

## The Porcupine's Quill

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### Fall 2012





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or order through Google who will facilitate international sales in local currency (Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States). To date the collection features five titles by P.K. Page: Brazilian Journal, Coal and Roses, Hand Luggage, Kaleidoscope and The Essential P.K. Page; four titles by George A. Walker: A Is for Alice, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Book of Hours and The Mysterious Death of Tom Thomson; and five titles in our popular series of 'Essential Poets' featuring work by Margaret Avison, Robert Gibbs, Richard Outram and James Reaney, as well as P.K. Page.

Other recent releases include Complete Physical, Fine Incisions, A Suit of Nettles, Casanova in Venice, Surpassing Pleasure, Beasts of New York, Little Comrades, Dancing with Mirrors and Inward of Poetry.

Backlist titles available for the benefit
of students at Wilfrid Laurier, Brock and
Humber (respectively) include Richard Outram's
Mogul Recollected, Paul Glennon's
The Dodecahedron and Antanas Sileika's
Buying on Time.



# A Calendar of Days (2013) Members of the Wood Engravers' Network



A Calendar of Days (2013) is the second in an on-going collaboration between the Wood Engravers' Network (WEN) which includes members in the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe and Asia as well as Canada, and the Porcupine's Quill (PQL). PQL has long been recognized for its interest in the reproduction of wood engravings and its technical expertise in creating affordable offset presentations for dissemination, worldwide.

A Calendar of Days includes fifteen reproductions of prints of wood engravings contributed by a variety of artists. The images have been proofed letterpress in the traditional manner, then digitized and printed offset at the shop in Wellington County. Contributors include Wesley W. Bates, Gerard Brender à Brandis, Tony Drehfal, Colleen Dwire, Leslie Evans, Judith Jaidinger, Rosemary Kilbourn, John McWilliams, Gale Mueller, Sylvia Pixley, Michelle Post, Keri Safranski, Richard Wagener, Jim Westergard and Richard Woodman.

WEN was formed in 1994 by a group of American printmakers with a particular interest in wood engraving. The group facilitates communication, encouragement and education in this historic, and yet contemporary relief medium. One such activity is the publication of a biannual newsletter called *Block e' Burin* which features articles, events, news and announcements of interest to the community. The Wood Engravers' Network currently supports over two hundred members from the US, the UK, Canada, Europe and Asia. The group maintains a lending library and publishes a resource catalogue which directs artists to likely places to source tools and materials and it also organizes yearly workshops.

\$16.95 • 24 pp • coil bound, paperback • 8"x 5"

ART/PRINTS • 978-0-88984-355-4 • Available: August 2012



## Down in the Bottom of the Bottom

JonArno Lawson



Welcome to the world of JonArno Lawson, where sound rules supreme. It's a bizarre world, where wolves live on the moon, bears inhabit the sun, and bleating lambs get stuck in traffic jams. Here Sleeping Beauty is an insomniac, Little Red Riding Hood is a wolf, and Snow White just needed a friend to tell her to be wary of strangers. In this most recent addition to JonArno Lawson's rapidly growing opus, the poet takes everything we thought we knew about the world ... and turns it completely on its head. And we couldn't be more delighted.

Best read aloud and with friends, *Down in the Bottom of the Bottom of the Box* is great for kids who are just beginning to learn the subtle differences between sounds in the English language. Paper cuts by Alec Dempster complement Lawson's poems, giving life to the whimsical world within the book.

'Lawson's inspired rhyme and wordplay is deft, clever and funny, taking us from the realms of the Bible and fairy tales through to the scary regions at the very bottom of the bottom of the box. This collection offers amusement, bemusement and the most refreshing of reflections on the self, reason, and both imaginary and natural worlds – just what one can expect of this most accomplished poet for the young. Reliably surprising, smart and playful at every turn.' – Deirdre Baker, *Toronto Star* columnist and author of *Becca at Sea* 

JonArno Lawson is a two-time winner of the Lion and the Unicorn Award for Excellence in North American Children's Poetry, for *Black Stars in a White Night Sky* in 2007 and again in 2009 for *A Voweller's Bestiary*. JonArno lives in Toronto. Alec Dempster is best known for his relief prints. He has had solo exhibitions in the United States, Canada, Mexico, France and Spain. Alec lives in Toronto.

