BERN PORTER CHRONOLOGY - DRAFT

February 14, 1911  Born in Porter Settlement, just south of Houlton

1916-24  Attends Houlton Public Schools

1928-29  Attends Ricker Jr. College

1929-32  Attends Colby College, Student Instructor in Physics

1932  Graduates Colby College with BS Degree in Physics

1932-3  Attends Brown University, Research Fellow in Physics

1933  After being caught stealing small sums of money from students at Lyman Gym, Porter is forced to withdraw from Brown and returns to Houlton to work as a gas-pump attendant on the Ellis Farm and for a fertilizer company, in order to repay the money

1933  Graduates Brown with Masters Degree in Physics

1933-42  Becomes member of the American Physical Society

1935-40  Becomes member of the Institute of Radio Engineers

1935-40  Employed as physicist by Acheson Colloid Corporation (NYC/Newark, NJ / Port Huron, MI)

1936-7  Attends Davinci Art School, NYC

1936-7  Attends MoMA exhibition, *Fantastic Art, Dada, Surrealism*. First comprehensive show of surrealism and “founds” in US

1937  Tech work in England and France. Meets Gertrude Stein

1937  Scientific Delegate to the International Exposition, Paris; Commercial project physicist, London

1938  *Map of Physics* (Central Scientific Co, Chicago, IL)

1938  *Colloidal Graphite: Its Properties and Applications* (Port Huron, MI)

1939  *Map of Chemistry* (Philadelphia, PA)

1939-48  Carries on private research evolving the theories of SciArt with examples reproduced in *Circle* Magazine and book *Art Techniques*. 
1940-45  Drafted to Manhattan Project (Princeton/Berkeley/Oak Ridge)

1940-1  Assigned to Dept of Physics, Princeton, to work on processes for the separation of uranium, conferring with Einstein, Smyth and Wilson.

1940  Exhibits in Princeton Art Department show, and in View Magazine. Includes sculptured forms taken from nature and directly and unaltered from the physics lab, photography from a Brownie Box Camera, and Metamorphic Rhizomes Print.

1940  First Book - Doldrums: A Study in Surrealism (A.I. Press, Newark, NJ)

1941  Map of Chemistry

1941  Water-Fight - Dedicated to his mother. (A.I. Press)

1942-45  Assigned to Radiation Lab, University of California, to work on electromagnetic separation of uranium, commuting twice to Oak Ridge, first time as head of a group to test electromagnets used in separating uranium and second time to instruct in operating equipment.

1942  Establishes Porter Prize in Physics for Colby seniors.

1943  Listed as being invited to Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists, and Technicians meeting, used by Government Investigative Agencies as evidence that Porter had communist connections

1944  Prints Murder the Murderer; What Shall We Do About Alf; The Plight of the Creative Artist in the United States of America; and Semblance of a Devoted Past by Henry Miller (Berkeley, CA)

1944  Circle magazine founded, Bern regular contributor

1944  Publishes Franz Kafka: A Chronology and Bibliography - by Angel Flores (Houlton, ME)

1945  Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Porter leaves Manhattan Project

1945  Henry Miller: A Chronology and Bibliography - First comprehensive bibliography of Miller. (The Waverly Press, Baltimore, MD)

1945  Publishes The Happy Rock, Tribute to H. Miller, Porter's first experimental book. (Packard Press, Berkeley, CA)
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1946    Publishes *Panels for the Walls of Heaven* by Kenneth Patchen. Forerunner of “concrete or visual poetry.” (Berkeley, CA)

1946    *Map of Joyceana* (Circle Magazine)

1947    Designs *Church of Light* (Sausalito, CA)

1947    *Art Techniques* (Gillick Press, Berkeley, CA)

1947-50    *Berkeley: A Journal of Modern Culture* - Published with James Schevill (Berkeley, CA)

1948    *The Union of Science and Art* - Later renamed SciArt Manifesto (Sausalito, CA)

1949    Tech work in Mexico

1949    *Crucifixion of the Virgin* - SciArt Photograph

1950-54    Employed by Office of Price Stabilization, Guam Daily News from March 51-April 52, also worked as Junk Dealer, published three books, including *The American Fantasies*, by James Schevill (Guam)

1954    Visits Japan

1954    *Center of Impact* - Article on impressions of Japan (Christian Science Monitor)


1954    *SciArt Manifesto* (Japan)

1955    Contacts Japan Society proposing atomic power for Hiroshima. Publishes article in Hiroshima's *Chugoku Press* on uranium and nuclear power use for Japan.

