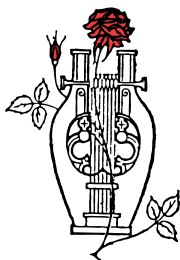


Ekstasis Editions
Fall 2009



Celebrating a quarter century of literary publishing!



Welcome to Ekstasis Edition's Fall 2009 catalogue, a season in which we celebrate over a quarter-century of literary publishing. Ekstasis Editions produced its first book in Victoria in 1982, Richard Olafson's poetry collection *Blood of the Moon*, and has gone on to publish over two hundred fine volumes of today's best literature. In this season we release several exciting new titles from noteworthy Canadian authors, including new books of poetry from Linda Rogers, David Watmough and D.C. Reid.

Ekstasis Editions has been characterized by a creative spirit and resilience during the past 27 years of remarkable growth. From early books of poetry, meticulously produced by hand, to a stimulating front and backlist of fiction, criticism, metaphysics, non-fiction and children's books, Ekstasis Editions has maintained the commitment to literature that inspired its creation. From newly translated fiction to drama and a healthy variety of poetic passions, our books will nourish the hungry mind and satisfy the longing spirit, as they have for the last 27 years. Join us in this literary adventure as we forge into our next quarter century in publishing!

Please see our back cover for ordering information and our generous 'Terms of Trade.'

Richard Olafson, Publisher



Ekstasis Editions acknowledges with gratitude the generous support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Book Publishing Industry Development Program (BPIDP) and the British Columbia Arts Council.

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When Does a Kiss Become a Bite?

LEN GASPARINI

In his latest book of stories, *When Does a Kiss Become a Bite?*, Len Gasparini holds a broken mirror up to reality to reveal the shards of shattered lives with grace and precision. The stories in *When Does A Kiss Become a Bite?* are Chekhovian in scope, eloquent statements, strikingly rendered, executed with dark tenderness and hypnotic conviction. Gasparini writes with a rough, seductive charm of the private loneliness of Tennessee Williams, of a couple of rounders on a wild ride to New Orleans, of a nightworker consumed by Gothic fear and self-loathing, of a Poe scholar, finding his Annabel Lee, but, like Poe, ending in the gutter. An authentic narrative impulse drives each of the ten stories, as if Nelson Algren and O. Henry, after a night of serious drinking, collaborated until they wrote as one.

Gasparini is a trickster and prestidigitator whose stage is the short story. He draws you in with a style that is deceptively straightforward, only to leave you astonished, patting yourself down, pockets empty of all those preconceptions and comfortable assumptions, and wondering how he did it.

Jim Christy
author of *The Redemption of Anna Dupree*

Len Gasparini is the author of numerous books of poetry, including *The Broken World: Poems 1967-1998* and a collection for children, *I Once Had a Pet Praying Mantis*. He is the author of two previous story collections, *Blind Spot* and *A Demon in My View* (Guernica 2003), and a work of nonfiction, *Erase Me*, with photographs by Leslie Thomson. In 1990, he was awarded the F. G. Bressani Literary Prize for poetry. He lives in Toronto.



ISBN 978-1-897430-36-1
Fiction
182 pages
\$22.95
5 x 8
Available October 2009



India, India

YOLANDE VILLEMAIRE

translated by Leonard Sugden

A poetic novel by Quebec's Yolande Villemaire, *India, India* chronicles an unfolding journey into the heart of contemporary India. When Montreal artist Miliana Tremblay is invited to exhibit in India, she plans an extended visit including a spiritual retreat led by the Dalai Lama. To help with her travel arrangements she contacts Dervish India Tours and is charmed by the company's charismatic owner, Khayyal Khan. In the perplexing paradox that is contemporary India, Miliana is caught between love and fear and the colliding cultures of the First and Third worlds. Seeking solitude, she insists on travelling alone, but is poorly prepared for the realities of the colourful and sometimes maddening Sub-Continent. Khayyal Khan is also on a spiritual quest and offers friendship, but when travel arrangements go awry Miliana begins to question his integrity. Journey with Miliana, from South to North, from the Kalachakra retreat to the spice and sari markets, through the crowded streets of Delhi to the breathtaking marbles of the Taj Mahal where, in the end, love and beauty silence the unanswerable questions on this enchanting journey of discovery in the complex world of India today.

Yolande Villemaire has published more than twenty works of poetry and fiction including *La vie en prose*, *Quartz et mica* and *Des petits fruits rouges*. She is the author of *Midnight Tides of Amsterdam*, *Poets and Centaurs* and *Little Red Berries*, all available from Ekstasis Editions. Yolande Villemaire lives in Montreal.



ISBN 978-1-897430-12-5
 Fiction/Translation
 230 Pages
 \$22.95
 5 x 8
 Available November
 2009



Nine O’Clock Gun

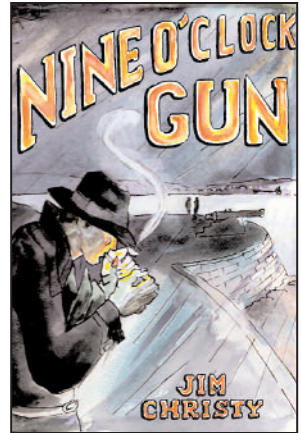
JIM CHRISTY

In *Nine O’Clock Gun*, the fourth and final novel of his Gene Castle, Private Eye series, author Jim Christy once again mines the streets of vintage Vancouver for the gritty characters and nostalgic settings that pepper the previous volumes, *Shanghai Alley*, *Princess and Gore* and *Terminal Avenue*. Castle’s back in his room at the faded Rose Hotel, back at his table at Ramona’s Cafe, but the woman in his life has taken her seamed silk stockings and walked. Vancouver is as dangerous as ever, though, and Castle’s just the man to solve the string of murders striking a little too close to home. Christy’s feel for the language of the street and the spirit of the times sets the stage for crime fiction that is intelligent and absorbing.

Jim Christy’s old Vancouver is a shadowy landscape brought to life through his sad sack losers, his half-bad strivers looking for an angle, and innocents who should, as Robert Parke put it, know better. A dark, quirky and humane journey through the old Pacific port city where cultures and motives collide.