\$16.95 · 80 pp · sewn, paperback · 8.75"x 5.56"

POETRY · 978-0-88984-354-7 · Available: September 2012



# The Essential Tom Marshall selected by David Helwig and Michael Ondaatje



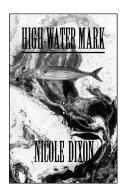
Number nine in our series of Essential Poets, this newly selected collection of Tom Marshall's poetry, co-edited by his friends David Helwig and Michael Ondaatje, pushes Marshall to his rightful place in the Canadian canon. Tom Marshall lived in Kingston for most of his adult life. During his short lifetime he made a substantial contribution to Canadian literature and culture, with ten published collections of poetry, four of critical essays and seven of fiction.

In this selected volume the reader will find verse from his early years, daring and inventive, imbuing the familiar Kingston landscape with an electric intensity. One of the earliest poems, 'Astrology', introduces Marshall's range of tones, the balance of humour and seriousness, and the way his poems remain lyrical even when he is writing of bitter love, self-abasement and brilliant restless nights. Also included is more reflective poetry from later in his life, probing and elegant, as he struggled with an ambiguous relationship to his parents. But through them all one can hear Marshall's distinctive voice, his shrewd irony, his daring intensity and his preoccupations with mortality and the enduring power of myth.

Co-editors David Helwig and Michael Ondaatje knew Marshall through their shared associations with Queen's University and with Quarry Press where Marshall served variously as patron, editor and publisher. Novelist David Helwig taught at Queen's until 1980 and then committed himself to writing. He has now published over thirty books. Michael Ondaatje studied at Queen's for his master's degree. He has published numerous books and collections of poetry and has won both of Canada's prestigious literary awards, the Giller Prize and the Governor General's Award.

\$14.95 • 64 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75"x 5.56"

POEMS • 978-0-88984-353-0 • Available: September 2012



# High-Water Mark Nicole Dixon

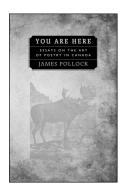


High-Water Mark is Bronwen Wallace Award-winner Nicole Dixon's smart and sexy debut. These ten tightly written stories, touched with humour, focus on characters pursuing romantic and professional desires, and encountering and recovering from betrayal and heartbreak. A young woman and her partner discover that going back to the land and raising a newborn are more difficult – and fraught with more unexpected dangers – than life in the city. A woman becomes sexually obsessed with a female friend after a six-year relationship ends. The east/west Toronto divide is just one conflict that arises among the three members of an all-female band. As the women in High-Water Mark run away and return, try love and sex, move from city to country, they are always challenged and changed. Dixon's perceptive, witty, no-nonsense collection authentically captures the voices of women in a way rarely found in mainstream fiction.

'This complex story [''High-Water Mark''] is told by fully individuated characters who speak clearly in their own voices. The vivid sense of place arises from the events, the dialogue and the careful selection and succinct treatment of telling details. The author's command of her craft inspires the reader's confidence: we are in good hands; we will be led to a new place, a new insight into the human condition.' – Bronwen Wallace Award jury

Dixon's stories are influenced by Alice Munro and Lorrie Moore. They've been nominated for the Journey Prize, short-listed for a CBC Literary Award and published in *Grain, The Fiddlehead* and *The New Quarterly*. Currently electronic resources librarian at Cape Breton University, Nicole divides her time between New Waterford, Cape Breton, and Advocate Harbour, Nova Scotia.

