

The Porcupine's Quill

<http://www.sentex.net/~pq1>

Fall 2007

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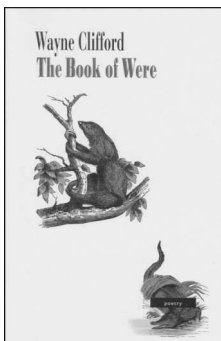
C N E Art Catalogue cover, 1954

Thoreau MacDonald

Celebrate Our Award Winners!

The Porcupine's Quill takes great pride in the achievements of our authors.

We invite you, the reader, to enjoy the fruits of their labours and to celebrate the nominations and prizes that they have so-deservedly garnered.



Alcuin Book Design Award

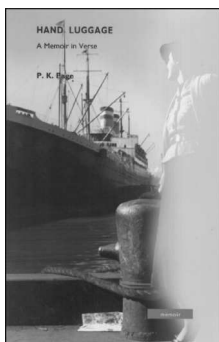
- *The Book of Were*
Wayne Clifford (tied for Second Place – Poetry)

Alberta Literary Award

- *In John Updike's Room*
Christopher Wiseman (Winner – W. O. Mitchell Book Prize)

Danuta Gleed Literary Award

- *Most Wanted*
Vivette Kady (Finalist – First Short Fiction)



ForeWord Magazine / Book of the Year Award

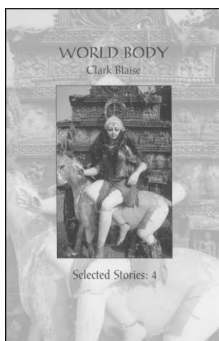
- *Hand Luggage*
P.K. Page (Finalist – Autobiography / Memoir)
- *World Body*
Clark Blaise (Finalist – Short Stories)

Globe and Mail / The Globe 100

- *The Dodecahedron*, Paul Glennon
- *Zero Gravity*, Sharon English

Governor General's Literary Award

- *The Dodecahedron*
Paul Glennon (Finalist – English Fiction)



Leipzig Best Book Award

- *Looking for Snails on a Sunday Afternoon*
Rudolf Kurz (Finalist – Excellence in Book Design in Canada)

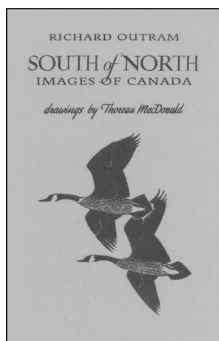
Relit Awards

- *Hot Poppies*
Leon Rooke (Winner – Poetry)
- *The Sound of All Flesh*
Barry Webster (Winner – Short Fiction)

South of North: Images of Canada

Richard Outram with drawings

by Thoreau MacDonald



For this collection of uncommon plainsong, editors Rosemary Kilbourn and Anne Corkett have chosen poems and illustrations by a poet and an artist who both recognized that simplicity and restraint are among the most difficult of achievements in art.

Richard Outram has been described by Alberto Manguel as 'one of the finest poets in the English language'. A year before his death in 2005, Outram collected together a series of 115 unpublished poems that had been written in response to a request from the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto in celebration of the Club's ninetieth anniversary.

The work was intended to provide a text for a song cycle commissioned from the composer Srul Irving Glick. Glick selected eight of the poems and then set them for baritone/mezzo-soprano and piano; the work was performed with the title of *South of North: In Honour of Thoreau MacDonald 1901–1989*.

Thoreau MacDonald was the son of J.E.H. MacDonald, himself a member of the Arts and Letters Club. Outram had long admired MacDonald's drawing, and Thoreau's spare, evocative pictures drew from Richard a different aspect of his wordsmith's craft.

In *South of North* Outram's poems are quick, vividly immediate, instant of access. They are the visible, audible delights of a consummate poet's empathy with an artist as passionately involved – as Richard was himself – with animals, country and the practical accomplishment of tasks. This volume, in words and pictures, portrays a landscape that is distinctly rural – a weathervane, dogwood in a marsh, the whitened skeleton of a vole in a fallow field. Tantramar Marsh, the Saugeen River and the horses of Bonavista. A summer storm building over Cobourg; the hefty bulk of a snapping turtle surfacing, trailing a rank ooze. Thirty-five illustrations in total.

