

P R E S S R E L E A S E

EKSTASIS EDITIONS CELEBRATES THE RELEASE OF NEW POETRY FROM WALTER HILDEBRANDT

WINNIPEG

FROM THE FRINGES

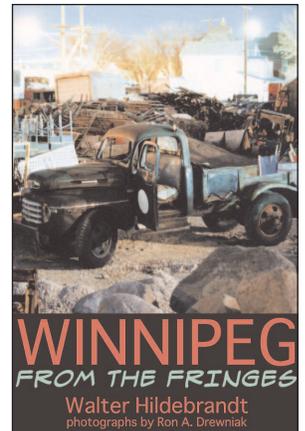
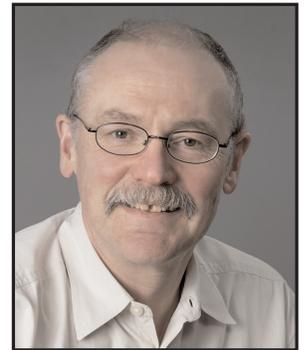
How is it that Winnipeg inspires such surreal portraits of itself? Is it the extreme cold, the sense of isolation in a vast sea of prairie, the peculiar First Nations/exiled eastern European multicultural mix? Winnipeg From the Fringes joins a prestigious list of eccentric visionary portraits of the 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

Winnipeg From the Fringes deals, paradoxically, with the beleaguered heart of this city. It is here, in the centre of Winnipeg, in the shadows of office towers, that the immigrants, the newly arrived, the disenfranchised, those who are struggling and those who are past struggling, live. The words and photographs in the book evoke the importance of memory as a rebuke and a brake to the notion of material and intellectual progress as formulated by the captains of business, industry and academe. Hildebrandt asks us to open our hearts to the strains of the voices that are not at all from the fringe so that we might see and remember the soul that is continually being created in the heart of the city.

John Paskievich

Historian and poet Walter Hildebrandt was born in Brooks, Alberta and now lives in Edmonton. He lived in Winnipeg from 1979 to 1992. 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. 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*. 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.



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