\$18.95 • 144 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75"x 5.56" STORIES • 978-0-88984-356-1 • Available: October 2012



### You Are Here: Essays on the Art of Poetry in Canada

James Pollock



Northrop Frye has written that the question of identity for Canadian poets isn't so much 'Who am I?' as 'Where is here?' In this ground-breaking collection of essays, *You Are Here*, James Pollock gives his answer: that where we are as a literary culture has a great deal to do with our relationship to elsewhere. For far too long, Canadians have refused to read our poetry in the larger international context of poetry as an art, leaving our poets isolated and ignored. Pollock sets out to situate our verse on the map of world poetry – a map which, like one of those fanciful globes from the sixteenth century, still leaves Canada largely uncharted. Acutely intelligent and unflinchingly honest in its judgements, *You Are Here* is an eye-opening guide to the new world of Canadian poetry, sensitively exploring the work of such poets as Anne Carson, Daryl Hine, Jeffery Donaldson, Karen Solie and Eric Ormsby. The collection ends with a witty treatise on good criticism, and a passionate and learned reconsideration of poetic values, making *You Are Here* an essential companion for students and lovers of Canadian poetry everywhere.

'... You Are Here [is] the most compelling enquiry into the current state of poetry in this country since Northrop Frye's omnibus surveys in the 1950s. This is a book I've been waiting to read for most of my adult life.'

- T.F. Rigelhof, author of This is Our Writing

James Pollock is a graduate of York University and completed his doctorate at the University of Houston where he held several fellowships in poetry. Pollock's critical reviews and essays, as well as his own poetry, have appeared in numerous journals on both sides of the border. He is an Associate Professor at Loras College, in Dubuque, Iowa and lives in Madison, Wisconsin.

\$22.95 • 208 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75"x 5.56"

LITERARY CRITICISM • 978-0-88984-357-8 • Available: November 2012



## The Mysterious Death of Tom Thomson

George A. Walker

In George A. Walker's newest work, *The Mysterious Death of Tom Thomson*, the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of the iconic artist are explored through some one hundred and nine wood engravings, creating a work that eulogizes not only the artist himself, but also the struggle of the artist's attempt to express himself while constrained by society, the reality of the moment, and mortality. Walker's engravings pay homage to Thomson's contribution to Canadian culture both through representations of his own life and of the contemporary artistic community, alluding to the circumstances of his life and death in ways that a text-based work could not.

'Through Thomson's impressionistic style, the paintings from this period communicate at once both the harshness of the Canadian landscape as well as Thomson's steadfast love of the land, now threatened by the rise of industrialization. It was Thomson's relentless search for the definitive landscape that could accurately express an emotionally-charged wilderness that appeals most to us in his legacy. I hope it is deemed appropriate that such an artist, who rarely wrote a word but painted and sketched hundreds of images, will have his story retold in the language he understood best: the language of pictures.' – George A. Walker (from the Afterword)

George A. Walker is an award-winning wood engraver, book artist, teacher, author and illustrator. For over twenty years Walker has exhibited his wood engravings and limited edition books internationally. In 2002, George A. Walker was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Art for his contribution to the cultural area of Book Arts. He lives in Toronto where he is an Associate Professor at OCAD University.

\$22.95 • 224 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56"x 8.75"

GRAPHIC NOVEL • 978-0-88984-348-6 • Now Available



### Words for Elephant Man Kenneth Sherman

'Man is a / fascinating animal', Kenneth Sherman writes, and it is this fascination that drives the narrative in this new edition of *Words for Elephant Man*. Written in the voice of Joseph Merrick, the 'Elephant Man' plagued with a disfiguring condition that ravaged much of his body, Sherman reveals his subject to be more than just a living curiosity. Sherman's Merrick, acutely observant, is equally fascinated by those around him as well.

Using found lines from historical record interwoven with his own beautifully-rendered verse, Sherman's collection triumphs as a haunting, eloquent portrait of a man whose body was both disabler and enabler, a man who was both a commodity and a huckster, mechanical and organic, and whose extraordinary circumstances overshadowed the remarkably ordinary desires he shared with humanity. Sherman's Merrick is observant, clever and authentic, and possessed of a voice that resonates through the years and into the hearts and minds of readers.

