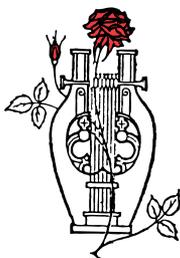


Ekstasis Editions Spring 2009

Celebrating a quarter century of literary publishing!





Welcome to Ekstasis Edition's Spring 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 a new picture book for children by the revered poet P.K. Page.

Ekstasis Editions has been characterized by a creative spirit and resilience during the past 26 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 26 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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Fragments From Nomads Days & Other Poems & Tales

ALLAN GRAUBARD

Always in Allan Graubard's work there is the dreamer dreaming that he is dreamed by the dreamer, eyes wide open, seeing, yes, but also stripping through the layers that make up our existence, here and now, dark and luminous, dreamt and waking. Graubard's gaze is piercing, it cuts through to the core, as the beings and things, both historical and experienced, that constitute his cosmology acquire movement, rhythm, sound and light, in anticipation of le grand jeu: Through these poems, at once lucid and enigmatic, Graubard ensures that his is a performance in which we are engaged participants and dazzled spectators.

— Beatriz Hausner

Allan Graubard's poems appeared in the recent *Shamanic Warriors, Now Poets* (edited by Ira Cohen and J.N. Reilly) and *Celestial Graffiti* (edited by Ira Cohen). His play, *For Alejandra*, on the suicide of poet Alejandra Pizarnik, was last performed at the Sibiu International Theater Festival, Romania, summer 2003, with publication and a national radio broadcast, after its premiere in New York and runs in Washington, DC, and Dubrovnik. In 2005, Green Integer Press published his adaptation of Gellu Naum's play, *The Taus Watch Repair Shop*, in collaboration with translator Sasha Vlad.



ISBN 978-1-897430-27-9

Poems and stories

145 pages

\$22.95

6 x 9

Available April 2009



photo by Ira Cohen

When Does a Kiss Become a Bite?

LEN GASPARINI

Across the sixteen stories in *When A Kiss Becomes A Bite* Gasparini hits on lust, racism, rage, drugs, poverty, ugly ethnic stereotyping, deceit, despair and depression but also compassion, care, humour, down-to-earth friendship, empathy and consideration. This range is often explored within a single story.

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*

Provocative, earthy stories... Gasparini is able to coax the profound out of the banal.

Louise McKinney,
author of *New Orleans: A Cultural History*

Gasparini's stories peel back the layers on the contemporary human condition.

Matthew Firth, *Ottawa Xpress*

Len Gasparini is an under-appreciated Canadian writer. After approximately thirty-five years of writing and publishing, he should be held up as a national literary treasure but he is not. Gasparini remains on the margins, too salty for mainstream success and acceptance.



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



Nine O'Clock Gun

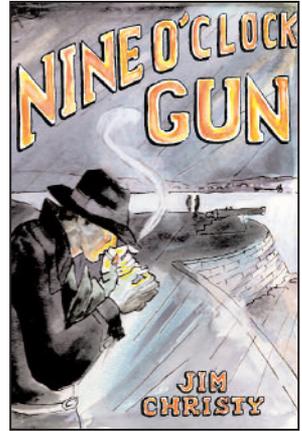
JIM CHRISTY

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
 5 x 8
 Now available



India, India

YOLANDE VILLEMAIRE

translated by Leonard Sugden

In *India, India*, Miliana Tremblay, a young artist seeking serenity in India, discovers that she is immersed in a thousand year old culture unsettled by its new status as an emerging economic power.

Moving from the south to New Delhi and the Taj Mahal, then passing through the Palace of the Winds, Miliana will meet, along the way, the Dalai Lama, an Israeli poet, an eccentric compatriot, a Sikh in a pink turban and a host of bare-footed beggar girls. Her meeting with Khayaal Khan, a charismatic travel agent, announces the paradox that bewitches the heroine of *India, India*, who is torn between love and fear, sentiments as evanescent as flowers in a sky sketched by the wind.

It's both the beginning and the end of our story. The wheels of time roll on in your whirling Dervish voice. We ride through a mist with its disquieting déjà vu effect. I listen to your voice, as deep and green as a Kashmir lake. I drink it in and hear its obsessive echo, India, India, what fate, then, have you ordained for me?