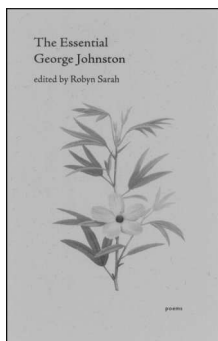


\$16.95 • ISBN: 978-0-88984-298-4 • September 2007

POETRY/Canadian • POE 011000 • 160 pp sewn, paper 5.56" x 8.75"

The Essential George Johnston

edited by Robyn Sarah

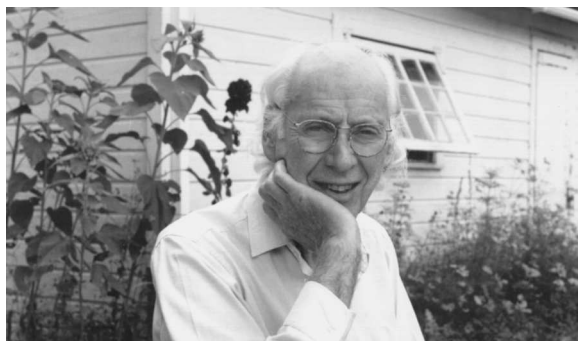


This is the first volume in our 'Essential Poets' series. The aim is to provide the best possible introduction to a prominent Canadian poet by selecting key works that carry the essence of an individual poetic voice and sensibility. By offering a relatively thin but carefully considered selection, it is hoped these chapbooks will invite an intimate acquaintance and ongoing engagement with the poems. Selected by an editor familiar with the work of the subject, the preparation of such volumes will not become an academic exercise, but rather a labour of love. The Essential Poets series is based

on the 'less is more' premise that poems and their readers deserve breathing space, especially on first acquaintance; that a smaller selection of poems fosters deeper reading and re-reading, and that the full pleasure of poetry is to be found in the poems one has lingered on and lived with for a time.

In her Introduction, editor Robyn Sarah writes: 'George Johnston was a wilfully unostentatious writer, one who covered the traces of his craft and the breadth of his acquired palette as if to spare us embarrassment – one who (sometimes slyly, perhaps) buried his treasures. Johnston wrote on everyday subjects, with a formal command that masked itself as unstudied, in language whose attentiveness extended to making sure it did not draw undue attention to itself. It is the rare reader who recognizes what a highly disciplined, exacting poetic sensibility is at work here, what a nuanced ear, or what a masterful hand.'

George Johnston (1913–2004) was born in Hamilton. He taught Old English and Old Norse at Carleton University in Ottawa for many years, becoming internationally recognized as a translator of the Icelandic Sagas. Five volumes of his own poetry were reprinted in *Endeared By Dark: The Collected Poems*.

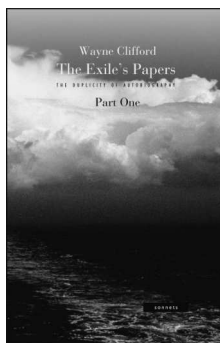


\$10.95 • ISBN: 978-0-88984-299-1 • August 2007

POETRY/Canadian • POE 011000 • 64 pp sewn paper 5.56" x 8.75"

The Exile's Papers, Part I

Wayne Clifford



Let's tell some stories, all the same old ones that scare us silly, tickle laughs, offend perhaps, some in others' presence. Remind yourself those reasons you've kept on; what puns connect; which don't. Like you, the stories once made their decisions. Here, as us, pretend their versions still make sense; that they're confined again as flesh shares air ounce by ounce.

— from 'The Preface'

The Exile's Papers, Part I, considers the implications of duplicity in autobiography as it appears in the first two hundred or so sonnets of an ambitious four-volume sonnet cycle completed over the past twenty years.

'*The Exile's Papers* is sonnet-writing on a grand scale. An unfolding odyssey of personal revelation brimming with quixotic ruminations and existential paradoxes, Wayne Clifford's strapping new collection offers a masterclass on how a single form can assume a protean variety of shapes, sounds and voices. It also confirms the incantatory powers of one of our most unpredictable poets.' — Carmine Starnino

Wayne Clifford was born in Toronto in 1944. He studied English at the University of Toronto, then worked at Coach House Press in the late 1960s, acquiring poetry manuscripts from the likes of George Bowering, Victor Coleman, bpNichol and Michael Ondaatje. Clifford pursued graduate studies in creative writing at the University of Iowa and later taught at St. Lawrence College in Kingston. Wayne Clifford's most recent publications are *On Abducting the 'Cello* and *The Book of Were*. He currently lives in Halifax.