Sparkle Hayter, author of *Naked Brunch*

Jim Christy is a writer, artist and tireless traveller. The author of twenty books, including poetry, short stories, novels, travel and biography, Christy has been praised by writers as diverse as Charles Bukowski and Sparkle Hayter. Raised in inner-city Philadelphia, he moved to Toronto when he was twenty-three years old and became a Canadian citizen at the first opportunity. A resident of British Columbia’s Sunshine Coast for many years, he currently resides in Toronto.



ISBN 978-1-897430-20-0

Fiction

160 pages

\$22.95

6 x 9

Now Available



Geraldine

DAVID WATMOUGH

David Watmough's *Geraldine* celebrates a ground-breaking female scientist, seen in her later years. After a hard-fought successful career as a bio-chemist and professor, the sharp-mouthed Geraldine struggles to keep her dignity and independence as her family casts her in the role of doddering old woman. Alone in a Vancouver high-rise, Geraldine hits the bottle, reflecting upon her childhood in Victoria and her determination to become a scientist despite the attitudes of the day. If she has become hard, it is because she needed to be in order to succeed in the patriarchal world of medical science. Now she battles her physician son, who considers his mother an embarrassment.

With few peers left to remember her former stature, Geraldine takes an interest in her grandson, a young gay man. A rewarding relationship develops between the aging feminist and the confused youth. David Watmough's tribute to the feminists of the twentieth century is written with humour, warmth and style. The reader rejoices at Geraldine's accomplishments and suffers her anguish and humiliation as old age robs her of the respect she struggled to achieve.

Naturalized Canadian, **David Watmough**, 81, has been shaped and nourished by a Cornish background as well as years in London, Paris, New York and San Francisco. All his novels, short stories, plays and poems, however, have been written on Canada's west coast during the past 45 years. *Geraldine* is his eighteenth book and thirteenth fiction title.



ISBN 978-1-894800-99-0
 Fiction
 146 Pages
 \$22.95
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There Once Was a Camel

P.K. PAGE

& KRISTI BRIDGEMAN

*There once was a camel
all dressed in enamel...*

There Once Was A Camel, a delightful new picture book by Canada's revered poet P.K. Page, introduces children to endearing animal friends who offer a bold approach to life. Combining the fun of a nonsense rhyme with the wisdom of Aesop's fables, it is sure to become a story-and-bedtime favourite. Imaginative illustrations by Kristi Bridgeman draw the reader into the colourful world of one extraordinary camel and his remarkable friends.

P.K. Page is one of Canada's most esteemed poets whose literary career spans the past five decades. She is the author of some twenty books including ten volumes of poetry in addition to memoir, fiction and children's titles. Winner of the Governor General's Award for Poetry in 1957, P.K. Page was also appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1999. Most recently her volume *Planet Earth: Poems Selected and New* was short-listed for the prestigious Griffin Poetry Prize. *There Once Was A Camel* is P.K. Page's seventh book for children. Born in England and brought up on the Canadian prairies, P.K. Page resides in Victoria, British Columbia.

Kristi Bridgeman is both an exhibiting visual artist and an illustrator of books for children, including the popular picture books *The Sock Fairy* and *The Knot Fairy*. Born and raised on the West Coast of Canada, she attended Emily Carr College of Art and now resides in Victoria, British Columbia. Actively involved with the environment, children and the arts, she is vice president of the Island Illustrator's Society.



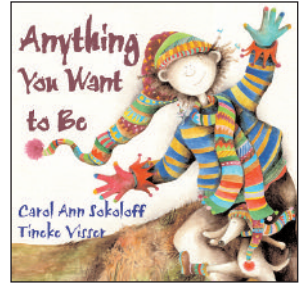
ISBN 978-1-897430-31-6
Children's picture book
32 pages
\$19.95
10 x 10
Now Available



Anything You Want to Be

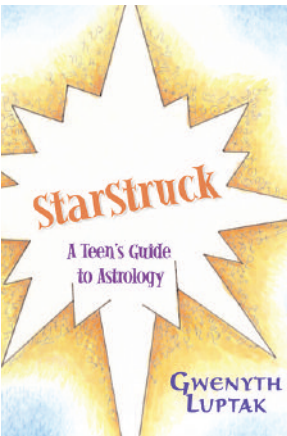
CAROL ANN SOKOLOFF
& TINEKE VISSER

Andrea's mother keeps telling her about all the wonderful things she can be and do when she grows up and Andrea imagines herself in many different careers. She joins clubs and studies ballet, tennis, magic and bugs. But one day Andrea decides that most of all she wants to simply be herself. *Anything You Want to Be* is a delightful, free verse picture book that will encourage children to think of the many opportunities before them and to value themselves for who they are.



ISBN 1-894800-40-0
ISBN 978-1-894800-40-0
Picture Book
(5 - 7 years)
32 Pages \$19.95
9 x 9 Hardcover
Available April

N O W A V A I L A B L E



Starstruck

A Teen's Guide
to Astrology

GWENYTH LUPTAK

Previously announced
Now Available!
ISBN 1-894800-60-5
ISBN 978-1-894800-60-0
YA (Astrology)
188 Pages
\$18.95
6 x 9

The ancient study of astrology holds an obvious fascination for teens and can help them understand themselves and others during the challenging adolescent years. Gwenth Luptak's *Starstruck!* offers a simple approach to the zodiac and its symbols, designed to help the teen reader discover astrology's wisdom and apply it to life. Lighthearted illustrations by the author and thumbnail sketches of the signs and planets describe and reveal the astrological influences at play in the universe. At the back of the book a simplified ephemeris allows the reader to determine the placement of planets at birth and draw up a basic personal chart. All ages will find this a useful and entertaining introduction to the lore of the stars.

