



**Lotte Streisinger - "Arts and Letters"
March 2008**

I have been a potter in Eugene for 40+ years. When clay work became too heavy for me I switched to print making, which I have done twice before, when I had no clay studio, and writing, which I have always loved.

Pottery, printmaking and writing seem very complementary to me, and probably what started me in this direction was children's' picture books. I read them as a child in Munich, Germany, and then to my children and later to my grandchildren. Thus it has been a great pleasure and fulfillment for me to make two illustrated books for adults.

Working with linoleum (Linocut Prints) allowed me to carve the blocks at home at the table by the window with light coming in over my left shoulder. Print making teachers Susan Loudermilk (LCC) and Peggy Prentice (UO) encouraged me to attend their classes and use the presses in the print shop.

The books and illustrations were made simultaneously. I chose from among the many possible chapter subjects those that I thought I could illustrate. I wanted the text and the illustrations to expand and comment on each other. The prints are displayed here with the corresponding pages as they appear in the books. Cropping, reducing and placement are the work of Chris Michel who teaches Typography and Book Design at Portland State University.

My first book, *From the Sidelines*, is about the Institute of Molecular Biology at the UO, where my husband, George Streisinger, was a founding member. This book was underwritten by the UO; I was paid a stipend while writing it and it was published by the University Press.

The second book, *The Potter and the Muse*, is about my own work as a long time potter, though I hope it is of interest to anyone doing creative work. It is based on my studio notebooks; also notebooks I have been keeping about nature, travel, etc. I did not have a sponsor for this endeavor and attempted for a very long time to find a commercial publisher - a dreary and fruitless effort. I felt I needed another project during this depressing period and so I began the Linocut series "The Months" which can be seen here in three versions: A scroll, a three-ring notebook (with text) and an accordion fold. When I had gone through the whole year, recording each month as it came and went, my lawyer daughter, Cory Streisinger, found me some Nazi reparation money, which paid for the printing and Chris Michel's book design.