

POETRY
2015

READER
WE PRESENT A
CLUTCH OF FOUR
POETRY BOOKS FROM
GASPEREAU PRESS
Printers & Publishers
HATCHING IN THE
SPRING OF OUR
EIGHTEENTH
YEAR

AND A NEW TYPEFACE CALLED LEO

Leo

REGULAR

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz & I234567890
Quite a lively italic & STATELY SMALL CAPITALS

Leo

MEDIUM

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
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Quite a lively italic & STATELY SMALL CAPITALS

Leo

BOLD

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Quite a lively italic & STATELY SMALL CAPITALS

ONE OF THE GREAT PLEASURES of editing, designing and publishing books the way we do at Gaspereau Press is that it connects us directly with a broad range of creative and innovative people. Clearly, we collaborate with some of the best writers working in Canada today, but the production of a worthwhile book takes more than just a good text. It requires a whole community of engaged, creative people, from papermakers to booksellers and everyone in between. One area of book production where Gaspereau Press has played an active role has been fostering and promoting good typography, including the design and manufacture of new type designs. There are a number of world-class type designers working in Canada today, and Gaspereau Press's books have employed typefaces by some of the best, including Rod McDonald (*Cartier Book, Larentian, Goluska*), W. Ross Mills (*Hurionia*) and Patrick Griffin (*Ronaldson*). ¶ This catalogue introduces a brand new typeface, *Leo*, designed by Patrick Griffin in Toronto and Hans van Maanen in Amsterdam. Built on an archetypal Dutch skeleton, *Leo* is robust, crisp and contemporary in style. Reviewing *Leo* during its development, I sensed its potential for typesetting books and suggested that alternate sorts be produced for *f g j p q* and *y* with longer descenders, a feature which was incorporated as a stylistic set in all three weights of the OpenType version of *Leo* released by Canada Type in January 2015. The long descenders are used in the main body copy of this catalogue (set 9/12 points); the regular descenders are used in the backlist copy (set 8/10 points) and terms of trade (set 7/9 points). *Leo* represents a formidable accomplishment for Canada Type. In my estimation, it is the strongest original book type released from this foundry to date. You can read more at: www.canadatypen.net

The following pages introduce four new poetry collections now available from Gaspereau Press, as well as eleven recent poetry titles available from our backlist.



ELENA JOHNSON

Field Notes for the Alpine Tundra

Poetry

9781554471454

\$17.95

Printed offset on laid paper making 48 pages trimmed to 5 x 8 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover and enfolded in an offset-printed jacket. Typeset in Mauritius.

In 2008, Elena Johnson was invited to be the writer-in-residence at a remote ecology research station in the Yukon's Ruby Range mountains. For several weeks she lived in the alpine tundra, working alongside a team of biologists whose research interests ranged from plants to marmots and ptarmigan. *Field Notes for the Alpine Tundra* is the result of that residency, evidence that "Each landscape leaves its mark— / a scratch at the heart". Employing a range of poetic techniques (from the lyric to maps, charts and lists), Johnson's poems are immersed in the remoteness of their environment, where the weather is "a cup over the valley", "nights are mostly sunset" and people are "the tallest objects / bent by the wind". Johnson observes how both the routine (laundry, camp life) and the minute (lichen, flowers, contour lines) take on new meaning in the vast wilderness of the tundra, how the creek "carries the sound of rain even in sunshine" and how the fox, encountered, "fits no guidebook description". Like caribou silently appearing "antlers-first / from behind a ridge", Johnson's poems reward the reader with a mixture of surprise and recognition.

ELENA JOHNSON has worked intermittently as a park naturalist, field ecology researcher, editor and translator. Her poems have appeared in many periodicals and online reviews, including *Arc*, *CV2*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Lemon Hound* and *PRISM international*, and included in four anthologies. She has been a finalist for the CBC Literary Awards (2010) and twice shortlisted for the Alfred G. Bailey Prize. Born in New Brunswick, she presently resides in Vancouver.

Tallest Objects

Wildflowers one knuckle high.
Mammals the width of a hand
gather bouquets in their mouths,
pile them in havens under stones.

Each human gesture
weighted with layers of fleece and wool,
zippers and eiderdown.

A kilometre above sea-level,
we are the tallest objects
bent by the wind.

Wide-legged gait
of researchers. The hunch
at day's end, over a kitchen table
that is a series of planks.

On evenings that aren't wind and rain,
we form a loose circle. Chew false tobacco,
spit it red onto the rocks
outside the cook-tent's silvery dome.

2

MONICA KIDD

The Year of Our Beautiful Exile

Poetry

9781554471430

\$19.95

Printed offset on laid paper making 96 pages trimmed to 5.3 × 8.5 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover and enfolded in a jacket letterpress-printed on Saint Armand paper. Includes an original illustration by Jack McMaster Typeset in Leo.

ALSO AVAILABLE

Handfuls of Bone

\$19.95 / 9781554471140

POETRY (2012)

Actualities

\$16.95 / 9781554470419

POETRY (2007)

In *The Year of Our Beautiful Exile*, Monica Kidd observes the ways in which estrangement and loss punctuate our days, but need not always diminish them. Whether she is writing of the bicentenary of Charles Darwin's birth, the displacement of whole communities during the epic flooding of Alberta's rivers in 2013, or of the many minor disconnections which occur in the headlong tumble of domestic life and love (where sometimes a smartphone might seem better connected than a spouse, "remembers my birthday with a cheery tra-la"), Kidd demonstrates a keen eye for the ordinariness of loss, for the way in which the world evolves and adapts in the midst of perpetual change and for the many small moments of human connection that form our lives.

