

### The Porcupine's Quill

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### Spring 2014





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or order through Google Play who will facilitate international sales in local currency (Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Spain, Russia, 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; five titles by George A. Walker: A Is for Alice, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Book of Hours, The Life and Times of Conrad Black and The Mysterious Death of Tom Thomson; and all nine titles in our popular series of 'Essential Poets' featuring work by Margaret Avison,

Tom Marshall, Richard Outram and James Reaney,

Don Coles, Robert Gibbs, George Johnston, Kenneth Leslie,

as well as P.K. Page.

Other recent releases include Laurie Lewis's Love, and All That Jazz, Alec Dempster's Loteria Jarocha and Jeffery Donaldson's Slack Action.

Libraries may prefer to order from EbscoHost or in Canada from desLibris (Gibson Library Services).

Select backlist is also available.



### Davy the Punk Bob Bossin



Celebrated Canadian folk singer Bob Bossin tells the story of his father's life in the gambling underworld of the 1930s and 40s. This poignant memoir of father and son is packed with street-wise stories and troubling revelations about Canada in the 20th century.

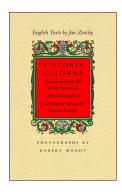
In the 1930s Davy Bossin was known in the gambling underworld as 'Davy the Punk'. He was Toronto's top layoff man, the 'bookies' bookie' who connected the city to the continental betting racket. Davy was also a consummate storyteller, regaling his pals with outrageous tales of horse-race gambling, the mob and the underside of show biz. Eagerly taking it all in was his son Bobby, who would grow up to be Canadian indie music pioneer Bob Bossin. Now Bob tells the story of Davy the Punk. By turns funny, maddening, insightful and moving, it is both a memoir of father and son and an eye-opening reconsideration of law-breakers and lawmen, of the Great Migration, and of the distressingly anti-Semitic Canada left out of the history books.

'Davy the Punk is a thoroughly enjoyable and revealing romp through the historical underside of Toronto the Good. Bob Bossin brings a performer's skill to the tall but true tales in what is, ultimately, his family's story.'

—Lilian Nattel, author of Web of Angels and The River Midnight

**Bob Bossin**, founder of the legendary Canadian folk group Stringband, has spent 40 years writing and performing music and stories. He has entertained audiences around the world and has recorded a dozen albums, and added a number of songs to the Canadian folk canon. Concurrent with the release of *Davy the Punk*, Bossin will be touring a live one-man musical about his father. He lives on Gabriola Island, BC.

\$22.95 · 208 pp · sewn, paperback · 8.75"x 5.56" AUTOBIOGRAPHY/HISTORY · 978-0-88984-369-1



#### Vittoria Colonna

Selections from the RIME SPIRITUALI with Photographs of Josep Maria Subirachs' Passion Façade

APRIL

A collection of ten Renaissance Italian poems, complemented by contemporary English versions by Jan Zwicky and photographs by Robert Moody. This volume provides a unique visual and literary context for Italian poet Vittoria Colonna's classical, spiritual themes.

The first woman to achieve wide recognition as a poet in Renaissance Italy, Vittoria Colonna was known for her ardent, but also deeply spiritual, verses. This volume reproduces ten of her sonnets in the original Italian alongside new English versions of compelling simplicity, and complements both with a sequence of moving black and white photographs. Governor General's Award winner Jan Zwicky gives Colonna's spiritual insights a contemporary voice, while photographer and noted mathematician Robert Moody paces her words against a visual meditation on the Passion story, as conveyed by Josep Maria Subirachs' sculptures for the basilica of the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. The volume's juxtaposition of poetry and photography illuminates the passion, reverence, and timelessness of both Subirachs' and Colonna's work.

**Jan Zwicky** is an accomplished poet, philosopher and musician. She is a prolific essayist, as well as the author of a dozen books. Her works have won her the Governor General's Award and the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize and many other accolades. Jan Zwicky lives on Quadra Island, British Columbia.

**Robert Moody**'s photographs in *Vittoria Colonna* represent the intersection of two of his passions — black and white photography, and mathematics. He is a winner of the Eugene Wigner Medal and is an Officer of the Order of Canada. He makes his residence in Victoria, British Columbia.

\$16.95 • 64 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75"x 5.56" POETRY/PHOTOGRAPHY • 978-0-88984-370-7



### Never More Together Steven McCahe



In this wordless poem, the invasion of a malevolent corporate regime causes a peaceful society to become embroiled in disquiet and savage upheaval.

A tale of subjugation, protest, and transformation, *Never More Together* tells the story of what can become of a society that fears the truth. When the inhabitants of a harmonious Edenic community are invaded by the brutal Butterfly regime, they must learn to leave behind their tradition of complicit silence, find a strong new voice amidst the cacophony of state-sanctioned propaganda, and emerge into a hopeful future of freedom and social consciousness. Steven McCabe's visual epic of more than 100 linocuts challenges readers to look beyond the surface, to decipher the layers of meaning in each image, and to immerse themselves in a complex, dystopian world full of symbolic references to our past, present, and possibly future condition.