1955    Marries Margaret Eudine Preston

1955    Describes *House of Air* and *Church of Light* at International Institute of Design, Aspen, Colorado, June.


1955    *Coastlines* magazine includes Porter's list of publications, used as evidence that he had communist connections
1956      Employed as Engineering Writer by General Dynamics subsidiary, Convair (San Diego)

1956      Elected Associate Fellow of the American Astronautical Society (NY)

1956      Elected Fellow of Technical Publishing Society (San Diego)

1956      Writes technical specs for Atlas Intercontinental Missile, Convair Astronautics Corporation, San Diego [Porter explains work as “reversal of early bomb position, forced by nothing to eat”]


1957      Engineer, Collins Radio (Dallas, TX)

1957      Tech Work, Ionospheric Radio Communications, Collins Radio, (Caracas, Venezuela)

1957      Supervises design production of *Roaring Market* (James Schevill)

1957      *H.L. Mencken, A Bibliography* (Geddes Press, CA)

1958      Moves to Anchorage to work as electronics engineer on tropospheric scatter with Civil Aeronautics Administration

1958      Returns to Pasadena in September

1959      Moves to Tasmania. Works as Assistant Instrument Engineer for Associated Pulp & Paper Co

1959      *Physics for Tomorrow* (Rockcliff Printers, Burnie, Tasmania)

1959      Porter Collection established at Colby Library

1959-60   Offered and then denied positions with government agencies, including physicist job with Long Beach Naval Shipyard; Civil Aeronautics in Alaska; electronic engineer position at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. Active Government investigation ongoing.

1960 Proposes establishment in central Maine of an Institute of Advance Thinking, during meeting with Madison (Maine) town councilmen.*

*According to Porter, in later years, the Institute of Advanced Thinking was founded in Ireland in 1630, moved to Maine in 1830, and to Belfast in 1972 and "is the oldest institute of its kind in the English-speaking world." It is dedicated to free thought, free association and free lunch, he says.

1960 *The First Publications of F. Scott Fitzgerald* - Bibliography by Porter (Alan Swallow, Denver, CO)

1960 *What Are Legends* by Dick Higgins (Bern Porter, Calais, ME)

1960 Teaches at Ashland, Maine Community School

1961 *Aphasia: A Psycho-Visual Satire* (Madison, Maine)

1961 *Scandinavian Summer: A Psycho-Visual Recollection* (Madison)

1961 Tech work, Travel. (Scandinavia, Russia)

1961 Teaching at College of Advanced Science (Canaan, NH)

1962 Teaching (Castaner, Puerto Rico)

1962 Engineer, Federal Electric Corp, Division of I.T.T. (Paramus, NJ)

1963 Establishes Automated Training Program at Federal Electric Corp

1963 *I've Left* (Marathon Press, Pasadena, CA)

1964 Moves to Huntsville AL to work for the National Space Program / Boeing with Von Braun and German scientists on Saturn V Rocket


1965 *Wernher von Braun* - Unpublished Bibliography (Huntsville, AL, currently in UCLA Library Collection)


1966 468B: Thy Future – Contains computer printouts saved from Saturn V project (Huntsville, AL)

1967 Arrested and committed to Bryce Mental Hospital, Huntsville.
1968  Moves to Rockland, Maine from Huntsville

1969  *Dieresis* – First book of Founds (Rockland, Maine)

1969  *Knox County Maine, A Regional Report, 1969 Summary* - Major Report for the Knox County Regional Planning Commission

1969  Runs as Republican Candidate in Primary for Governor of Maine

1969  *Maine Can Solve Its Own Problems and Maine Brains should be solving Maine problems.* (Articles in Maine papers)

1970 -90s  Participates in Energy Department tests on the level of radioactivity in his body. *

*When Bern participated in DOE research on radiation in his body, he stated that he was required to sign a document saying that upon his death his body would be sent for continuing radioactivity studies. (Bern Porter International, Vol 2, No. 2, April 1998, Bern Porter on The Human Genome Initiative)*


1972  *The Manhattan Telephone Book* (Abyss Publications, Somerville, MA)

1972  *The 89 Offenses* (Abyss Publications)

1972  *Wastemaker: 1926-61* (Abyss Publications)


1973  Moves to Salmond Street, Belfast

1974  *Where To Go, what to do when in New York, week of June 17, 1972*


1975  *Run-On* (Bern Porter, Belfast, Maine)

1975  *Selected Founds* (Croissant and Company, Athens, OH)