In 1980, Yolande Villemaire won the Young Writers' prize from the Journal de Montréal for the novel, *La vie en prose*, defined by critics as a post-modern work. After a long stay in India, she published, in 1995, *Le dieu dansant*. Poet and novelist, her works translated into English, Spanish and Italian, with *La déferlante d'Amsterdam* in 2003, she launched a new cycle: *India, India*, being one of these works. Quebec writer **Yolande Villemaire** has published more than twenty works of poetry and fiction. Ekstasis Editions has published three translations of her novels including *Midnight Tides of Amsterdam (La déferlante d'Amsterdam.)* Yolande Villemaire lives in Montreal.



ISBN 978-1-897430-12-5

Fiction/Translation

180 Pages

\$19.95

5 x 8

Forthcoming



There Once Was a Camel

P.K. PAGE

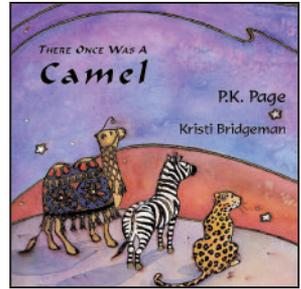
& KRISTI BRIDGEMAN

*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.



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Children's picture book
32 pages
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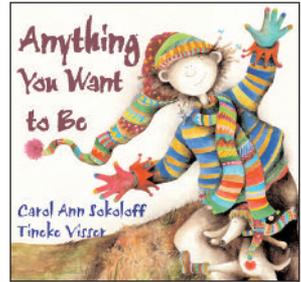


PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED FROM
CHERUBIM BOOKS - JUVENILE/YA

Anything You Want to Be

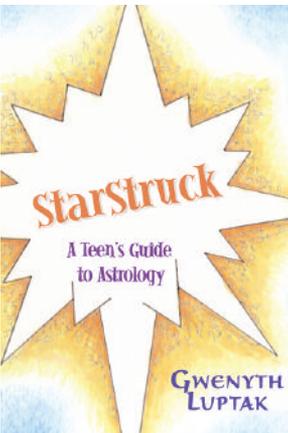
CAROL ANN SOKOLOFF
& TINEKE VISSER

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

GWENTH LUPTAK

Previously announced
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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

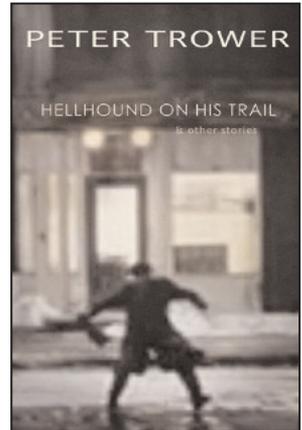
PETER TROWER

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.

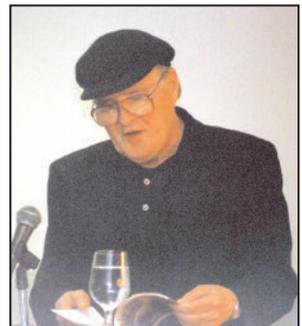
Peter Trower is the real deal, a writer who can make you laugh, cry and scream at the moon, often at the same time. He’s know as “the logger poet,” but it’s in his journalism you really get a sense of the man, and his crazy life.

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

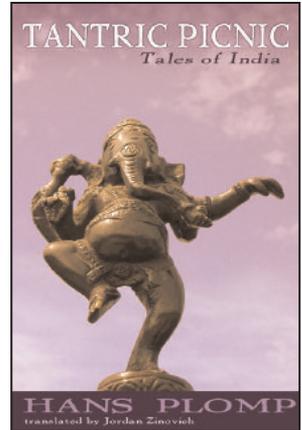
The dynamic tapestry of contemporary India comes alive in the pages of *Tantric Picnic: Tales of India* by Dutch writer Hans Plomp. With humour and warmth the author chronicles this country of paradox, where the ancient and modern, the splendid and the sordid, endlessly collide. Carving a route well 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