\$17.95 • ISBN: 978-0-88984-297-7 • September 2007

POETRY/Canadian • POE 011000 • 144 pp sewn paper 5.56"x 8.75"

Smuggling Donkeys

David Helwig

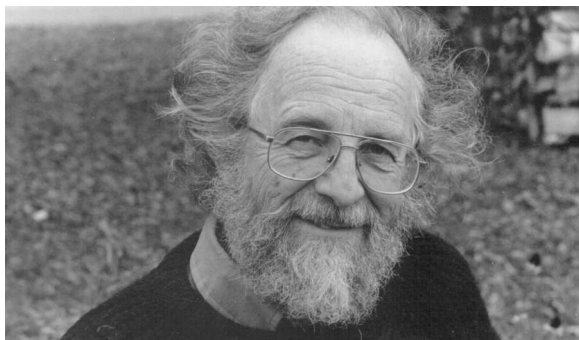


Warren Thouless is the narrator of *Smuggling Donkeys*. Thouless is a recently-retired teacher, long-retired actor and aspiring thinker. His wife Laura has left him, gone off to someplace in India on a spiritual quest; now and then sending a postcard. Impelled by some mixture of desolation and high spirits, Warren has allowed a talented and beautiful former student, Tessa Niles, to talk him into buying a deconsecrated church to turn it into a theatre. There he struggles to survive a winter of solitude, delivering a comic monologue to an audience of one. Gradually his life takes a new course.

With Tessa's help, his career as an actor begins to revive. His life becomes its own kind of spiritual quest. Shakespeare and Chekhov and Thornton Wilder provide words for him to speak. The gods (in all their strange variety) hover. He ends his story on the brink of astonishing possibilities.

'My Dog Eats Nuts. Written in bold face type across Tessa's chest when she came to the door of the house in that skimpy basketball shirt, thin muscular bare arms and shoulders, unshaven armpits, nipples of her little breasts poking against the fabric. Back after nearly ten years. Buy the old church and make me a theatre, she said, that's what it amounted to, though she presented facts, plans, personalities. Yes, I said, yes. I wanted a cliff to jump off, and here was my chance. Don't regret it. Laura was gone to the holy men and elephants, never to return ...' – from *Smuggling Donkeys*

David Helwig is the author of more than thirty books. Recent publications include the novellas *Duet* and *Saltsea* and a memoir, *The Names of Things*. David Helwig currently lives in an old house in the village of Eldon, PEI.

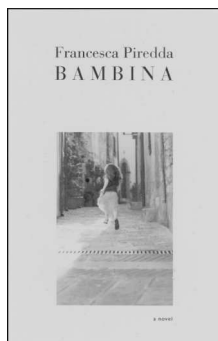


\$16.95 • ISBN: 978-0-88984-294-6 • August 2007

NOVELLA • FIC 019000 • 96 pp sewn paper 5.56" x 8.75"

Bambina

Francesca Piredda



Bambina is a sparkling novel set in the Rome of the sixties, when La Dolce Vita and the economic boom take hold of this quiet city shaped by a grandiose past. The piazzas and monuments of Rome are the playground of Eugenia, the young daughter of a cosmopolitan family, and the narrator of *Bambina*.

In an intensely personal language, by turns nattering and poetic, Eugenia observes those around her and how their lives intersect, as through a kaleidoscope. The diary-style narrative takes us from the time Eugenia is a child to the summer she turns fifteen. In a story suffused with a brilliant

sense of place and time, we walk down the Spanish Steps at night, and we meander through the shaded lanes of Capri. Shy, ironic, disarming, always hopeful of romance, even when her familiar landscape begins to shift, Eugenia uses her heart and her zany philosophy to navigate a happy childhood.

'This is Rome, and Rome, if you have eyes, is on offer all the time, with nuances of weather and light that combine with the architecture, the fountains, the piazze. The Eternal Tourist, so often from a colder climate, walks the streets, cheeks pinkened, yes, pinkened. You are an Englishman at dawn, in the early morning you are a Pole, in the afternoon you are French. At dusk, looking from a bridge, you are longing for love. You walk, and if you have eyes, a naiad beckons among splashes of water. By a portico, you reach out to touch a column, the grain and the curve, and it's cold but alive.' – from *Bambina*

Francesca Piredda grew up in Rome of Italian and French-Canadian parents. After an international career in film, documentary and advertisement production, she became a communicator and now resides in Ottawa.