Hellhound on His Trail

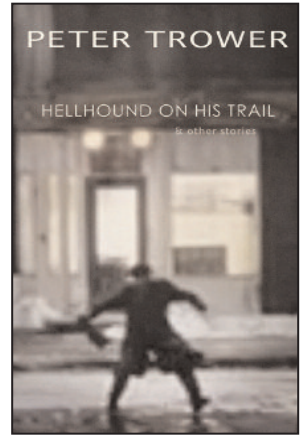
PETER TROWER

Entertaining tales of British Columbia’s logging camps, bunkhouses, smelters and sawmills are collected in Peter Trower’s latest short fiction release *Hellhound on his Trail*. A remarkable glimpse of working life along the coast in the 1950s, Trower’s stories of Sunshine Coast hamlets and their colourful characters, steep mountain ‘sidehills’, dangerous workplaces and rampant alcoholism paint a picture of a way of life now past. Known as BC’s logger-poet, Trower’s vivid eye, ear for dialogue and unerring voice capture an unvarnished portrait with the artistry of a master. Several of the tales in the collection first appeared in the *Vancouver Review*, commissioned by editor and journalist Malcolm Parry, who introduces the volume. Raw, edgy and street-wise, Peter Trower’s tales possess the lyric eloquence of his poetry.

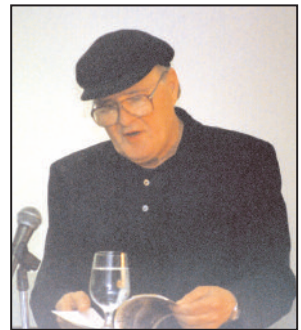
Peter Trower is the real deal, a writer who can make you laugh, cry and scream at the moon, often at the same time. He’s know as “the logger poet,” but it’s in his journalism you really get a sense of the man, and his crazy life.

John Mackie

Peter Trower was born in St. Leonard’s on Sea, England in 1930 and came to Canada in 1940. He worked for 22 years as a logger. Writing professionally since 1971, he has has published three novels to date, more than ten books of poetry and numerous articles. His collection of logging poems *Chainsaws in the Cathedral* was selected to the BC Millenium Book Award. In 2002 he was awarded the B.C. Gas Lifetime Achievement Award for his work. He lives in Gibson’s, B.C.



ISBN 978-1-897430-26-2
 Non-Fiction
 180 Pages
 \$22.95
 6 x 9
 Now Available



Tantric Picnic

HANS PLOMP

translated by Jordan Zinovich

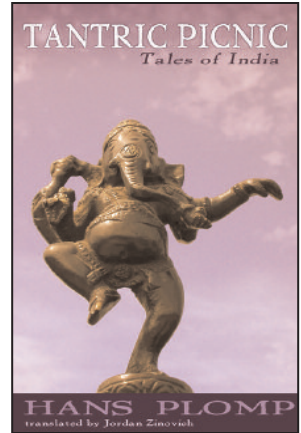
The dynamic tapestry of contemporary India comes alive in the pages of *Tantric Picnic: Tales of India* by Dutch writer Hans Plomp. With humour and warmth the author chronicles this country of paradox, where the ancient and modern, the splendid and the sordid, endlessly collide. Carving a route well off the beaten path, Plomp probes the heart of India — the holy fools, village life, legends and myths, ruins and bazaars, the sway of tradition and the tug of modernity. With the steady, compassionate gaze of a pilgrim he notes the ironies and also the miracles of India today, in memorable tales certain to delight both the experienced and the armchair traveler.

India is a time machine where travelers encounter realities and cultures that people in the West know only from history, mythology and fairy tales...

from the Introduction

Hans Plomp was born in Amsterdam in 1944. After his studies he became a teacher, but he gave up regular jobs for good when his first novel *De Ondertrouw* (*The Banns Are Up*) was successful. In 1982 he toured the U.S. with a group of Dutch poets, performing with Anne Waldman, Diana di Prima, Allen Ginsberg, Gregory Corso, Amiri Baraka, Ira Cohen and many other kindred artists. He has published novels, short stories, poetry and essays.

Born and raised in the Rocky Mountains of British Columbia, **Jordan Zinovich** now resides in New York City. He has published seven books, including the novel *Gabriel Dumont in Paris* and the poetry collection *The Company I Keep*.



ISBN 978-1-894800-95-2

Memoir

132 pages

\$21.95

5 x 8

Now Available



Against the Shore

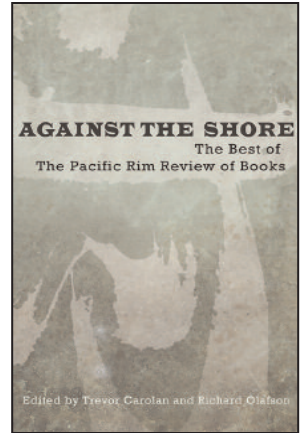
edited by **TREVOR CAROLAN**
& **RICHARD OLAFSON**

Already, this first volume of selected works from the first ten editions of the PRRB feels like something of a landmark. The *Pacific Rim Review of Books* was founded by Canadian publisher Richard Olafson in the spring of 2005. Published three times a year from Victoria, British Columbia—Canada’s Pacific Rim gateway to Asia and Latin America—from the outset its literary horizon has remained both national and international.

As its first subscription form noted, the 21st century’s guiding reality is that everything is interconnected, so the PRRB’s sense of the republic of Arts & Letters is broad: contributors and the subjects they embrace come from many lands. With a fledgling budget the PRRB has now managed to publish the work of more than 125 authors from throughout North America and from 15 countries internationally. Among them have been veteran and younger writers, and we have been privileged to feature the work of internationally distinguished writers such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Gary Snyder, Josef Skvorecky, Alvaro Mutis, Red Pine, Rex Weyler of Greenpeace, and Michael Platzer of the United Nations.

Trevor Carolan has published 13 books of poetry, fiction, translation, memoir, and anthologies, including the novel *The Pillowbook of Dr. Jazz*. He now teaches English at University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford, B.C.

Richard Olafson is an editor, poet, book designer and publisher. He has authored many books and chapbooks, including *Blood of the Moon* and *Cloud on My Tongue*. He lives in Victoria with his family and is publisher of *The Pacific Rim Review of Books*.



ISBN 978-1-897430-34-7

Essays / Criticism

184 pages

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Paper Trombones: Notes on Poetics

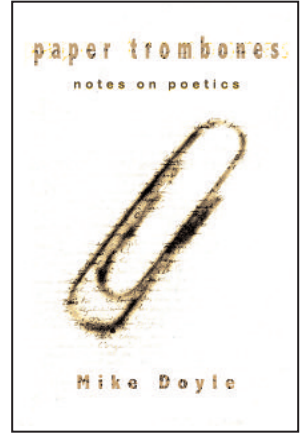
MIKE DOYLE

I seem to have developed a habit of poetry, in a good sense of the word 'habit'. Poetry has become my habitation for its own sake. It is what I am cloaked in (my habit); the particular cast of mind-life, the weave of the fabric, the straw in the brick, is poetry.