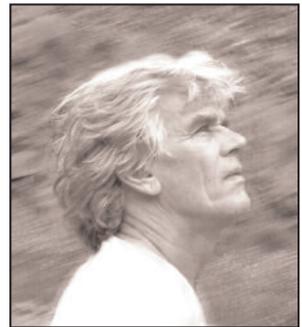
Memoir

132 pages

\$21.95

5 x 8

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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

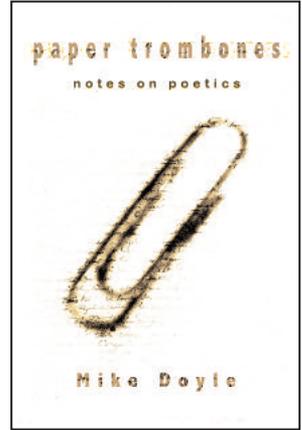
MIKE DOYLE

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.

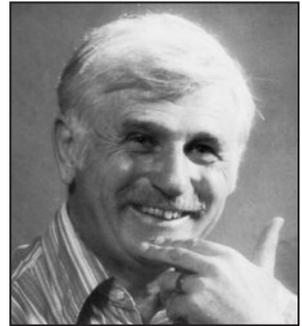
Mike Doyle from *Paper Trombones*

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
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RLS: At the World's End

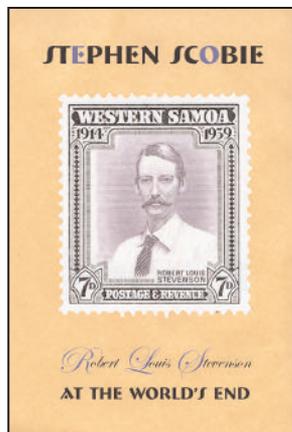
STEPHEN SCOBIE

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.



ISBN 978-1-897430-32-3

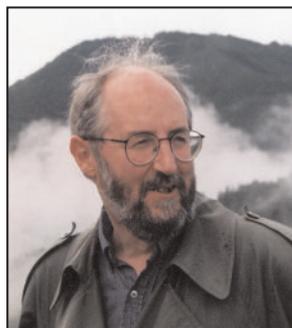
Poetry

88 Pages

\$19.95

6 x 9

Available March 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

96 Pages

\$21.95

6 x 9

Available June 2009



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.



ISBN 978-1-897430-21-7
Poetry
96 Pages
\$18.95
5 x 8
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Coming Down the Pike & Other Sonnets

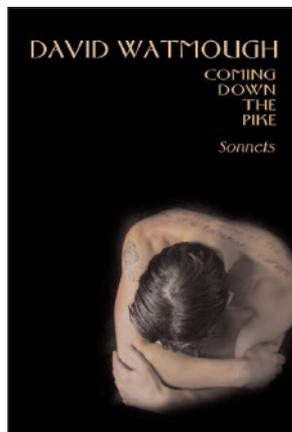
DAVID WATMOUGH

Known primarily for fiction, author David Watmough takes a turn at poetry in *Coming Down the Pike*, a volume of elegant sonnets, his 19th published book. Stretching the sonnet form with the flexibility of his “inborn Cornish Rhythms,” Watmough celebrates a rich tapestry of experience in lyric, engaging and remarkably well-crafted poems. Drawn from nature, literature, human foibles and gay culture, Watmough’s sonnets, while loosely related to those of Milton, are humorous, ironic and authentic. With a mastery reminiscent of his friends, the literary giants Auden, Eliot and Dylan Thomas, Watmough sculpts the sonnet form to suit his diverse subjects, polished through rhythm and rhyme to reflect a life in letters.

Thirty years ago, David Watmough rewrote the rules on what fiction could discuss in this country. He’s still at it, writing as a wise, compassionate elder with Vancouver in his bones and the Cornish muse in his DNA—changing the way we think about the human condition in this city he’s called home for nearly fifty years. ‘O rare Daveth Watmough.’

Trevor Carolan

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*, his eighteenth book and thirteenth fiction title, was published in 2007 by Ekstasis Editions.



