

# The Porcupine's Quill

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Fall 2013





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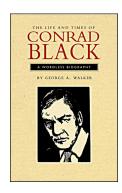
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or order through Google who will facilitate international sales in local currency (Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States). To date the collection features five titles by P.K. Page: Brazilian Journal, 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 all nine titles in our popular series of 'Essential Poets' featuring work by Margaret Avison, Don Coles, Robert Gibbs, George Johnston, Kenneth Leslie, Tom Marshall, Richard Outram and James Reaney,

Other recent releases include Nicole Dixon's first collection of stories High-Water Mark, JonArno Lawson's Down in the Bottom of the Bottom of the Box illustrated with paper cuts by Alec Dempster, R. Murray Schafer's memoir My Life on Earth e<sup>o</sup> Elsewhere and Leon Rooke's latest collection, The April Poems.

Select backlist is also available.

as well as P.K. Page.



# 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.

\$22.95 · 224 pp · sewn, paperback · 8.75"x 5.56" ART/BIOGRAPHY · 978-0-88984-365-3

#### The Porcupine's Quill / Fall 2013 Catalogue



### Slack Action Jeffery Donaldson

SEPTEMBER

'His obvious delight in the magic of language ... shines though in every poem. Yet this is a humble voice, one with a touchstone of honesty.' — Arc Poetry Magazine

'Slack action' describes the movement of boxcars in the midst of a train that brakes and then accelerates, where 'reciprocal momentums ... meet and intermingle, the forward push/backing into slows, and the slows pulling off/pulling forward ahead of their kickbacks and jostles ...' —where certain 'single cars hidden/in the midst, scudding alone, neither pushed/nor pulled, left gentled into hiatus', coast free.

This is the space of Jeffery Donaldson's fifth collection: poems of middle life, of Dante's forest of half-way, their speakers gliding with pent momentum between children who are on their way in and parents who are on their way out. Yet these are also poems that suggest all life is middle life: we live in a present moment that coasts between a beginning we can't remember and an end we can't predict. Few things are more difficult to represent in lyric poems, with their calculated incipits and finales; Donaldson has evolved a poetics of the middle, in which single words and images, whole poems, even, coast free 'an instant in the long line's accordion folds'/uneasy breathing'.

**Jeffery Donaldson** is the author of four previous collections of poetry, most recently *Guesswork*. *Palilalia* was a finalist for the Canadian Authors' Association Award for Poetry. He teaches poetry and American literature at McMaster University in Hamilton. He lives in Stoney Creek.

\$16.95 • 96 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75"x 5.56" POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-367-7



# The sea with no one in it

ОСТОВЕК

## '... 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



### **Changing Channels**

CONFESSIONS OF A CANADIAN COMMUNICATIONS LAWYER

Peter S. Grant

O C T O B E R

## 'If Canadian Culture Inc. has an in-house corporate counsel, it is Peter Grant.' —National Post

In his sweeping memoir, Changing Channels: Confessions of a Canadian Communications Lawyer, Peter Grant affords readers an insider's glimpse into some of the biggest changes in the history of Canadian communications policy. Interspersed with fond recollections of his hometown of Kapuskasing and anecdotes of his growing family, Grant provides an eye-opening account of the Canadian communications industries. He documents his role in regulating the telecom carriers, increasing competition among service providers, and acting for dozens of broadcast services in front of the CRTC. Grant's reasoned prose highlights his far-reaching expertise in all areas of communications law and cultural policy, and renders his story of interest to anyone who has picked up a cellphone or pointed a remote at a TV set.

Renowned advocate and legal trailblazer **Peter S. Grant** has acted for—and against—virtually all of the major players in the Canadian broadcast and telecommunications industry. His resumé features stints as a rapporteur for UNESCO, Special Counsel for the CRTC, Broadcasting Arbitrator for Canada's political parties, and advocate for the underdog in the David-and-Goliath struggle to expand Canada's culture industries. He is the author of numerous articles and publications, including the *Canadian Broadcasting Regulatory Handbook* as well as *Blockbusters and Trade Wars: Popular Culture in a Globalized World*, co-authored with Chris Wood. He currently sits as Counsel at McCarthy Tétrault, and as Adjunct Professor at the University of Toronto and York University. He lives in Toronto.

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AUTOBIOGRAPHY/Lawyers & Judges · 978-0-88984-366-0



## The Pigheaded Soul

ESSAYS AND REVIEWS
ON POETRY AND CULTURE

Jason Guriel

NOVEMBER

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 e<sup>3</sup> 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.