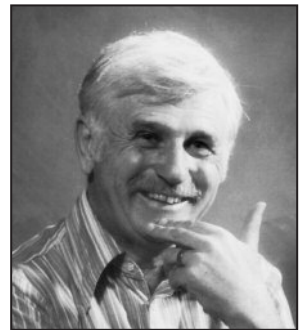
Mike Doyle from *Paper Trombones*

In *Paper Trombones* poet and scholar Mike Doyle shares musings on poetry – his own and others’ – drawn from informal journal notes of the past thirty years. Born in London of Irish descent, Doyle lived in New Zealand before moving to Victoria, BC. As a poet and academic on three continents, Doyle recalls fascinating encounters with prominent literary figures – from Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath to Basil Bunting, Anne Sexton, Robert Creeley, James Wright, Robert Bly, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, George Woodcock and various Canadian poets. With candid commentary on his wide reading in poetry, philosophy and criticism, Mike Doyle is a personable guide to the currents of contemporary literature. Pound, Williams, Stevens, Modernism and the language and Black Mountain schools, are discussed, as well as Keats, Coleridge and Hardy, both in terms of the writing and the effect on Doyle’s poems. An accessible journey through a personal landscape of poetry, *Paper Trombones* will appeal to those interested in the art of poetry and the dialogue on contemporary literature. The volume also includes some out of print poems mentioned in the notes.

Mike Doyle has lived in Victoria since 1968. His first poetry collection *A Splinter of Glass* (1956) was published in New Zealand; his first Canadian collection is *Earth Meditations* (Coach House, 1971), his latest *Living Ginger* (Ekstasis, 2004).



ISBN 978-1-897430-05-7
 Literary Criticism
 180 Pages
 \$19.95
 6 x 9
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Before Play

HOWIE SIEGEL & JANET ROTHMAN

Winner of the 2007 Canadian National Play Writing competition, *Before Play* was described by jurors as “fabulous... great characters... great roles. Lovely and truthful.” The play is co-authored by two Victoria celebrities, and was also first performed by the talented writers. It is a moving story of rediscovered past love, and is full of humour, suspense and insight.

Janet (Sickler) Rothman grew up in Arizona & graduated from the Acting Specialization Program at U.C.L.A. In her early twenties, she studied acting at Actors Lab London, movement with Etienne Decroux in Paris. She performed in Amsterdam with the La Mamma Company, the Royal Court in London, directed by Vanessa Redgrave. Janet recently completed performances of *Angels in America* in Victoria, B.C.

Howie Siegel was born in Brooklyn and raised in Los Angeles. He graduated from UCLA and moved to British Columbia in 1972 where he co-founded Pagliacci's Restaurant in Victoria in 1979. He has 4 children, Solomon, Rose, Malka and Harry. And a dog, Maidel. And a girlfriend, fiancée, partner, co-star; the redoubtable Janet Rothman. This is his first play.



ISBN 978-1-897430-35-4
 Drama
 108 Pages
 \$21.95
 6 x 9
 Now Available



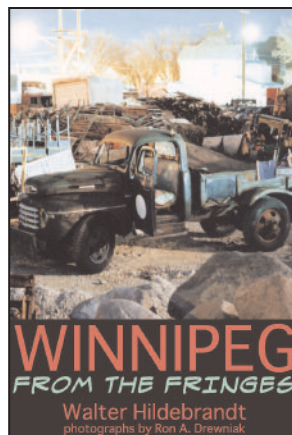
Winnipeg from the Fringes

WALTER HILDEBRANDT

*How is it that Winnipeg inspires such surreal portraits of itself? Is it the extreme cold, the sense of isolation in a vast sea of prairie, the peculiar First Nations/exiled eastern European multicultural mix? **Winnipeg From the Fringes** joins a prestigious list of eccentric visionary portraits of the magical and troubled city, along with Guy Maddin's *My Winnipeg*, Tomson Highway's *Kiss of the Fur Queen*, Adele Wiseman's *Crackpot* and James Reaney's *A Message to Winnipeg*. Discovering French philosopher Michel Foucault and Kafka's *Gregor Samsa* and Leonard Cohen's *F. sharing a ward in the General Hospital* is not surprising here. Nor is finding 19th century Danish theologian Soren Kierkegaard's "unscientific postscript" protesting postmodern amnesic excess, in favour of community, and memory, and "connection." Ron Drewniak's frost and sun bitten photographs add another dimension of bereftness and solidarity to the mix. Wonderful.*

Di Brandt

Historian and poet **Walter Hildebrandt** was born in Brooks, Alberta and lived in Winnipeg from 1979 to 1992. He now lives in Edmonton. He has worked as an historian for Parks Canada and as a consultant to the Treaty 7 Tribal Council, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Banff Bow Valley Task Force. His long poem *Sightings* was nominated for the 1992 McNally-Robinson Book of the Year for Manitoba. His book *Where the Land Gets Broken* won the Stephen G. Stephenson Award for Poetry in 2005. He is presently the Director of the Athabasca University Press. This is his sixth book of poetry.



ISBN 978-1-897430-44-6
 Poetry & Photography
 160 Pages
 \$26.95
 6 x 9
 Available September
 2009



Muscle Memory

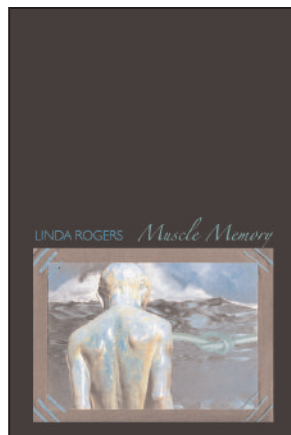
LINDA ROGERS

Between the heart and the head, poetry moves, linked by memory, in the conversational fluency and exquisite metaphor of Linda Rogers' new book, *Muscle Memory*. In poems of compassion, longing and expansive generosity, Rogers reminds us that the heart is a muscle, exercised through benevolence and social consciousness. In *Muscle Memory* Linda Rogers dares to illuminate the heart with the light of eccentric wisdom and compassionate grace, writing personal and social concerns in playful and moving images. Combining a baroque sensibility with a flair for surrealism, the poet affirms the abundance of spirit that manifests when the muscles of the heart and memory are flexed.