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Sass 'n Pass

STEPHEN BETT

After recent books dealing with love and bitterness, Stephen Bett, in the first half of the present volume, is back to the sassy, edgy satirizations and gougings of vapid pop, or mono-culture. *Sass 'n Pass* takes an unsettling look at at the ironies of pop culture and the angst of contemporary life. Bett's uncanny ear for spoken language tears at society's shallow facade to expose the tawdry and banal. From road rage to relationship, from demented academia to the (lack of) justice system, Bett defies the politically correct and celebrates the gritty truth as only he can speak it, sparing no one — least of all himself.

What strikes me most about Bett's work—other than its sheer skill, clarity of tone, diction, line—is its unpretentiousness...his is an observant eye and a steady one, which plays close and thoughtful attention not only to the world but to the language.

Peter Quartermain

A wonderful sense of the energetic possibilities of language and a keen sense that it can be used for social change, in a very direct way, through poetry.

Brenda Hillman

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



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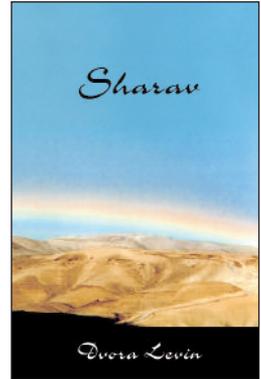
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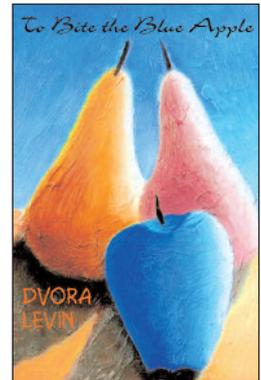
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Dvora Levin is a vessel, thinning her clay through poetry, to reveal more light. *Sharav* is her first full-length book of poems. She has published the chapbook *This Time In the Land*, as well as poems in five chapbooks edited by Patrick Lane (Leaf Press). A regular reader at Planet Earth Poetry in Victoria, BC, she has read poems on CBC Radio and participated in the Poet Tree Project. She leads poetry writing workshops in the workplace and for people of the street.



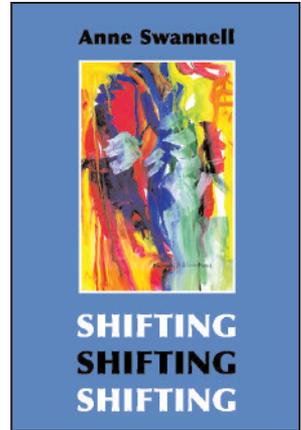
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Movement, displacement, instability, change – these are a few of the themes artist and poet Anne Swannell delves into in *Shifting*, her remarkable new book of poems. Divided into sections on Shape, Time and Direction, in *Shifting* the poet wryly observes the changing landscape of her own existence to reveal the universal qualities of a human journey where only change is constant. From an impromptu wedding in Haida Gwaii to poetry readings in odd locations; from deserted homesteads of the Cariboo Trail to the timeless beauty of Vancouver Island’s Sombrio Beach, with stops in Mexico, Italy and Wales – Swannell unites her artist’s eye and poet’s ear to reflect both detailed intricacies and the massive undercurrents of a succession of shifting moments. With painterly clarity as well as wisdom, compassion and humour Anne Swannell draws a world where change and motion give life to colour and meaning.

Born in London, England, painter and poet **Anne Swannell** moved to Canada as a child, eventually settling in Victoria, BC. She is the author of two previous books of poetry, *Mall* and *Drawing Circles on the Water*, and a children’s book *The Lost Kitten of Toledo*, which she also illustrated. Equally acclaimed as both a poet and artist, she has published in numerous literary periodicals and has taken part in solo and group exhibits. Poems from *Shifting* were featured as part of art/poetry performance at the inaugural Pacific Festival of the Book, Victoria, BC, 2007.



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Finding Louis O'Soup

WALTER HILDEBRANT

Truth and lies, freedom and fascism, Old and New World, native and colonial values — these are the themes which permeate Walter Hildebrandt's new volume of poetry, *Finding Louis O'Soup*. In three long poems exploring vastly different territory, Hildebrandt weaves a telling tale of displacement and dishonesty, exposing the discrepancy between unvarnished events and the sanitized accounts of history.