'Never More Together can be a fun wordless story or it can be viewed again and again as an allegory of the desire to dominate and the corruption of desire — from the Genesis creation myth to the power of modern protest and social communication.' —Pierre L'Abbé

**Steven McCabe** has worked as an artist-educator teaching visual art and creative writing. He has designed and facilitated professional development workshops for educators focusing on the intersection of text and language. He is the author of numerous full-length collections and has mounted solo exhibitions of his ink drawings and paintings. Steven McCabe lives in Toronto.

\$24.95 · 272 pp · sewn, paperback · 8.75"x 5.56" ART/Canadian · 978-0-88984-371-4



# The Seasons Bruce Meyer



A collection of tender love poems that offers readers a glimpse into the many moments of beauty and promise between a lover and his beloved.

If the haiku in Japanese literature is a word picture that seizes the moment, the sonnet in the English tradition is a sound picture that makes time stand still. *The Seasons* is a book of whispers spoken by a voice to his beloved. Inspired by the original meaning of the word 'sonnet' ('a little sound'), Bruce Meyer transforms the poetic form into a series of portraits that record the intimate moments in the lives of two people. The accumulation of those moments is what comprises the time they share together, and the reader is invited to eavesdrop on the utterances and promises of their shared personal history. Written over a ten-year period and finally collected here, *The Seasons* takes up the process of a 'century of sonnets' where each, as in the tradition of Neruda's 100 Sonnets, is a little whisper in the ear of the lover.

**Bruce Meyer** is the author of numerous books of poetry, short fiction, non-fiction, pedagogy, and literary journalism. His broadcasts on *The Great Books* became the CBC's bestselling spoken-word audio series, and evolved into the national bestseller, *The Golden Thread:* A Reader's Journey Through the Great Books. He is professor of English at Georgian College, and teaches for Laurentian University, Victoria College in the University of Toronto, and St. Michael's College Continuing Education Program. He is the inaugural Poet Laureate of the City of Barrie, and lives in Barrie, Ontario with his wife and daughter.

\$18.95 · 128 pp · sewn, paperback · 8.75"x 5.56" POETRY/Canadian · 978-0-88984-372-1



# The Essential Earle Birney selected by Jim Johnstone



A wide-ranging selection of the celebrated Canadian poet's most memorable verse — to introduce, reacquaint, provoke and enchant.

Over the course of a career spanning five decades, Canadian poet, novelist and playwright Earle Birney produced some of Canada's best-known poems. *The Essential Earle Birney* contains a selection of his pivotal works, including early break-out successes; nuanced, mid-career lyrics; avant-garde experiments; and beautiful, deceptively simple love poetry. From 'David' to 'Bushed' to 'Anglo-Saxon Street', this indispensable collection reaffirms Birney's position as a key figure in modern Canadian poetry.

The Essential Poets Series presents the works of Canada's most celebrated poets in a package that is beautiful, accessible, and affordable. *The Essential Earle Birney* is the 10th volume in the series.

For his outstanding poetry, **Earle Birney** won the Governor General's Award twice — in 1942 for 'David', and in 1945 for 'Now Is Time'. His novel *Turvey*, a dark comedy based on his WWII experiences, won the Stephen Leacock Medal in 1949.

Jim Johnstone is a Canadian writer, editor, and physiologist. He is the author of four books of poetry. He has won several awards including a CBC Literary Award, Matrix Magazine's LitPop Award, The Fiddlehead's Ralph Gustafson Poetry Prize and This Magazine's Great Canadian Literary Hunt. Currently, Johnstone is the Poetry Editor at Palimpsest Press, and an Associate Editor at Representative Poetry Online.

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### Mexican Journal P.K. Page

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

Raw in emotion and blunt in its confessional style, this journal exposes shadows and undersides in its painfully intense but richly productive analysis of a self that faces internal and external darkness.

From the first memorable lines—'Black, black, black is the colour of the Mexican night'—*Mexican Journal* hints at the shadows that plagued the mind and spirit of P.K. Page during her tenure as wife of Arthur Irwin, Canadian ambassador to Mexico in the early 1960s.

In her journal entries, Page attempts to compartmentalize her various selves as wife of a diplomat, tourist, silenced poet, visual artist and religious novice. Her entries acknowledge troubling phobias and spiritual barrenness, as well as her painful acceptance of the gloom of the Mexican night. They document Page's study of surrealism and the country's 'dark gods', and reveal her struggle to overcome her personal dark night of the soul through the mystical teachings of Sufism. Unpublished during Page's lifetime, Mexican Journal serves as a counterpoint to the wondrous and sensual Brazilian Journal (2011).

**P.K. Page** has written some of the best poems published in Canada over the past seven decades. In addition to winning the Governor General's award for poetry in 1957, she was appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1999. She is the author of dozens of books, including poetry, a novel, short stories, essays and books for children.