These brave poems, measured and steadfast, refuse utterly the constraints of gender race religion and territory of every kind. In language that is itself muscular, they take us straight to the world's pain, where Rogers insists we look long enough, deeply enough, to understand what moves us, and what must be saved—the heart that beats everywhere to the same rhythm.

Pauline Holdstock

Linda Rogers is a poet, playwright, editor, and journalist whose work has been translated into seven languages. She writes song lyrics for the band Light, Sweet Crude and has an interest in causes that affect the rights of children. She has won, among others, the Dorothy Livesay Award, the Stephen Leacock Poetry Prize, and the Governor General's Confederation Medal. Linda is the past President of the Federation of BC Writers and the League of Canadian Poets. She lives in Victoria, BC.



ISBN 978-1-897430-38-5

Poetry

106 Pages

\$19.95

6 x 9

Available September

2009



Split

STEPHEN BETT

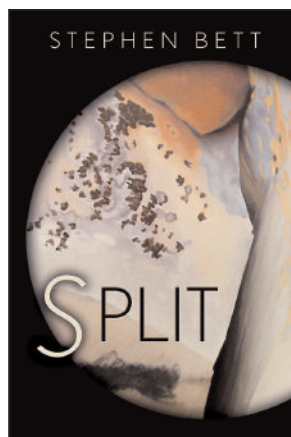
Stephen Bett's last book, anti-misogynist spoof poems about the soft porn industry, sold out its first print run within a few months – also the first Canadian book published by this particular prestigious NYC literary publisher.

Stephen Bett's new, tenth, book of poetry, *SPLIT*, is divided into three sections: "Split-Up" concerns relationship; "Split-All-Over" is fueled by angst and the poet's customary satire; "Split-Down" makes a tender good-bye to a marriage. This is a deeply personal book: poet "split" all over the emotional map.

[These poems] *are soooo delicious. Mouthwatering. Tingling...so bitter, so sharp, so sad. Such beautiful work. I am absolutely stunned.*

Judy Gouin, artist

Stephen Bett has had six previous books of poetry published — *Sass 'n Pass*, *Three Women*, *Nota Bene*, *High-Maintenance*, *Cruise Control* (Ekstasis Editions) and *Lucy Kent and other poems* (Longspoon Press) — along with a chapbook, *High Design Refit* (Greenboathouse Books). He is a member of the English Department at Langara College in Vancouver.



ISBN 978-1-897430-43-9

Poetry

120 Pages

\$19.95

6 x 9

Available October 2009



Eyes & Ears on Boundary Bay

DAVID WATMOUGH

As a fiction writer David Watmough has explored a range of emotions and experiences, but with his book of sonnets, he is able to encompass a more intimate and personal dimension, with stylish charm and candid restraint. David Watmough again takes a turn at poetry in *Eyes & Ears of Boundary Bay*, a second volume of elegant sonnets, and his 20th published book, as a follow up to the recent *Coming Down the Pike*. Watmough reinvigorates the sonnet form, the most austere and yet the most elastic of forms, to probe beneath the skin of reality, to discover the essence of things as they truly are. The poems in *Eyes and Ears of Boundary Bay* are both lyrical and reflective, forming a discreet narrative stretching from immediate experience to distant memory. David Watmough cultivates a small garden of human experience, within the discipline of fourteen lines. Passionate and ironic, these poems are a testament of a life fully lived and realized through art.

David Watmough entered the poetry scene here through the sonnet, and like the form, his voice and language span past and present, and oceans with buoyant and apt usage in a Cornish-Canadian concordance. His sonnets and verses solder sadness, insight and wit to the deepest vessels of the heart.

George McWhirter

Naturalized Canadian, **David Watmough** has been shaped and nourished by a Cornish background as well as years in London, Paris, New York and San Francisco. All his novels, short stories, plays and poems, however, have been written on Canada's west coast during the past 45 years. *Geraldine*, his eighteenth book and thirteenth fiction title, was published in 2007 by Ekstasis Editions.



ISBN 978-1-897430-45-3

Poetry

86 Pages

\$19.95

6 x 9

Available November

2009

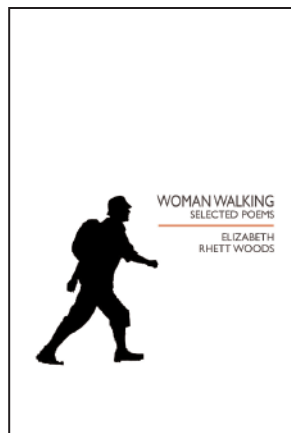


Woman Walking: Selected Poems

ELIZABETH RHETT WOODS

Walking, as Wordsworth knew, can take us to a place we have never been before. In her new collection *Woman Walking: Selected Poems* Elizabeth Rhett Woods wanders the world as we know it, singing secular hymns to contemporary life. For decades now, Woods has been writing clear and austere poems of straightforward brilliance and *Woman Walking* is a compilation of the many directions her path has taken her. An accomplished prose stylist as well, Woods poetry extends from the challenging yet ironic discourse on gender politics of *Men* through the rich personal lyricism of *Absthinth of Desire* to the political charged docu-narrative of *1970: A Novel Poem*—a stylistic range spread over her career governed by personal integrity and by exemplary moral commitment. *Woman Walking: Selected Poems* takes us on a slow walking journey, gathering stories as one would gather stones on the beach, reflecting the world as it is without ceremony or adornment. The poems are deceptively simple and direct, taking us to where we are going, immersed in the ordinary but finding the extraordinary in everything. Sensual and succinct, they are imbued with a penetrating honesty and an austere fidelity.

Elizabeth Rhett Woods has published five books of poetry and three novels, including *Beyond the Pale* (Ekstasis Editions, 2006) and the underground classic *The Yellow Volkswagen* (PaperJacks, 1971). Her poetry and plays, including the 90-minute verse play *Maya* (Tuesday Night, 1974) have been broadcast on CBC Radio. She lives in Victoria.