Hildebrandt's poetry engages the historical, the human scales, in the sense of justice, and of gauges, or theatres even, the blocking out hereto — finding a way or keeping away. His language is full, incantatory and strict but he's plenty of play in it for the shifting, ticklish subjects, for the wise cracks unmaking us making us laugh, cry, decry — this undeconstructible cluster.

Charles Noble

Born in Brooks, Alberta, **Walter Hildebrandt** is known as both a poet and historian. A consultant on Aboriginal treaties, he is co-author of *The True Spirit and Original Intent of Treaty 7* and *The Cypress Hills: The Land and Its People*, and author of *Views From Battleford: Constructed Visions of an Anglo-Canadian West*. *Finding Louis O'Soup* is his fourth book of poetry. His previous volume, *Where the Land Gets Broken*, received the Stephen G. Stephenson Award for Poetry in 2005. Director of the Athabasca University Press, Walter Hildebrandt currently resides in Edmonton.



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Emerald Hour

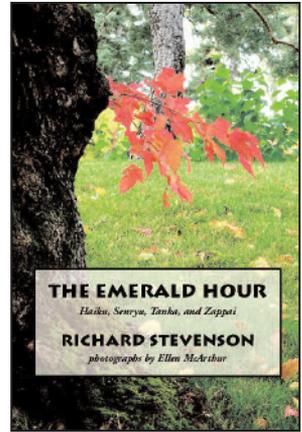
RICHARD STEVENSON

photographs by Ellen McArthur

In *The Emerald Hour*, poet Richard Stevenson returns to the Japanese forms of haiku and tanka, seemingly the simplest yet most precise of poetic forms. This is his third book of Japanese forms published by Ekstasis Editions, in what comprises a series. The first of the series, *Hot Flashes*, explored Stevenson's experience of living and teaching in Africa, using haiku to capture the essence of that colourful world. In *A Charm of Finches* the poet returned home to Alberta, a land more familiar but no less exotic when viewed through the lens of haiku. Now in *The Emerald Hour* Richard Stevenson focuses clearly on nature, the traditional subject of Japanese forms. From settings such as idyllic Henderson Lake, shown in evocative photographs by Ellen McArthur, to interior British Columbia and his hometown of Lethbridge, Stevenson offers monuments to moments even Basho would enjoy.

Ellen McArthur lives in Lethbridge, Alberta, where she draws in pen and ink and photographs people, cityscapes, landscapes, etc. Her other passions include cooking, hiking, reading, family and friends.

Richard Stevenson lives and teaches in Lethbridge, Alberta. His other Ekstasis Editions titles are *From The Mouths of Angels*, *Flying Coffins*, *Nothing Definite Yeti*, *Hot Flashes*, *A Charm of Finches* and *Bye Bye Blackbird*.



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Seduction of the Written Word

LALA HEINE-KOHN

Of the many passions to which a poet's heart responds, most powerful of all, perhaps, is *The Seduction of the Written Word*. In this memorable new collection by Lala Heine-Koehn, evocative poems of love and silence suggest the subtle nuance of attraction and the complexity of romance. Arising out of the poet's many journeys to Cuba for literary festivals, the poems in this volume may dazzle with Caribbean sun, but are universal in content and appeal. Anyone who has loved or longed for love will find beauty and solace in these delicate lyrics celebrating "someone I had not yet met." *The Seduction of the Written Word* is arguably the finest collection yet from the experienced pen of Lala Heine-Koehn. It is poetry that seduces but never disappoints, echoing like a fragrant memory in the reader's mind and heart.

Gorgeous. Sumptuous. Simply written and heartfelt. An original voice evoking love in spare clear poignant images. The absent and cherished "you" to whom the poems are addressed is the fortunate recipient of extraordinarily tender intimacies.

Mick Burr

Lala Heine-Koehn was born in Poland in 1936. She immigrated to Canada in the late 1950s, living first in Saskatoon and then Victoria, where she and her family currently reside. She has published seven works of poetry, and also continues her passion for watercolours and pen and ink.



