

The Most Acclaimed POET WHO NEVER LIVED

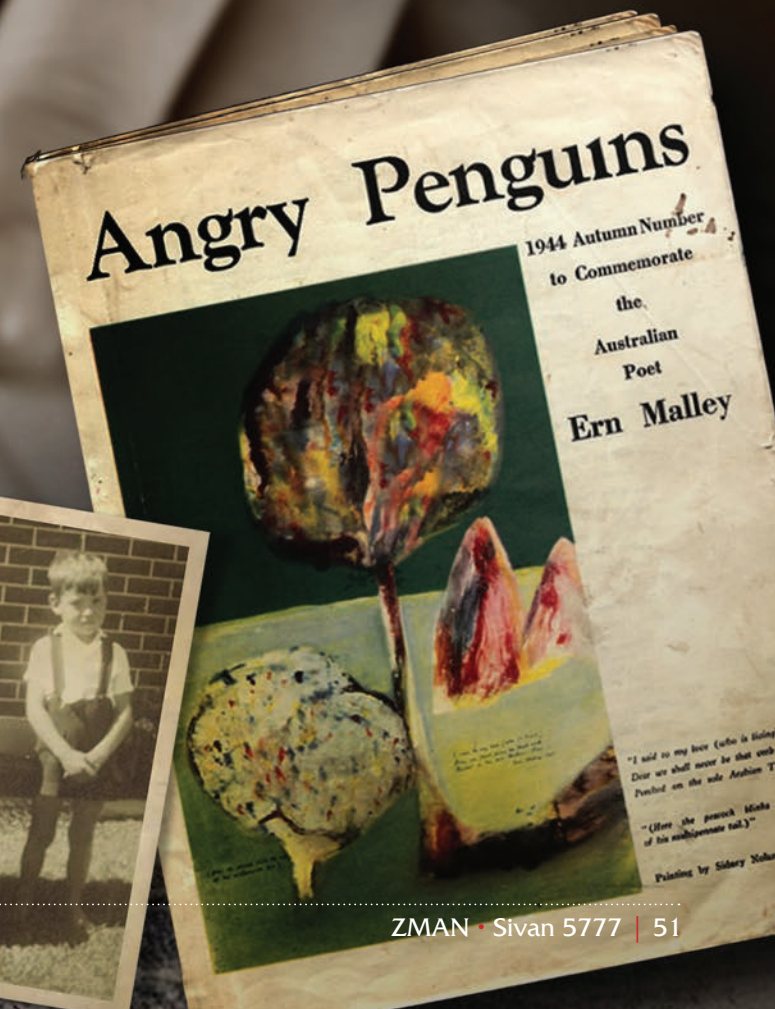
Max Harris, outspoken leader of Australia's modernist poetry movement, was thrilled beyond words when he discovered the literary work of the previously unknown Ernest Lalor Malley. Here was a brilliant modernist poet in his own surrealist style, just waiting to be introduced to the world. The tragic tale of Malley's early demise only added depth and poignancy to his written word.

But Harris soon discovered that there was a darker truth lurking behind *The Darkening Ecliptic*, the collection of Malley's poetry. Read about the Ern Malley hoax and how his poetry remains highly regarded—paradoxically, after it was debunked more than 70 years ago!

Dov Levy

*The Paradoxically
Enduring Tale of
Australian Poet
Ernest Malley*

Ethel Malley



It was late 1943 when the letter reached Max Harris at the University of Adelaide, Australia. He examined the piece of mail with curiosity. He knew nothing of the sender, Ethel Malley from Croydon, a suburb of Sydney. The envelope contained a simple letter describing her discovery of a collection of poetry among the personal effects left behind by her recently deceased younger brother, Ernest Malley.

The package included a sampling of two of the poems and asked Harris, the up-and-coming leader of Australia's nascent modernist movement and editor of the contemporary literary journal *Angry Penguins*, for his opinion of their value.

As he read the poems, Harris could not believe his eyes. Here was a true genius of modernist poetry—his own pet passion—that no one had heard of before! Harris was very excited to bring Ernest Malley's writings to the world's attention. He hurried off a letter to Ethel Malley begging her to send him all her brother's writings, and asking for more information about the author.

What Max Harris did not realize was that he had just fallen prey to one of the most celebrated literary hoaxes of all time.

Max Harris and Angry Penguins

Harris had already made a name for himself in Australia's literary and academic circles. At a young age, he was recognized as a prodigy (he read every volume in the local library, from A to Z, and retained everything he read) and his poetry was published in the children's section of a local newspaper. Later, he became a student of economics and English at the University of Adelaide, where he excelled in his studies.

Harris had all the makings of a class geek, and he was only reluctantly accepted by fellow students thanks to his formidable soccer prowess. Fortunately, his professors were very enthusiastic about Harris' writing abilities and gave



Max Harris lets his creative juices flow.



A young Max Harris reciting from a book.



Fellow students punish Max Harris with a dunking in the nearby Torrens River.

him lots of encouragement. Harris was deeply impressed by the liberal culture sweeping through the worlds of European art and politics at the time. He wrote articles along these lines and churned out numerous poems, many of which were published by the Jindyworobak Club. Harris focused on



Great wine doesn't need to cost a bunch.

In 1925, Yankel Hirsh Segal and his family emigrated to Israel and settled in Tel Aviv. Brothers Elhanan and Yehezkel established Israel's first distillery in the German colony Sharona in Tel Aviv. Their experience and reputation led them, in the 1930s, to be asked by the French rulers to set up distilleries in Beirut and Damascus. In 1954, the family decided to concentrate on wine production. The winery moved to Ramla, and was called the Zvi Vineyard. The name was later changed to Segal Wines. All the winery's bottles bear the Segal wine logo, reproduced in Zvi Hirsh's own handwriting.



Segal's
Making wine differently.



late glass and he never said an