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 Poetry
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Three Blocks West of Wonderland

HEATHER SUSAN HALEY

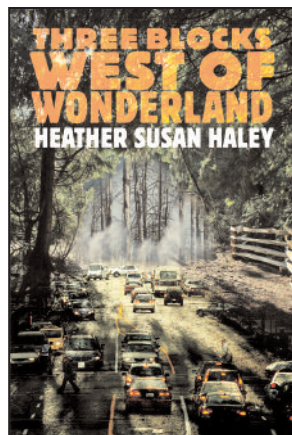
Fierce, racy, full of stiletto irony, verve — yet rife with sensitivity — Heather Haley’s *Three Blocks West of Wonderland* is a highly fuelled poetic ride. Her LA, southern BC coast, energy haunted world draws you electrically in and does not let you go. Like the subject of one of the elegies in this collection, Haley stirs you, “provoke[s] the atmosphere.”

Russell Thornton

Haley’s poems throb with the energy and colour of life, unexpected images and offbeat points of view. She takes the reader on dazzling word journeys that touch many bases but always wind up in the right place. She draws from a deep vision and a wide experience of life both quotidian and exotic. My late friend Al Purdy, would have loved her work. She is Heather Haley and she is definitely a poet to reckon with.

Peter Trower

Trailblazing poet, author, musician and media artist **Heather Susan Haley** pushes boundaries by creatively integrating disciplines, genres and media. Published in numerous journals and anthologies, she was an editor for the LA Weekly, publisher of *Rattler* and the *Edgewise Café*, one of Canada’s first electronic literary magazines. Architect of the Edgewise ElectroLit Centre and the Vancouver Videopoem Festival, her own works have been official selections at dozens of international film festivals. She is the host and curator of *SEE THE VOICE: Visible Verse* at Pacific Cinémathèque. An engaging performer, Haley has shared her poetry and music with audiences around the world. Most recently she toured eastern Canada and the U.S. in support of her critically acclaimed AURAL Heather CD of spoken word songs, *Princess Nut*.



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The Catch Club

JOHN O. THOMPSON

John O. Thompson is a master of the unexpected and the unconventional. His poems are passionate, humane, funny, tragic, always surprising and mind-delighting. In *The Catch Club*, he does not fail to amuse, delight and enlighten. He builds observation upon observation to create poems that startle and gratify through the freshness of his vision. Like that other wit John Skelton, his poems move from obverse to reverse, seeing the permanence of change, the vices of virtue, the evanescence of solidities and the errors of truth. Thompson is best when he weds the quotidian with a sense of life's mysteries. In *The Catch Club* what you remember most after reading Thompson's poems is his sense of play tuned by a fine intelligence.

John O. Thompson was born in Toronto in 1947, was immediately 're-settled' to a farm south of Edmonton, and studied at the University of Alberta. In 1969 he moved to the UK, and has lived there since then (London, Liverpool, London). He is married to Ann Thompson, with whom he wrote *Shakespeare, Meaning and Metaphor* (1987). His teaching field was film and media studies; now, as an independent scholar, he is enjoying getting back more to working with words. His published poetry prior to the catches assembled here consists of *Three [1/3 of]* (1973), *Echo and Montana* (1980), and, also with Ekstasis, *The Gates of Even* (2002).



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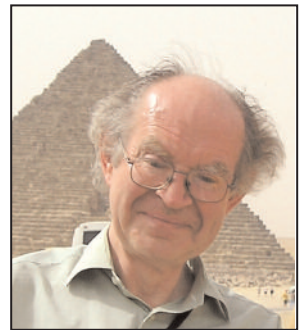
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What It Means To Be Human

D.C. REID

What It Means To Be Human, a technically ambitious book of poetry, has the urgency and immediacy of a novel, but also distinctively precise and fine-tuned by a lyric sensibility. *What It Means to be Human* is Reid's tenth book: the title is both a statement and an open-ended question, as Reid explores what it does mean to be human, through individual stories, with compassion and grace. He employs the conventions of prose, point of view, multiple people, time shifts and plot, to weave an intricate tapestry of lives, where the past intersects with the present, while questioning the meaning of home and identity.

Lots of imagination and haunt here, the poems leading to fascinating new perceptions. I really admire the leaps you take and how deeply you trust your imagery.

Barry Dempster

Such good work in here.

Ken Babstock

... lush and hypnotic... lovely turns of phrase, devastating images, heart-rending characters... I love that the narrative is so strong but so fractured.

Alana Wilcox

D.C. Reid's last two books of poetry, *Love And Other Things That Hurt*, and *The Hunger* were shortlisted, in their separate years, for the Dorothy Livesay Award, BC's highest prize for a book of poetry. Among his many other awards, Reid has taken silver twice in the Bliss Carmen award. His work has been translated into Hindi and Spanish. He is the current President of the League of Canadian Poets.



ISBN 978-1-897430-39-2

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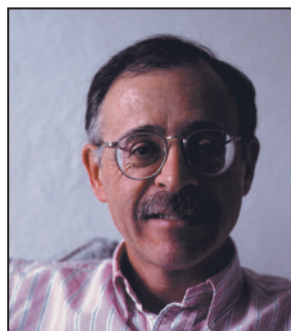
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Misshapenness

J.J. STEINFELD

Though he is best known for his plays and prose works, J.J. Steinfeld is also an accomplished poet and in *Misshapenness* as in his fiction luminous poems reveal the struggle and, with distinctive good will and humour, the dislocation of the self within the world. The narrative records how so many elements collectively press and guide the heart as it strives for understanding and unity, even in those moments when the mystery is unresolvable and unbearable. Steinfeld's overriding theme is the absurdity of modernity and the attempt by individuals to make sense of that absurdity. *Misshapenness* is a poignant book of transcendence and joy in the midst of despair, and aware of the world's beauty and its pain, like the finest of Woody Allen's films, one can persevere through grace and stoic acceptance. It offers senseful glimpses into a world, past and present, that is wondrous and damaged and, ultimately, baffling.

J.J. Steinfeld is a poet, fiction writer and playwright who lives on Prince Edward Island. He has published two novels, the first of which is *Our Hero in the Cradle of Confederation* (Pottersfield Press, 1987), and nine short story collections, the last three by Gaspereau Press—*Should the Word Hell Be Capitalized?*, *Anton Chekhov Was Never in Charlottetown*, and *Would You Hide Me?* His short stories and poems have appeared in numerous anthologies and periodicals internationally, and over forty of his one-act and full-length plays have been performed in Canada and the United States. His most recent work, *Word Burials*, is a novel.