\$22.95 • 208 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75"x 5.56" LITERARY CRITICISM/ESSAYS • 978-0-88984-368-4



## Mexican Journal

P.K. Page

DECEMBER

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/Literay · 978-0-88984-364-6



# Love, and all that jazz Laurie Lewis

'Laurie Lewis writes with sophistication and simplicity about her precarious and abundant life. By the end of her vivid account, the sadness that flows from her innocence and experience is oddly beautiful.'—Elizabeth Hay

In Love, and all that jazz, Laurie Lewis again shines the clear light of memory on a time of glorious beginnings and hard consequences. At the end of her previous memoir, Little Comrades, it's the year 1952 and the young Laurie is newly married in New York City. But at that point, everything was about to change. Laurie jumps into a perilous new life with the brilliant, Manhattancool, and dangerously charming Gary Lewis. Gary's idealism and longing for poetry in art, life and love are inseparable from his passionate attachment to the turbulent, stunningly inventive jazz of Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk and Zoot Sims, among others. Days and nights become a sleepless, drug-fuelled, nonstop celebration, exposing a dark side of his façade. Laurie would soon be forced to run, escaping back to Canada with her child.

Laurie, now a single mother and creating a new life for herself in book publishing, discovers the freedom and peace of mind that self-reliance can bring. Love, and all that jazz, can bring defeat. A declaration of independence, on the other hand, can build an exhilarating new existence.

**Laurie Lewis** is a Fellow of the Graphic Designers of Canada and is Editor Emeritus of *Vista*, the publication of the Seniors' Association in Kingston, Ontario, and director of Artful Codger Press.

\$22.95 • 240 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75"x 5.56"

AUTOBIOGRAPHY • 978-0-88984-361-5 • JUNE release date



# Jack Chambers' Red and Green decrypted by Tom Smart

This manuscript has existed mostly just as a rumour, cosseted behind the veils of its own legend—respected and puzzled over only from a great distance and shrouded in its strangely hermetic form. Its message provides insights into the mind and art of one of the country's most gifted artists of the 20th century.

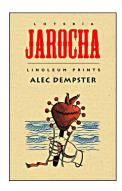
In 1968, Canadian artist and filmmaker Jack Chambers was diagnosed with leukemia. Faced with his own mortality, Chambers began a programme of research into the nature of immortality. From that starting point the artist embarked on a nine-year journey that would ultimately take him to the end of his days. Using the metaphor of the complementary-colour contrast of red and green, Chambers examined life's inherent paradoxes, resolutely searching for synthesis. What resulted was *Red and Green*, a collage of quotations and ideas—a visual and literary mosaic.

Chambers essentially created a scrapbook, accumulating and photocopying texts, pasting them down in a long, deliberate order. The many hundreds of entries set out Chambers' own ideas on art but the words of others spoke for him. The challenge for Tom Smart lay in cracking the cryptic code that Chambers used to identify his sources. Smart has spent more than a decade 'decrypting' this code—then identifying quotations, consulting original sources, and adding bibliographic citations.

Author, art gallery director, curator, columnist and special advisor to art galleries and museums, **Tom Smart** is noted for his award-winning critical biographies, catalogues and books on Canadian artists. He has worked in art galleries and museums across Canada and the United States.

\$22.95 • 176 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75"x 5.56"

ART CRITICISM • 978-0-88984-360-8 • JULY Release date



### Lotería Jarocha Alec Dempster

## Playful and enigmatic, these images provide a window into a rich culture.

Canadian artist and musician Alec Dempster has embraced his Mexican heritage to create a series of linoleum block prints based on *son jarocho*, a genre of folk music from the Veracruz region of eastern Mexico. Dempster also learned of the board game known as *lotería*, a game of chance brought to the New World from Spain in the 18th century. Both music and game provided the artist with ways to reconnect with the culture of his birthplace.

Each of Dempster's prints depicts a traditional *son* or musical theme. Dempster also lends his own voice to the prints, documenting their genesis and tradition in clear, unassuming prose. With Dempster as guide, *Lotería Jarocha* draws its reader into an infectious world of music, laughter and dance.

"'Se necesita un poco de gracia": you need some wit and grace to dance the most famous Jarocho song "La Bamba" and to understand it. Likewise the Lotería Jarocha graphics by ... artist Alec Dempster are a witty combination of graceful and meaningful love declarations towards the Veracruzanian music and Mexican graphic art.' —Helga Prignitz Poda, curator, art historian & author

Alec Dempster was born in Mexico City, raised in Toronto, and later returned to Mexico, settling in Xalapa, Veracruz. He has produced six CDs of *son jarocho* recorded in the field but is perhaps best known for his two lotería games—El Fandanguito, Lotería de Sones Jarochos, and the Lotería Huasteca—which together include over one hundred original prints. Dempster currently lives in Toronto.

\$18.95 · 136 pp · sewn, paperback · 8.75"x 5.56" ART · 978-0-88984-362-2 · APRIL release date

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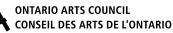
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Conseil des Arts du Canada



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