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The Plastic Heart

JOHN CARROLL

Taut, densely lyrical and everywhere informed by a powerful and subtle music, *The Plastic Heart* is a remarkable and exciting book of poems. These poems find their centre where memories, places, and visions intersect. The narrative explores the many diverse elements that press and guide the heart as it strives for understanding and unity. John Carroll's penetrating and charged poetry illuminates the dark places of the heart, and, in a voice that is uniquely his own, finds a path through the forest of grief to the light in the clearing of the heart. *The Plastic Heart* is a book to be savoured.

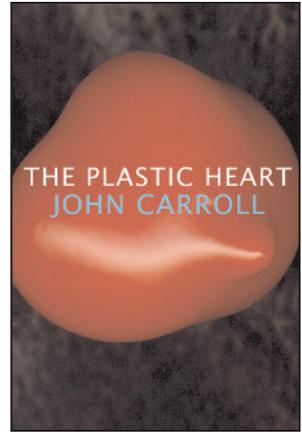
The Plastic Heart is a city of forests, each poem a soul-splitting cry above the starving earth.

Richard Van Camp, author of *The Lesser Blessed*

You'll 'bend this wile gras' and approach John Carroll's circling, predatory storms of perception and emotion with care, because whatever happens in the poetry of this book crosses from the body of work into yours. Because the deathly real smell that comes from John Carroll's The Plastic Heart is as his art, from its composition, pitting the artificial against the complex decomposition and bloody attacks of the natural.

George McWhirter

Born in Buffalo, NY, **John Carroll** immigrated to Canada in 1972. With degrees from Wesleyan and Western Washington Universities, as well as UBC, he has held numerous positions, and is currently chair of the English Department at The University of the Fraser Valley. *The Plastic Heart* is his second collection.



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Poetaster!

LEOPOLD MCGINNIS

Poetaster is anti-poetry in the tradition of Nicanor Parra. *Poetaster* is an open letter, in poetic form, to the cold, cold and clammy heart of meaning. *Poetaster* sweet talks the small nothings of this universe, begging for little secrets, asking for little truths; strokes the cheeks of existence in hopes of just one kiss in return. *Poetaster* doesn't care what the other poets say. All *Poetaster* has got is 7 days a week, lousy coffee and a few hundred shots at the forbidden, boring, underrated and unappreciated truths of the universe.

Poetaster is a remarkable first collection—engaging, humorous and complex—from a new generation of poets. McGinnis's voice has a wide range of emotional tones. He is “all a poet can be:” worker, warrior, lover, son, moralist, consoler, pearl diver, cave man, art critic, explorer. Readers will be taken by the number of unforgettable poems in this collection.

Walter Hildebrandt, author of
Where the Land Gets Broken

Leopold McGinnis independently wrote, illustrated, published and promoted three novels—*The Red Fez*, *Game Quest* and *Bad Attitude*—in literary obscurity. For several years he was active in the literary underground as the founding editor of Red Fez Publications and founding member of The Guild of Outsider Writers, and had a brief but crazy stint with the always outrageous Underground Literary Alliance. He currently lives in Edmonton.



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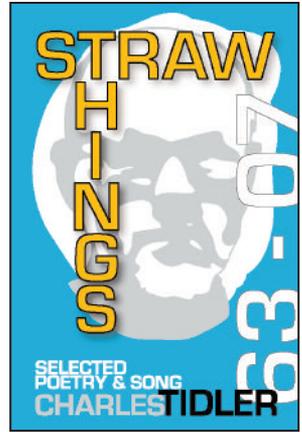


Straw Things: Selected Poetry & Song

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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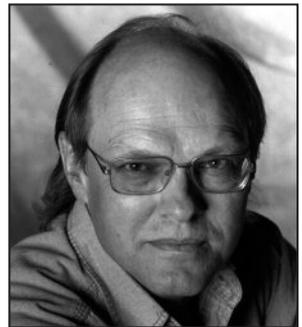
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Blood Orange: The Paul Bowles Poems