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The Watchman's Dance

Poems 2004-2009

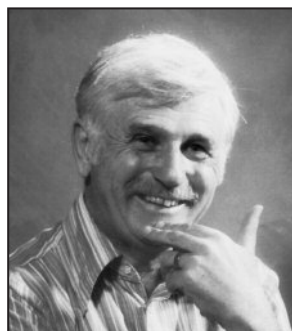
MIKE DOYLE

In Mike Doyle's most recent book, *The Watchman's Dance: Poems 2004-2009*, we are offered new poems of rigorous beauty, in careful lines that are at once lucid and subtle, cosmopolitan and possessing a casual forthrightness, formally serene and full of moral passion, distinguished by a quiet intimacy and an intellectual precision. These poems find their centre where memories, places, and visions intersect. Mike Doyle is one our more significant poets, and all he chooses to tell is told so quietly one marvels at the transparency of his art, as the complexity, variety, and depth of his work are presented in deceptively simple and disarmingly open contemplative poetry. *The Watchman's Dance* is an urgent and imaginative-ly vigorous book, perhaps his most accessible, mysterious and immediately beautiful book.

Mike Doyle is a poet, critic, biographer and editor. His other work includes *William Carlos Williams and the American Poem* (1982), *Richard Aldington: A Biography* (1989), *Paper Trombones* (2007), a journal of his life as a poet in Canada, and *Intimate Absences* (1993), a "Selected Poems" from work up to that date. He has also published critical essays on Williams, Wallace Stevens, H.D., Irving Layton, Al Purdy and others. He has received a UNESCO Creative Artist's Fellowship, an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, a Jessie Mackay (PEN) Award for Poetry. He wrote his book on Williams while a Research Fellow of American Studies at Yale University. *The Watchman's Dance* is his fifteenth poetry collection.



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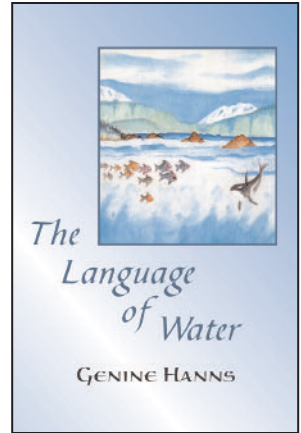


The Language of Water

GENINE HANNS

An ancient Chinese Proverb suggests that, “Women are made of water.” The emotional content of their tears are laden with salt like the sea, pouring forth in happiness and sorrow in the female experience of living. In *The Language of Water*, Genine Hanns explores women’s relationships with self, others and the world through myth, love, language, poetry and its forms, song and dance, freedom and captivity, creatures of the sea, land and sky, parents, marriage, issues of childbirth, divorce, isolation, celebration, and aging. The poet dips her pen in the deep waters of female creativity and gives voice to a siren’s aria and mermaid’s lament.

Genine Hanns was born in Vancouver BC and grew up on Vancouver Island with a great love and appreciation for nature and the beauty of the west coast. An accomplished acrylic artist, she paints landscapes, animals, butterflies and birds. A prolific writer in all genres, She has also written numerous short stories, poems and articles over the years. A large number of magazines and websites in Canada, America, and the United Kingdom have featured her work, amongst them, *Canadian Author & Bookman*, *Cross Canada Writer’s Quarterly*, *Dandelion*, *Descant*, *Ice River*, *Late Knocking*, *Northern Light* and **ROCKSALT**, the Anthology of Contemporary BC Poetry by Mother Tongue Publishing. Her first book of poetry, *Cross-Eyed Virgin on a Tightrope*, was recently published by Desert Phoenix Press of ICN Publishing in Victoria. *The Language of Water* is her second book of poetry.



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Nuances

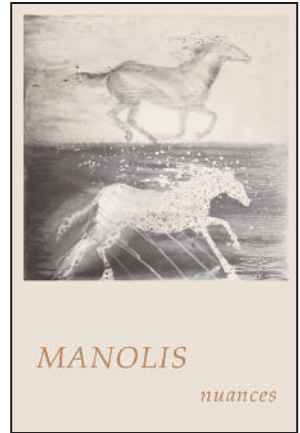
MANOLIS

Nuances is a transformative and elegant book, featuring sure-handed lines and vivid images rendered with delicate clarity. Manolis, a prolific poet, possesses a distinctly Mediterranean flavour, as would a poet schooled on Cavafy or Elytis, aromatic, tangy, like freshness of an olive grove in the morning. *Nuances* revels in the vitality of the sensuous motion of language on a sea of thought. The poems move in a transparent and openhearted gesture, subtle images intersecting with revealing philosophical meanings and benevolent meditations on the human condition. They provide insight into the mysterious act of writing itself and, open to the moment of creation, Manolis discovers, within the foliage of one poem, the next poem.

His work must be credited for its sustained thoughtfulness, lyrical voice, and invitation to view life not as barren subject but as a complex dynamic that has its own extraordinary design and imago of truth.

Ilya Tourtidis

Manolis was born on the island of Crete in 1947. Educated in Greece with a degree in Political Sciences from the Panteion University in Athens, he later served in the armed forces for two years, and emigrated to Vancouver in 1973. After working as an iron worker, a train laborer, a taxi driver and a stock broker, he retired in 1998. He lives in White Rock where he spends his time traveling, gardening and writing. Late in 2006 he founded Libros Libertad Publishing Ltd., an unorthodox, independent publishing company with scope the publishing of literary books.



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 Poetry
 116 Pages
 \$19.95
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 2009



An Island in the Light

RICHARD OLAFSON

Poet Richard Olafson celebrates the mystical experience of the Pacific Coast's Gulf Islands in his latest collection, *An Island in the Light*. Drawn from a series of chapbooks of writing from a period of residency on the small island called Saturna, *An Island in the Light* brings together Olafson's lyric celebration of coastal nature in a stirring, sensual volume. Resonant with eagle cries, ferry horns, sea and sky, rocky cliffs, forest paths, tangled roots of Arbutus, wild berries and starry nights. *An Island in the Light* is a classic work of west coast poetry, both subtle and accessible. For anyone who has spent time on the islands, and those who cherish the dream of a magic isle, *An Island in the Light* will linger in the imagination and the heart.