'It is the weaving of anecdotal fragments and epiphanies that gives the voice authority here. We can believe the poet behind the mask ... Merrick's intelligence, humour, and grace come through in moments of astute analysis and celebratory faith.' — Contemporary Verse II

Kenneth Sherman has a BA from York University, where he studied with Eli Mandel and Irving Layton, and an MA in English Literature from the University of Toronto. He was a faculty member at Sheridan College where he taught Communications; he also taught a course in creative writing at U of T. Sherman's collection of essays, *What the Furies Bring*, won a Canadian Jewish Book Award in 2010. He lives in the Armour Heights district of Toronto.

\$16.95 • 96 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56"x 8.75" POEMS • 978-0-88984-350-9 • Now Available



### Wayworn Wooden Floors Mark Lavorato

Mark Lavorato draws on his skill as a novelist, composer, and photographer in this debut poetry collection, *Wayworn Wooden Floors*, rewarding readers with poignant, emotionally-genuine vignettes. These frank, thoughtful poems evoke both the tragedy and the comedy endemic to daily existence. Lavorato's poems are penned in accessible, unpretentious verse, which is as clear as it is varied in form, tone, and vantage. The author composed much of the collection over the course of a thousand-kilometre trek, the experience of which he channels through 'on the trail' verse. The exotic locales he has experienced colour some part of the freshness of the imagery throughout, while his interpretations of our history, and our struggles, infuse the diction with clarity and immediacy.

[about Lavorato's novel, *Veracity*] 'One of the most relevant, original and compulsive reads of my life. Mark Lavorato is an intelligent, perceptive and talented writer and I can't recommend this book highly enough.

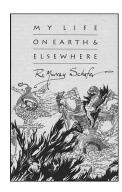
- Dave Clayton via manybooks.net

[about Lavorato's novel, Believing Cedric] 'The writing is inventive without being showy, and Lavorato has a gift for letting characters' emotions seep out, often catching the reader unprepared. Exceptional.' – Quill & Quire

Mark Lavorato was raised on the Canadian Prairies, but has spent most of his adult life living, working and writing during his travels throughout Central and North America, the Caribbean, and Europe. He was inspired to write while reflecting on unsettling stories he'd encountered in the jungles of Guatemala. Mark lives in Montreal.

\$16.95 • 96 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56"x 8.75"

POEMS • 978-0-88984-351-6 • Available: June 2012



# My Life on Earth and Elsewhere R. Murray Schafer

My Life on Earth and Elsewhere, a memoir by the internationally-acclaimed Canadian composer, music educator and writer R. Murray Schafer, traces the author's life and growth as an artist from his earliest memories to the present. Scenes from his youth as an aspiring painter, a music student at the University of Toronto and a sailor on a Great Lakes freighter give way to memories of his several years of work and wandering in Europe, where he gained a deeper understanding of his vocation, and found, especially in Greece, the inspiration for much of the astonishing music he would create after his return to Canada.

Music is central to many of R. Murray Schafer's memories. 'One of the sounds that I'd almost forgotten until I began to write this chronicle was the tinkling of the piano keys when my mother used to wipe them with a wet cloth,' he writes. 'In the early years the high and low keys would be passed over quite quickly while the middle notes got the heavy scrubbing.' The detail of this small, nearly-forgotten childhood memory is a poignant example of the way sounds can remain present in the imagination even when they originated in the distant past.

Born in Sarnia in 1933, R. Murray Schafer is an internationally acclaimed composer, environmentalist, educator, scholar, visual artist and writer. He has taught at Memorial and Simon Fraser universities, and received honorary degrees from Trent, Simon Fraser, Carleton, Toronto, and Concordia universities in Canada and Mendosa (Argentina) and Strasbourg (France). His music is widely praised and performed all over the world. He lives on a farm east of Peterborough.

\$27.95 • 304 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56"x 8.75"

AUTOBIOGRAPHY • 978-0-88984-352-3 • Delayed until October 2012

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Select PQL titles are also available through amazon.ca, barnesandnoble.com, Ingram and Baker & Taylor. The British, French, German, and Japanese amazon sites list some PQL titles available for purchase. PQL titles are also available in the UK at waterstones.com, blackwell.co.uk, bookdepository.co.uk and amazon.co.uk, in Italy at libreriauniversitaria.it, in New Zealand at fishpond.co.nz, and in Australia at shearersbookshop.com.au