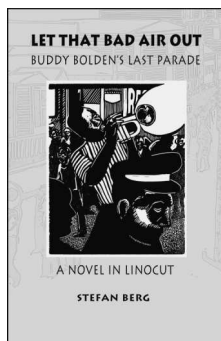


\$22.95 • ISBN: 978-0-88984-295-3 • October 2007

FICTION • FIC 019000 • 224 pp sewn paper 5.56" x 8.75"

Let That Bad Air Out: Buddy Bolden's Last Parade

Stefan Berg



Let That Bad Air Out is a collection of seventy images depicting the story of the legendary New Orleans musician Buddy Bolden marching in his last parade. The title of the book is taken from lyrics attributed to Bolden, '... open up that window and let that bad air out ...' referring to the need to refresh the cramped, sweaty atmosphere of the late night dance halls. Using traditional linocut printmaking techniques, artist Stefan Berg depicts – with a sharp and contemporary boldness – the tragic end of a brilliant musician.

It was the culture of the New Orleans parade and its unique music that sparked Berg's interest in Buddy Bolden. He wanted to tell the story of Bolden's music and capture the energy and the movement of the parade in hand carved images. Bolden played his cornet with such power and clarity that it is said his music could be heard from miles away. Because he was never recorded, this unique sound has been lost to history. The quiet left in Bolden's wake seems a fitting subject for the silent novel.



Stefan Berg is a painter and printmaker who was born in Toronto. He is currently completing his final year at the Ontario College of Art and Design. Stefan curated the 2005 Collage Methodologies group show, and participates in several independent print collectives including the End Street Studio and the Free North Press. Stefan currently works with intaglio and relief printmaking mediums. The recipient of multiple scholarships for excellence in painting, photography and printmaking, including a post graduate entry scholarship, Stefan's intent is to uphold the traditional methods of printmaking as a contemporary artist. A selection of his work belongs to several private collections.

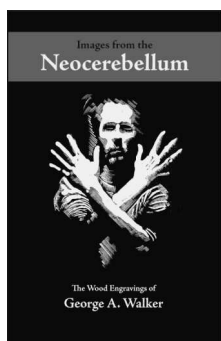
Left, a detail from *Buddy Bolden's Last Parade*.

\$17.95 • ISBN: 978-0-88984-296-0 • October 2007

GRAPHIC NOVEL • CGN 006000 • 160 pp sewn paper 5.56"x 8.75"

Images from the Neocerebellum

The Wood Engravings of George A. Walker



George A. Walker is an award-winning wood engraver, book artist, teacher, author and illustrator. In this new collection, he presents wood engravings inspired by dreams. Walker's work exploits the REM state, documenting his lucid dream fragments in the form of hand-printed wood engravings. In *Images from the Neocerebellum* one discovers abstractions for a larger audience to explore: pages lifted from the binding of Walker's personal visual dream diary.

Influenced by Carl Jung's theories of the dream's relation to the unconscious, Walker began to explore the dioramas encountered in his enchantment, distilling them into single black and white images in an effort to capture unconscious moments in time. The neocerebellum is that part of the brain that controls visual-spatial, procedural learning and the preparation of complex movements such as would be required in the engraving of lines on a wood block.

In the tradition of printmakers such as William Blake and the French Symbolist Odilon Redon, Walker furrows the psychoanalytic process of bringing the unconscious into the conscious.

George A. Walker had been creating artwork and books and publishing with a variety of private presses since 1984. For over twenty years he has exhibited his wood engravings and limited edition books internationally. Among many book projects Walker has illustrated two hand-printed books written by the American novelist Neil Gaiman. Walker also illustrated the first Canadian editions of Lewis Carroll's *Alice In Wonderland* and *Alice Through the Looking Glass* (Cheshire Cat Press). George A. Walker was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Art (RCA) in 2002 for his contribution to the cultural area of Book Arts. He lives in Toronto, and teaches at OCAD.

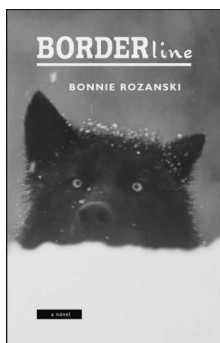


\$21.95 • ISBN: 978-0-88984-291-5 • Available now.

