

A B (ALLEN BUDDY) AFTERMAN 1941 – 1992

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

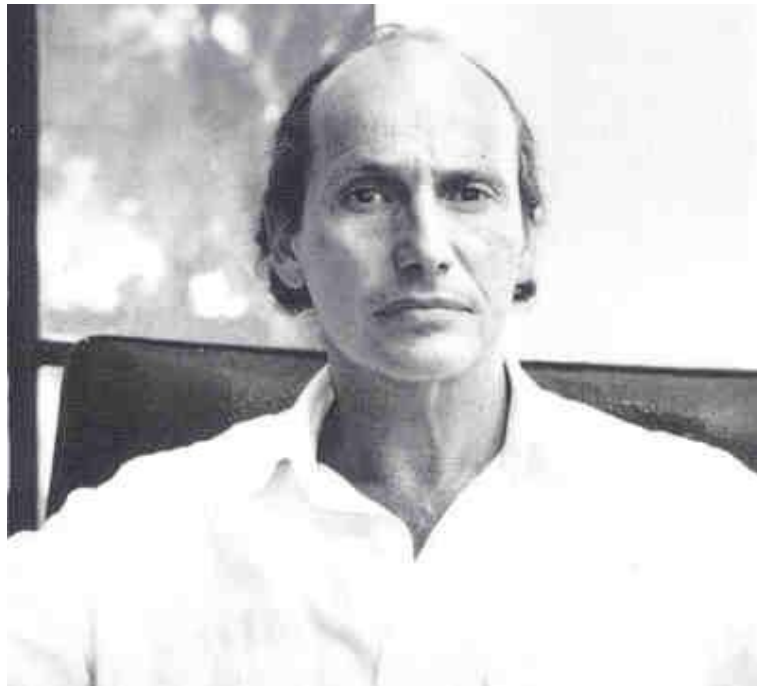


Photo of Allen Afterman

Cover Photograph from *Desire for White* (Riverdale-on-Hudson, New York: Sheep Meadow Press, 1991) reproduced with permission of Sheep Meadow Press at <http://myweb.wvnet.edu/~jelkins/lp-2001/afterman.html>

Allen Afterman was a corporate law academic at the University of Melbourne and later a poet. He is known for his 1970 book, *Company Directors and Controllers*, which was one of the earliest Australian books on the duties of company directors, for his 1972 book with Robert Baxt, *Cases and Materials on Corporations and Associations*, and for his influential 1969 article published in the *Virginia Law Review* titled 'Statutory Protection for Oppressed Minority Shareholders: A Model for Reform'. Professor Robert Thompson has written about the influence of this article on US developments in the oppression remedy:

“Reasonable expectations has become a vehicle both for broadening the reach of oppression in involuntary dissolution statutes and for interpreting the no fault grounds for relief. Since 1980, courts in a half dozen states have adopted reasonable expectations as the basis for judicial relief, and two states have included reasonable expectations in their statutes. The widespread use in this country in the last few years of

the reasonable expectations concept can be traced to impetus from abroad two decades ago. Allen Afterman, an Australian scholar, linked reasonable expectations to oppression in a 1969 article in which he examined British and Commonwealth decisions empowering courts to order dissolution or provide alternative relief.” RB Thompson, "Corporate Dissolution and Shareholders' Reasonable Expectations" (1988) 66 Washington University Law Review 193 at 211.

A. PERIOD & POSITION IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE LAW FACULTY

According to the University of Melbourne [Research Reports](#), Allen Afterman was a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Legal Studies in the Faculty of Economics and Commerce from 1969 to 1972.

His qualifications were A. B. (U.C.L.A.); LL.B. (Harvard); LL.M. (Monash).

B. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Several brief biographical pieces are reproduced in full below, with the sources acknowledged.

From ‘Biographical Note’ appended to Allen Afterman, *Desire for White* (Sheep Meadow Press, 1991)

Allen Afterman was born in Los Angeles in 1941. His mother was an internationally known singer of Gypsy music. He graduated from UCLA in 1962 and received his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1965. He received an LL.M. (Masters of Law) from Monash University (Australia) in 1969, at which he was a lecturer in law from 1967 to 1968. He was also a junior lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington in Wellington, New Zealand from 1966 to 1967.