Muscular poetry!

Robin Skelton

Richard Olafson is an editor, poet, book designer and publisher. A long-time Victoria resident, he is active in many community organizations. Richard Olafson has published a number of books and chapbooks, among them *Blood of the Moon*, *Cloud on My Tongue*, and *There are Some So Unlucky they Do Not Even Have Bodies*. He attended the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics in its second year of operation and was much influenced the following year by taking classes from Warren Tallman at UBC's English Department. He lives in Victoria with his family and is publisher of *The Pacific Rim Review of Books*.



ISBN 978-1-897430-02-6

Poetry

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Available December 2009



RLS: At the World's End

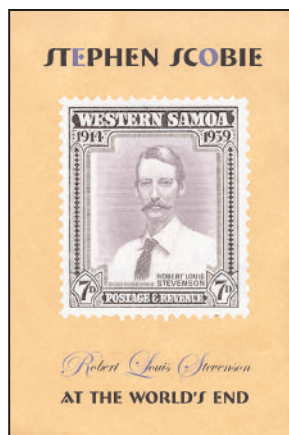
STEPHEN SCOBIE

In *RLS: At the World's End*, award-winning Canadian poet Stephen Scobie charts an imagined course through Robert Louis Stevenson's writings and travels. Scobie, himself a Scot living abroad, presents an extended dialogue between his own, contemporary voice and a poetic image of RLS: forever seeking a treasure island, forever longing to return home, living and dying at the world's end.

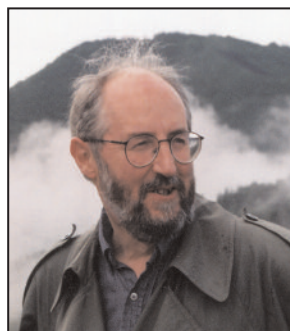
Stephen Scobie, whose McAlmon's Chinese Opera pushed him into the top rank of narrative poets, has turned his sights on Robert Louis Stevenson, one transplanted Scot pondering another, meditating on love, the meaning of home, and the tropics of illness and death. It's a jagged, moving, cryptic circumnavigation of the creative life.

Gary Geddes

Stephen Scobie is a Canadian poet, critic, and scholar. Born in Carnoustie, Scotland, Scobie relocated to Canada in 1965. He earned a PhD from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver after which he taught at the University of Alberta and at the University of Victoria, from which he recently retired. Scobie is a founding editor of Longspoon Press, an elected member of the Royal Society of Canada, and the recipient of the 1980 Governor General's Award for *McAlmon's Chinese Opera* (1980) and the 1986 Prix Gabrielle Roy for Canadian Criticism.



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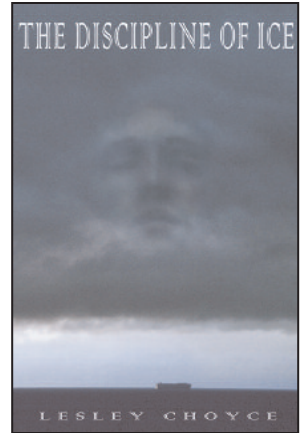
The Discipline of Ice

LESLEY CHOYCE

Warning: this book is not recommended for rigid minds or weak hearts. If you are not willing to enter into a world of celebratory madness and prefer dark sombre cynicism, refrain from opening.

The Discipline of Ice is an experiment of thought and word bursting with enthusiasm, devotion and despair. Part rant, part ode, part mirage, the book covers a wide range of important subject matter, including merit badges, God, cigarettes, Tokyo, Jules Verne, Iceland, Vietnam, cranberries, Clam Bay, Doaktown, Nietzsche, Culloden, County Cork, Joshua Slocum, Euell Gibbons, chantarelles, truth, delusion, class reunions, the death of Peter Gzowski, the Yellowhead Highway, the sound of birds singing and an anthem to silence.

Lesley Choyce is the author of 67 books for adults, teens and children. He has taught at Dalhousie University for the past 25 years and is the publisher of Pottersfield Press. Lesley surfs year round in the North Atlantic and is considered the father of transcendental wood-splitting. He's worked as a rehab counsellor, a freight hauler, a corn farmer, a janitor, a journalist, a lead guitarist, a newspaper boy and a well-digger. He lives in a 200 year old farm house at Lawrencetown Beach overlooking the ocean.



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Straw Things: Selected Poetry & Song

CHARLES TIDLER

In *Straw Things, Selected Poetry and Song*, noted playwright Charles Tidler unveils a diverse assortment of poems composed between 1963 and the present. While best known as an innovative and award-winning dramatist, Charles Tidler has consistently written poetry throughout his career, although the present volume represents his first full book of poems. Hailed as ‘the best Goddamed poet in Canada’ by none other than Charles Bukowski, Charles Tidler’s poetry ranges from the sardonic to the lyric, vibrant with a revealing voice that is authentic and direct. His accessible style, by turns sparse and conversational, celebrates an ordinary magic and sings the beauty and humour of existence. From the draft-dodger’s biting farewell to America to the beaches of Vancouver Island, *Straw Things* slips through the time zones gathering heightened moments, embroidering a rich tapestry of the times.

Charles Tidler was raised in Indiana and educated at Purdue University, studying literature and philosophy. A Vietnam War draft resistor, he has lived permanently in Canada since the late 60s. He is the author of six chapbooks of poetry and a novel *Going to New Orleans*. His stage plays *Blind Dancers* and *Straight Ahead* have been produced throughout North America, at the Edinburgh Festival and London’s West End. They have won many awards. Other plays include *The Butcher’s Apron* and *Red Mango*, a blues. Charles is also a librettist, radio dramatist and spoken jazz artist. The father of two grown sons, he lives and works and writes in Victoria, BC.



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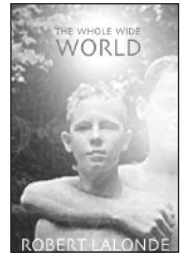
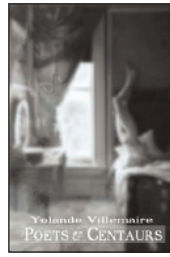
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