1959), announced in *Esquire* magazine that he would publish a novel, titled *An American Dream*, that would be serialized over the next eight monthly issues of that magazine, January-August 1964. Although a number of nineteenth-century writers—Dickens, Dostoyevsky, Melville, Hardy and James, among others—wrote serial novels, the practice had all but ceased by the time Mailer decided to publish his fourth fictional work in this manner. In most instances, the earlier writers had completed their books before serial publication, but Mailer wrote each of the eight installments to deadline. The novel's lyrical, energetic style and its presentation of controversial acts of courage, violence and love, as well as the boldness of the enterprise generated significant attention. Mailer made extensive revisions in the work during the summer and fall of 1964 and the revised novel was published on March 15, 1965 by Dial Press.

In his letters to friends and literary professionals over a thirty-month period, Mailer wrote with candor and verve on both forms of his novel, the difficulties of meeting his self-imposed challenge, as well as the novel's meanings, reception

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and the nuances of his intentions. This edition will collect the most important of these—20-25 letters—none of which has been previously published. His correspondents include the following: John W. Aldridge, Diane Athill, Vance Bourjaily, William Buckley, Jr., Andre Deutsch, Jason Epstein, Pete Hamill, Willie Morris, Diana and Lionel Trilling and several other close friends. No decision has been made yet on the volume's final content, including which letters will be selected.

Work on this project has been greatly aided by the ten students in English 397, "Norman Mailer Seminar," a spring 2003 course offered at Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, PA. They will be individually acknowledged in the edition.

Orders will be filled as received: the first order will receive copy no. 1.
Please send checks payable to: Donna Pedro Lennon, Sligo Press
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