He left the U.S. in 1966 to travel, and ended up taking a position as a law lecturer in New Zealand, Australia, and Singapore. He retired from academic life in 1973, having written three law books, one a standard text in Australian law schools. From 1973 to 1981, he lived on a cattle ranch in New South Wales, Australia. Afterman reported the following to the editors of *Contemporary Authors*:

I am no longer involved in law. I left the universities in 1973 to devote myself full time to poetry. I have no theories on poetics; I keep changing (hopefully evolving), and my views express this in a personal way. Over the past few years I have moved from a fairly hard existentialism towards Judaism, especially Hasidism.

My mother was a famous gypsy singer and my father a working man in the garment industry. I worked my way through college as an investigator for a labor law and civil rights law firm. I travel extensively and currently live on a cattle ranch-fruit orchard in

the far south coast mountains of New South Wales.

[Frances C Locher (ed), (1982) 103 *Contemporary Authors* 13]

In 1981,¹ Afterman emigrated to Israel, where he lived on a farm in the Upper Eastern Galilee with his wife and four sons.

From the *Oxford Companion to Australian Literature*

Born Los Angeles, USA, a graduate in arts and law, was associated with the La Mama poetry workshops and lectured in law at the University of Melbourne before resigning in 1973 to become a full-time writer.

From *Baker & Taylor Author Biographies* 2000

Allen Afterman was born in Los Angeles in 1941. He studied at UCLA and Harvard Law School, and taught law in New Zealand, Australia, and Singapore. In 1972 he retired from teaching and devoted himself to poetry, publishing *The Maze Rose* (1974) and *Purple Adam* (1980). In 1980, he immigrated to Israel, where he lived until his death in 1992.

From AustLit [http://www.austlit.edu.au/austlit/page/OLD?id=A\)Ej&idtype=oldid](http://www.austlit.edu.au/austlit/page/OLD?id=A)Ej&idtype=oldid)

Before becoming a fulltime writer in Australia, the American-born Allan Afterman had been a senior law lecturer at the University of Melbourne.

Afterman has also published several books on business and corporate law. A sound recording of Afterman reading his poetry, produced by UQP, is held by VSL and the University of Melbourne.

C. PUBLICATIONS

LAW

Article

1. Allen B Afterman, 'Statutory Protection for Oppressed Minority Shareholders: A Model for Reform' (1969) 55 *Virginia Law Review* 1043-1077
2. Aidan St John Hannigan and Allen B Afterman, 'The Teaching of Business Law Subjects in Non-Law Faculties' (1971) 5 *The Law Teacher* 166-172

¹ Although this source cites 1981 as the date Afterman emigrated to Israel, other sources, such as the *Baker & Taylor Author Biographies* listed above cite the date as 1980.

Books

3. Allen B Afterman, *Company Directors and Controllers: Their Duties to the Company and the Shareholders* (Law Book Company, 1970) Law Library KN 264 K1 AFTE [link to catalogue record](#)
4. Allen B Afterman and Robert Baxt, *Cases and Materials on Corporations and Associations* (Butterworths, 1972) [link to catalogue record](#)
5. Allen B Afterman and Robert Baxt, *Cases and Materials on Corporations and Associations* (Butterworths, 2nd ed 1975) [link to catalogue record](#)
6. Allen B Afterman and Robert Baxt, *Casebook on Companies and Securities* (Butterworths, 1976) [link to catalogue record](#)
7. Allen B Afterman and Robert Baxt, *Cases and Materials on Corporations and Associations* (Butterworths, 3rd ed 1980) [link to catalogue record](#)
8. Allen B Afterman, Robert Baxt and Razeen Sappideen, *Afterman and Baxt's Cases and Materials on Corporations and Associations* (Butterworths, 4th ed, 1984) [link to catalogue record](#)
9. Allen B Afterman and Robert Baxt, *Afterman and Baxt's Cases and Materials on Corporations and Associations* (Butterworths, 5th ed, 1988) [link to catalogue record](#)
10. Robert Baxt and Keith Fletcher, *Afterman and Baxt's Cases and Materials on Corporations and Associations* (Butterworths, 6th ed, 1992) [link to catalogue record](#)
11. Robert Baxt, Keith Fletcher and Saul Fridman, *Afterman and Baxt's Cases and Materials on Corporations and Associations* (Butterworths, 7th ed, 1996) [link to catalogue record](#)
12. Robert Baxt, Keith Fletcher and Saul Fridman, *Afterman and Baxt's Cases and Materials on Corporations and Associations* (Butterworths, 8th ed, 1999) Law Library KN 261 K1 AFTE [link to catalogue record](#)