ART/Canadian • ART 015040 • 168 pp sewn, paper 5.56"x 8.75"

Borderline

Bonnie Rozanski



Borderline is a skewed coming-of-age story of a normal boy in a crazy world – a fast-paced world of high-tech gizmos, global air travel and antibiotics, a world in which high schools have replaced cafeterias with fast food counters and the scourges of autism, asthma, allergies, diabetes and obesity are the norm. Still another novel about adolescent angst? Well, the protagonist is indeed going on thirteen and, with some justification, he is seriously stressed, but there this wonderful story diverges from the stereotype. Rampant hormones, peer pressure, romance – all take a backseat as Guy Ritter wrestles with the

challenge of attracting the attention of parents preoccupied with the demands of his autistic brother. And then there is the wolf, condemned to euthanasia unless Guy can find a way to spring him loose.

Adolescents will love this book, but there is much here for adult readers as well, including a short treatise on genetics and a graphic evocation of the consequences of a fast-food diet. All of the characters in this story are interesting and believable: Guy's mother, driven to distraction by the needs of her autistic son; his father, the geneticist, preoccupied with his experiments with wolves; a most unorthodox psychiatrist patiently seeking a breakthrough with a stubbornly unresponsive patient. And the most fascinating of all, Austin, who, at the age of five cannot speak but can take apart and re-assemble any electronic gadget, including the lock on a wolf's cage.

Bonnie Rozanski has worked in both academia and business but has decided to return to her first love, writing. She has written several books in which scientific issues inform the plots, as well as two prize-winning plays. *Banana Kiss* (PQL 2005) was her debut novel. She lives in New Jersey.

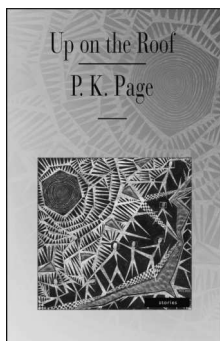


\$22.95 • ISBN: 978-0-88984-293-9 • Available now.

JUVENILE FICTION/Ages 15+ • JUV 005000 • 208 pp sewn paper 5.56"x 8.75"

Up on the Roof

P. K. Page



A flashlight, a frying pan, a library, a piece of marble – you will encounter all these objects in the worlds P. K. Page invents for you in these pages. It's hard to imagine so many authorial impersonations in one book: a middle-aged gardener retreats from chaos to the privacy of his rooftop shelter; a young man discovers his parents' library as solace for a broken heart; a child whose parents are pigeon breeders makes beautiful objects of feathers. All the stories have in common the impeccable verbal magic that is P. K. Page's unique poetic signature. And beneath is a profound meditation. What is fiction, what is fact?

Is there anything we can call truth? And who is the tremulous 'we', desperately trying to fix a location in this multiple, endlessly metamorphic, lonely cosmos. With an understanding earned by a lifetime of attention, Page assures us that this cosmos is threaded with love, if we are brave enough to search for it.

In praise of P. K. Page's skill as storyteller Constance Rooke has written (about *A Kind of Fiction*): 'These stories ... all intriguing ... cast new light on the work and times and multi-faceted sensibility of a great poet.' In *Up on the Roof* the reader will once again fall under the charm of a master of language.

P. K. Page is the author of more than a dozen books, including ten volumes of poetry, a novel, selected short stories, three books for children, and a memoir. A two-volume edition of Page's collected poems, *The Hidden Room* (PQL), was published in 1997. In addition to winning the Governor General's award for poetry (1957), she was appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1998. In 2003 her selected poems *Planet Earth* was short listed for the coveted Griffin Poetry Prize. She lives in Victoria, BC.



\$18.95 • ISBN: 978-0-88984-287-8 • Available now.

FICTION/Short Stories • FIC 029000 • 144 pp sewn paper 5.56"x 8.75"

Books in Print

This is a partial list. For a complete listing of all of our backlist check our website: www.sentex.net/~pq1

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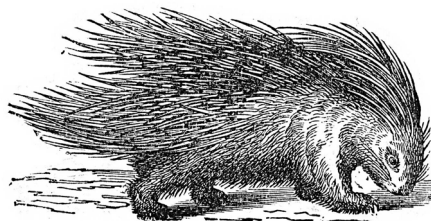
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