The editor of this volume is Margaret Steffler. She is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of English Literature at Trent University.

\$27.95 · 304 pp · sewn, paperback · 8.75"x 5.56" AUTOBIOGRAPHY/Literary · 978-0-88984-364-6



#### The sea with no one in it Niki Koulouris

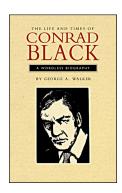
### '... a sibylline voice that makes Koulouris heir to MacEwen, Atwood and Lowther.' —Kenneth Sherman

In this stunning first collection, Canadian-Australian poet Niki Koulouris takes her readers out to sea. Born of Greek descent, Koulouris' imagination is fixed on the ocean. Here she conjures striking displays of power from a bygone era, transposing the potent energy of each wave into every line.

Even on land one is not far from this oceanic spell. Here life is composed of disparate pieces that confound us by falling into place. With startling juxtaposition, Koulouris creates a lollapalooza of the obsolete, extinct, familiar and yet-to-be. Sundry artifacts, remnants of a pan-epochal uprising, are adeptly curated, resulting in a realm-altering aftermath. As Koulouris' modern speakers present us with oracular quandaries and recollections of various items—a Grecian *kore*, a telephone and sandwich in a Philip Guston painting, or a Twinkie and window envelope conjured up on a cab ride in Chicago, the city of their origins—we find the extraordinary amongst the contemporary disorientation that plagues us all.

**Niki Koulouris** was born in Melbourne, Australia, and is a graduate of the University of Melbourne and RMIT University. She has worked as a staff writer and editor at Victoria University. Her poetry and prose have appeared in *The Cortland Review, Space, Subtext Magazine* and *The Age.* A beer enthusiast, she has been known to start spontaneous lists on napkins of her top India Pale Ales. Niki lives in Toronto.

\$14.95 • 80 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75"x 5.56" POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-363-9



# The Life and Times of Conrad Black George A. Walker

A unique perspective in black and white of media baron Conrad Black—a story of wealth and power, perception and reality, truth and lies.

With a series of 100 wood engravings, master printmaker George A. Walker presents a portrait of the man whose life has played out in the media industry's grey shadows. Walker's latest wordless novel introduces a measure of silence to one of the most outspoken and talked-about figures in modern Canadian history. The Life and Times of Conrad Black documents the eventful life of the Canadian-born media baron, from his earliest childhood influences, to his rise to power at the helm of Hollinger International, his induction into the British peerage, and the ruin of his business and his reputation after a conviction in an American court. Stripped of the facts and circumstances and laid out chronologically according to key milestones in Black's life, Walker conveys meaning not through verbal allegation, but through graphic implication. His images teach us that no story has only two sides; that the story is a polygon of meaning, and no one side reflects all of the truth.

George A. Walker is an award-winning wood engraver, book artist, teacher, author, and illustrator. He is Associate Professor at OCAD University in Toronto and teaches popular courses in book arts and printmaking. Among the many book projects Walker has illustrated are two hand-printed stories written by English author Neil Gaiman. Prints from Walker's recent graphic novel *The Mysterious Death of Tom Thomson* will form part of an upcoming exhibition at the Art Gallery of Sudbury. George A. Walker was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Art for his contribution to the cultural area of Book Arts.

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# The Pigheaded Soul ESSAYS AND REVIEWS ON POETRY AND CULTURE Jason Guriel

### Wry, engaging, and astute, Guriel writes with a confidence and panache that enlivens the often dusty field of literary criticism.

The Pigheaded Soul presents a series of witty, intelligent, and sometimes controversial essays in which talented newcomers and avowed masters alike find themselves within the literary crosshairs of acclaimed poet and critic Jason Guriel. Guriel does not shy away from the negative review, nor does he begrudge praise where praise is due. He applauds the innovative and evocative, rails against the lazy and the imprecise, and critiques the 'hipster' mentality of so-called avant-gardists who use the same tired tricks as shortcuts to perceived innovation. But far from providing only reviews and critical readings, The Pigheaded Soul serves up amusing insider anecdotes about the poetry community, from intelligent examinations of inspiration and imagination, to gonzo reportage of high-profile—and occasionally absurd—literary events.

'Jason Guriel's *The Pigheaded Soul* immediately vaults him into the first rank of poetry critics. He manages, in nearly every sentence, to seem amiable, incorruptible and incisive. His survey of Canadian poetry is without rival; his views on American poetry are utterly fresh. I will be consulting this book for a very, very long time into the future.'—Dan Chiasson

Jason Guriel's work has appeared in such influential publications as Poetry, The Walrus, Parnassus, Canadian Notes & Queries, Reader's Digest, The New Criterion and PN Review. His poetry has been anthologized in The Best Canadian Poetry in English, and in 2007, he was the first Canadian to receive the Frederick Bock Prize from Poetry magazine. Jason Guriel lives in Toronto.

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