POETRY

Article by Allen Afterman

1. Afterman, Allen, 'The Poetry of Michael Dransfield and Charles Buckmaster' (1973) 32 *Meanjin Quarterly* 478-481

Articles about Allen Afterman's poetry

2. Les Harrop, 'After the Barbarians, Australian Jewish Poetry' (1994) 4 *Generation : A Journal of Australian Jewish life, Thought and Community* 58, 60

The following is an extract from the article:

The late Allen Afterman was his own diaspora. He was born in Los Angeles in 1941 of Russian parents (his mother was an 'internationally known Gypsy singer'); he was a graduate of UCLA, Harvard and Monash; he lived in Singapore and New Zealand as well as Australia before returning to this country to become senior lecturer in commercial law at Melbourne University. He began writing in 1969-70, when he associated himself with La Mama Poetry Workshop.

His published poems (*The Maze Rose*, 1974; and *Purple Adam*, 1980) take on various topics, but they are all written in the hellish afterglow of Auschwitz. The work is communicative, with not much show of craft. Its abiding subject is the conflict between the vivid and often loveable present, and the anguish of the past. The tone is that of the humane person who is irrecoverably appalled. Afterman returns again and again to the camps, as one who cannot believe them. The inadequacy of speech - or of any other response - is always on his mind:

*I leave it to you to say why it is
that every moment we are awake we do not weep?
How is it we walk the streets
and do not fall on our knees before anyone
who is still beautiful, or who is ugly?
(‘Pieta’)*

Poems by Allen Afterman

Most of these poems were subsequently published in Afterman’s books of collected poems.

3. Afterman, Allen, 'Sweetheart with no Name' (1971) 30 *Meanjin Quarterly* 61
4. Afterman, Allen, 'The Bone of One Finger' (1972) 31 *Meanjin Quarterly* 409
5. Afterman, Allen, 'What Answer can I Give' (1973) 32 *Meanjin Quarterly* 72
6. Afterman, Allen, 'The Forests are on Fire' (1974) 18 *Quadrant* 15
7. Afterman, Allen, 'I can See Mist Smoking from the Forested Hills' (1975) 19 *Quadrant* 57
8. Afterman, Allen, 'Purple Adam' (1975) 19 *Quadrant* 14
9. Afterman, Allen, 'The Trade in Van Diemens Land' (1975) *A.I.S. Newsletter* [Oct] [2]
10. Afterman, Allen, 'Realities on a Marginal Bush Farm' (1976) 20 *Quadrant* 77

11. Afterman, Allen, 'The Search' (1976) 35 *Meanjin* 204
12. Afterman, Allen, 'If there is a Paradise on Earth' (1976) 20 *Quadrant* 80
13. Afterman, Allen, 'Two Poems' (1977) 21 *Quadrant* 45
14. Afterman, Allen, 'Brown Snake Near the Fowl Shed' (1977) 21 *Quadrant* 74
15. Afterman, Allen, 'The Mixo Rabbit' (1977) 21 *Quadrant* 61
16. Afterman, Allen, 'The Creation of the World, the Creation of Adam' (1978) 22 *Quadrant* 88
17. Afterman, Allen, 'Watching Adam Play' (1979) 23 *Quadrant* 58
18. Afterman, Allen, 'Sunset' (1980) 24 *Quadrant* 72

Books of Allen Afterman's Collected Poetry

19. *The Maze Rose: Poems 1970-1973* (Melbourne: Macmillan-Sun Books, 1974) [link to catalogue record](#)
20. *Purple Adam: Poems 1964-1979* (Sydney: Angus and Robertson, 1980) [link to catalogue record](#)
According to the *Oxford Companion to Australian Literature* much of the poetry in this volume stems from Afterman's reaction to the genocide of the Jews in Europe and the Aborigines in Tasmania.
21. *Desire for White* (Riverdale-on-Hudson, New York: Sheep Meadow Press, 1991)
22. *Kabbalah and Consciousness* (Riverdale-on-Hudson, New York: Sheep Meadow Press, 1992)
23. *Kabbalah and Consciousness and the Poetry of Allen Afterman* (Riverdale-on-Hudson, New York: Sheep Meadow Press, 2005)