1975  Funds creation of Art Exhibit space in memory of his late wife Margaret at the Belfast Library
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1975  *Black Box* (Sound Poetry by Porter)
1975  Receives Carnegie Author Award
1975 - 7  Receives PEN Awards
1976  Receives Diploma Merit Centro Studi E Scambi Internazionale (Rome)
1977  Receives Authors League Award
1977  *Gee-Whizzles* (Maine Coast Printers, Rockland)
1977  *The Last Acts of Saint Fuck You* – Poster
1978  *American Strange* (Special ed. “Spanner #14, London)
1978  Meets Mark Melnicove at Maine Poets Festival in Bar Harbor
1979  *Earum Magnus* (Super-8 film conceived by Porter, with Charlie Morrow, Dick Higgins, Scott B)
1979  National Endowment for Arts Literary Award
1979  The Eternal Poetry Festival. First collaborative performance with Melnicove.
1979- 1980  *Porterana Retrospective* on National Tour - Exhibition of Bern's Books, Periodicals, Photographs, and Magazines. Exhibitions at: Franklin Furnace, NYC; San Jose State University Art Department Gallery, CA; Artworks - Venice, CA; Robinson Room, Colby, Waterville
1980  *Vote Yes on September 23rd* - An Artistic collaboration to shutdown the Maine Yankee Nuclear Facility
1981  Bern Porter Commemorative Stamp Series (Carlo Pittore)
1981  *Isla Vista* (Turkey Press, Isla Vista, CA)
1981  *Found Sounds* (New Wilderness Audiographics, NY)
1981  Files as intervener to block Greyhound Bus Fare Rate Hike
1981  *Bern! Porter! Interview!* - By Margaret Dunbar
1982  *The Book of Do’s* (Dog Ear Press/M Melnicove, Gardiner, Maine)
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1982  Aspects of Modern Poetry (WBAI, NY)
1982  Jacqualin and Rosa (New Wilderness Audiographics, NY)
1983  Place Stamp Here – Part of Mail Art collection [Porter claimed he invented mail art as a boy in rural Maine]
1984  Here Comes Everybody’s Don’t Book (Dog Ear Press/M Melnicove)
1984  Included in Tom Bryan’s Not Famous Enough Americans Series
1985  My My Dear Me (Xexoxial Editions, Madison, WI)
1985  The Last Acts Of Saint Fuck You (Xerox Sutra, Madison, WI)
1985  Horizontal Hold (Bern Porter and Todd Transformer, Clarksville, TN)
1985  Porter featured in Mail Art exhibition at Colby College Museum of Art
1986  Pages
1986  Venture - Art Cut-Up Book
1986  An Evening of Sound - Sound Poetry with Melnicove and Elizabeth McKin, Theater of Fantasy, Portland
1986  Do’s collage made in November at the Visual Studies Workshop (Rochester NY)
1987  Why My Left Leg is Hot (Video, Xexoxial Editions)
1988  Williamson Street Blues (Recording)
1988  Neverends (Runaway Spoon Press, Port Charlotte, FL)
1989  Williamson Street Night (Recording)
1989  Sweet End (Dog Ear Press/M Melnicove) – originally titled The Book of Death
1989  December Ninth (A Jeff Brewer Recording, Newton Center, MA)
1990  Sleepers Awake (Recording, Cedar Grove House, Dresden, ME)
1990  The Book of Light (Unpublished Manuscript)
1990  Vocrescends (Collaboration with Malok, Runaway Spoon Press)
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1990  CRCNCL (Xeroxial Editions)
1990  Fifth Annual Intergalactic Festival of the Swamps (Institute of Advanced Thinking, Belfast)
1991  Belfast Berning (Video, Vanessa Barth, Cyclops Video, Freeport, ME)
1991  Numbers (Runaway Spoon Press)
1991  80th Birthday Celebration (Belfast)
1993  Less Than Overweight (Plaster Cramp Press Chicago)
1993  Performing Objects (The Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati)
1992  Sounds that Arouse Me (Tilbury House)
1993  Interview with Patsy Wiggins on MPBN's Personally Speaking
1994  See (MAN) TIC (R.B. Menschel Photography Gallery, Syracuse, NY)
1994  Slithy Toves Newsletter - Bern Porter Special
1994  Why My Left Leg Is Hot - Video
1995  These Fifty Years Gone - Written at request of Hiroshima officials
1995  Henry Miller: Semblance of A Devoted Past - A Study in Censorship (Roger Jackson, Ann Arbor, MI)
1995  Questions about Henry Miller That No One Ever Asked Me – With Answers (Roger Jackson)
1995  Okrazoidical - By Porter and John A. Pyros Internationalists. (Dramatika, Tarpon Springs, FL)
1996  The Best Period of My Life (Roger Jackson)
1996  Bern Porter's Pillow Book (Roger Jackson)
1996  Signs (Runaway Spoon Press)
1996  The Sorrow (Roger Jackson)
1996 Night Thoughts on Henry Miller, Ben Abramson and Claude Houghton Following A Reading of 'Writers Three' (Roger Jackson)

1996 A Sex Oriented, Woman Connected Guy Doing His Own Thing - Bern Porter on Henry Miller (Roger Jackson)

1997 “I Pursue Her Still”: Bern Porter on Anais Nin (Roger Jackson)

1997 Crossfire (Roger Jackson)

1997 My Affair With Bern Porter - By Natasha Bernstein and Alan Abrams (Roger Jackson)

1997 Rites of Spring (Roger Jackson)

1997 A Walk on the Wild Side: A Photo Tour of the Sculpture Garden at the Institute of Advanced Thinking (Roger Jackson)

1997 Open Letter to O.J. Simpson (Roger Jackson)

1997 Redundant Redundant (Roger Jackson)


1997 Time (Roger Jackson)

1998 Bern Porter's Book of Wisdom (Roger Jackson)

1999 Monica Lewinsky - 4 Part Series (Roger Jackson)

1999 Belfast Common - Artifacts, Sculptures, Objects d'Art, Founds, Ready-Mades, Toss-Aways, and Forgotten Items... (Roger Jackson)

2001 Named Belfast's First Poet Laureate

2002 Bern Porter's 2002 Postcard Series (Roger Jackson)

June 7, 2004 Dies in Belfast, age 93.

Buried in the Evergreen Cemetery, Houlton