

ROARSHOCK PAGE

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Often, if not always, it seems some chaos occurs in late July. ROARSHOCK PAGE this time turns focus to the cut-up method long lines of inquiry for this publication.



Bear Flag Republican keeps lasagna flying on the Gualala Beach with copy of *The Illuminati Papers* of Robert Anton Wilson and Hail Eris baseball cap

RANDOM LOOK @ THE CUT-UP METHOD

Cut-up performances take finished fully linear text cut in pieces with a few or single words on each piece. The resulting pieces then rearranged into a new text. Fold-in technique takes two sheets linear text (with the same line spacing), folds each in half vertically and combines

with the other, and then reads across the resulting page. “Cut and paste” took on new meanings in the digital age. Meditative “cutting” manipulation of electronic text used as a composition process in a number of pieces in ROARSHOCK PAGE since this publication resumed in 2012 (and just briefly before the world strangely ended on 12/21/2012). While elements of the source material MAYBE partially, or entirely, random, a great deal of conscious editing goes into many or most cut-ups with perhaps intent @ direct streams of consciousness in more definite courses. While considering cut-up as a literary technique always remain informed that other works in art medium achieve similar results, even not necessarily composed via the cut-up routine. *Revolution 9* by The Beatles could be an audio example, with bits from The Firesign Theatre, and the curious radio program *Over the Edge* by Don Joyce. In the 1980s the Neo Pagan Society, Troll Empire, various associated groups, individuals, hangers on, hangers up, hangers down, loosely shared edits of tapes with cut-in cut-out segments of other recordings. Cassette tapes circulated through the postal service and could take weeks or months to go around. Not yet the capacity for instant sharing with a far flung crew, or instant memes like today, as younger folks usually look upon me in tolerant kindness and say, glad you made it to the New Days. *Finnegans Wake* by James Joyce was, apparently by his own design, a much harder “novel” to write than any cut-up and contained as much of everything in the multiplying universe—including precognition—as any other book. Film editing serves a coherent narrative, but can be a most effective way to show the cut-up nature of reality. At a pivotal moment in Jim Jarmusch’s film *The Limits of Control*, Lone Man - after observing from afar the compound protecting American - burns his map/directions. A crude noticeable cut occurs—in the physical film— after which Lone Man mysteriously penetrates the compound defenses, using his “imagination.” In *Twin Peaks: The Return*, David Lynch uses strobe technique in a scene where Agent Cooper finds himself between the Black Lodge and the mundane world. Strobe lights make rapid fire cut-ups in time and reality, maybe only take a leap at a precise moment to emerge from whatever present to a whirling dance concert in the 1960s, if one were lucky, at the Avalon Ballroom. In 1958 in Paris, room 15 in what came to be known as the Beat Hotel (run-down hotel of 42 rooms at 9 Rue Git-le-Cœur in the Quartier Latin), Brion Gysin developed the

cut-up method after accidentally re-discovering it. He placed newspaper layers as a mat to protect a tabletop from being scratched while he cut a drawing mount with a razor blade. Gysin noticed that the sliced layers offered interesting juxtapositions of text and image. He began deliberately cutting newspaper articles into sections, and randomly rearranged. The resulting unedited and unchanged cut-ups emerged as coherent and meaningful prose. They appeared as *First Cut-Ups* in the book *Minutes to Go* (Two Cities, Paris 1960, co-authored with poet Sinclair Beiles). Gysin introduced the technique to William S. Burroughs at the Beat Hotel. The pair applied the technique to printed media and audio recordings attempting to decode implicit content, hypothesizing such a technique could be used to discover true meaning in a text. Burroughs further developed the “fold-in” technique, and also suggested cut-ups could be used effectively as a form of divination. Burroughs’ *Nova Trilogy* was written using a cut-up method, as was experimental cut-up novel *Beat Hotel* by poet and resident Harold Norse. This essay being from the early 21st century when *Real Replica Watches* by Anon of Ibid reportedly became the first novel composed of electronic cut-ups made from SPAM email. Découpé discorporates chance in the process of creation concept traced at least to the Dadaists (but like every other human notion doubtlessly derives from much deeper timeless roots). Collage, which was popularized roughly contemporaneously with the Surrealist movement, sometimes incorporated texts such as newspapers or brochures. At a Dadaist rally in the 1920s, Tristan Tzara [TO MAKE A DADAIST POEM] created a new poem on the spot by pulling words at random from a hat.

— D. A. Wilson

Traveling time explorer at Renaissance Faire portal, Marin County, California.



JULY ALMANAC

- 07/01 1979 Sony introduced the Walkman.
2017 CANADA DAY
- 07/02 1937 Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan last heard from flying over the Pacific Ocean.
1962 First Wal-Mart store opened in Arkansas.
07/03 1962 Tom Cruise was born.
07/04 2017 U.S. INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 07/06 1916 Harold Norse born in New York City.
1990 Electronic Frontier Foundation founded.
- 07/08 1970 President Richard M. Nixon enunciated Native American self-determination as the official U.S. Indian policy.
2017 FULL BUCK MOON
- 07/12 1580 The Ostrog Bible, an early printed Slavic language Bible, was published.
- 07/13 1527 John Dee was born in London.
1986 Brion Gysin died in Paris.
- 07/14 2017 FRANCE NATIONAL DAY
- 07/18 1870 First Vatican Council decreed the dogma of papal infallibility.
2017 NEW MOON #RAWDAY
- 07/19 1900 First line of Paris Métro began operation.
- 07/23 2003 July 23rd declared Robert Anton Wilson Day in Santa Cruz, CA by the mayor of Santa Cruz, Emily Reilly.
2017 Robert Anton Wilson Day @ Museum of Art and History, Santa Cruz, California.
- 07/24 1935 Dust Bowl heat wave reached its peak.
- 07/25 1853 Joaquin Murrieta, a bandit known as the “Robin Hood of El Dorado,” was killed.
2003 Bob Hope died, aged 100.
- 07/29 1957 The International Atomic Energy Agency was established.

<http://roarshock.net/july.html>

Calling for Contributions! ROARSHOCK PAGE invites submissions of art, photographs, poetry, and micro-prose, to be considered for inclusion in future issues.

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