MILES LOWRY

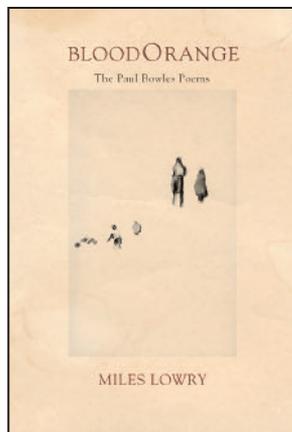
In his new work, *Blood Orange*, Canadian author Miles Lowry explores the life of Paul Bowles in a snapshot album of poems and images drawn from years of wandering in Bowles fiction and biographical remnants. Bowles rose to international prominence with the publication of his novel, *The Sheltering Sky* in 1950, becoming one of the 20th centuries most gifted and misunderstood literary figures.

Choosing Tangier, Morocco as his home, Bowles became a celebrated expatriate whose home was the meeting place of the authors of the Beat Generation and a host of literary renegades. Lowry's imagining reveals as much as it conceals, as it weaves through the life of a remarkable man in a country that would become the unique backdrop for his fiction.

I love this book. It's a complete art piece—rhythmically, graphically, intellectually and emotionally. It put me in mind of some of Michael Ondaatje's early work. How wonderful to see Paul Bowles growing further in the world. Miles Lowry has created a tribute of beauty.

Colum McCann, author of *Dancer* and *Zoli*

Miles Lowry lives and works in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada where he is Artistic Co-Director for Suddenly Dance Theatre. Lowry's cinematic poem *Opium*, based on French poet Jean Cocteau, was produced for Canadian television and selected for the 2007 Dance on Camera Festival at Lincoln Center in New York City. A short film, *Aisling - We Saw a Vision*, was recently produced for Bravo!FACT. Author of five previous books of poetry, he is also known as a painter, sculptor, photographer and theatrical designer. His work is seen in a wide variety of exhibitions, performances and publications.



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Splitting the Heart

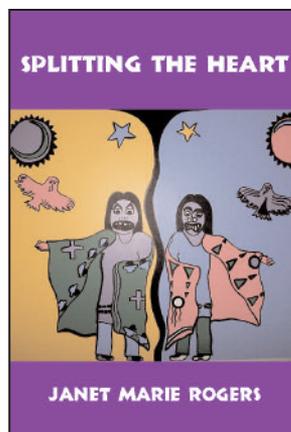
JANET MARIE ROGERS

A powerful debut by Indigenous performance poet and spoken word artist, Janet Marie Rogers, *Splitting the Heart* throbs with the vitality of a Native drum and wails with a warrior's wisdom. Both Mohawk warrior and west coast woman, Roger's poems speak of personal and cultural identity, the trials of her people, loss and death – balanced by exquisite love poems, transcendent in their earthiness. She addresses the limitations of written history, the illusion of borders and the abuses suffered by the Native peoples, even those self-inflicted. Created as spoken word performance pieces, these poems more than hold their own when committed to print and come alive in an accompanying audio CD. Janet Marie Rogers is a multi-media artist with a way with words and a great deal to say on matters of deep importance. *Splitting the Heart* is a landmark volume of Canadian poetry. It's time has come!

A Mohawk writer from the Six Nations territory in southern Ontario, **Janet Marie Rogers** was born in Vancouver and now lives in Victoria, B.C. Originally a visual artist, Rogers later channeled her creative energy into writing, exploring poetry, drama, fiction and fantasy. She is known as a dynamic spoken word artist and performer. *Splitting the Heart* is her first book.

Janet Rogers is a true voice of our contemporary indigenous existence. In her soul she remembers what it is to be indigenous and in her words flow the righteous anger that is the mark of a one who is awake and alive to today's reality. Her poetry reflects needs in all of us indigenous people; the need to shout against the past, the need to heal the present, and the need to love ourselves and our Indianness so that we can be fully human once more.

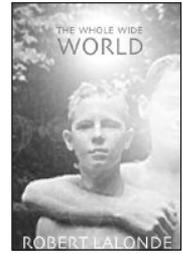
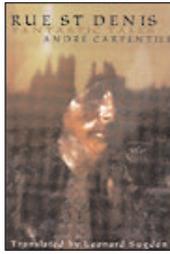
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