MONICA KIDD grew up on the Alberta prairies. Her previous literary works include two novels (*Beatrice* and *The Momentum of Red*), a book of non-fiction (*Any Other Woman: An Uncommon Biography*) and two collections of poetry (*Actualities* and *Handfuls of Bone*). Her short experimental films have shown in Atlantic Canada and in Amsterdam. She has worked as a seabird biologist and as a reporter for CBC Radio, where her news items and documentaries have won numerous awards. Kidd presently lives in Calgary, Alberta, where, as well as writing, she works as a medical doctor and tends to her young family.

I marry my husband's smart phone

It always knows the right song to sing.
It remembers my birthday with a cheery tra-la.
Patient as Buddha, it is ever present, ever ready
for my word, a picture, a passing thought.
Without judgment, it receives my stumble forward
and recharges anywhere: coffee shop, kitchen table.
All the waiting places of our lives.

We behold the face of nature bright with gladness

The child sleeps, her weary head nodding at my
breastbone. I am her vessel again, and she a tiny sailor,
the points of our compass drawn in cursive. Of the
men he made to stand under the sky, they are as much
what they are as what they are not, he said, though I
am paraphrasing. I think of this as we round the end of
the lake and there, in the crook of the trail, is an aspen
glittering in a small wind, volume translated into light,
imperfectly, the way the world is captured by language:
dots and dashes across leagues of thirsty ocean and
creaking timber. Hold a leaf to her cheek and show her we
are no different, all reticulations and bursting flesh.

3

HARRY THURSTON

Keeping Watch at the End of the World

Poetry

9781554471447

\$20.95

Printed offset on laid paper making 112 pages trimmed to 5.3 × 8.5 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover and enfolded in a jacket letterpress-printed on Saint Armand paper. Typeset in Electra.

In *Keeping Watch at the End of the World*, Harry Thurston explores the ways in which poetry stands sentinel at the edge—places where known and unknown meet. Whether that frontier lies between land and sea, present and past, health and illness, or youth and aging, Thurston holds that the poet's duty is to survey the horizon and "see things before they take shape," chronicling occurrences both acute and remote. A poet-naturalist in the tradition of Thoreau, Thurston reminds us of the importance of being fully present in the midst of our own brief lives, of shaping what we see into poetry's "steeped words—dark, light, and sweetened gifts."

ALSO AVAILABLE

The Deer Yard

with Allan Cooper

\$17.95 / 9781554471201

POETRY (2013)

Broken Vessel

\$15.95 / 9781554470341

POETRY (2007)

A Ship Portrait

\$18.95 / 9781554470068

POETRY (2005)

If Men Lived on Earth

\$14.95 / 9781894031226

POETRY (2000)

HARRY THURSTON's most recent poetry collections include *The Deer Yard* (with Allan Cooper) and *Animals Of My Own Kind*. His environmental writing has been published in many of North America's leading magazines, including *Audubon*, *Canadian Geographic* and *National Geographic*. He has been awarded numerous writing prizes in both Canada and the United States, including the Sigurd Olson Nature Writing Award, the Lane Anderson Award and the Evelyn Richardson Literary Award. Thurston lives in Tidnish, Nova Scotia.

Porto de Mós

High above
our Atlas shoulders, in the cliff
the millstones have ground to a halt.
The floor of a vanished ocean,
the waves rolled over them
in perpetual motion.
Long ago they ceased to flow,
mud turned stone, the curved creatures,
shells like elliptical orbits,
fell asleep in their ochre beds
under the stars' infinite gaze.

Like an old god
the cliff looks down
on its child, the tempestuous Atlantic,
driving ashore, as if this youthful rhythm
could never end. But on the beach,
the cliff stands still, mirrored in the wet sand,
and with each crushing wave,
the new motion and the old,
for a moment, are merged,
laid one on top of the other—
millstones grinding
the golden grain of the stars.

4

SUE GOYETTE

The Brief Reincarnation of a Girl

Poetry

9781554471461

\$19.95

Printed offset on laid paper making 80 pages trimmed to 5.3 × 8.5 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover and enfolded in a jacket letterpress-printed on Saint Armand paper. Includes an original wood engraving by George Walker. Typeset in Quadratt.

ALSO AVAILABLE

Ocean

Poetry (2013)

9781554471225

\$19.95

In 2006, a four-year-old Massachusetts girl died from prolonged exposure to a cocktail of drugs that a psychiatrist had prescribed to treat ADHD and bipolar disorder; her parents were convicted of her murder. In *The Brief Reincarnation of a Girl*, Sue Goyette strives to confront the senselessness of this story, answering logic's failure to encompass the complexity of mental illness, poverty and child neglect (or that of our torn and tangled social 'safety net') with a mythopoetic, sideways use of image and language. Avoiding easy indignation, Goyette portrays the court proceedings' usual suspects in unusual ways (the judge, the jury, the lawyers, the witnesses and the girl's troubled parents), evokes the ghost of the girl, personifies poverty as a belligerent bully and offers an unexpected emblem of love and hope in a bear. Like the utterances of a Shakespearean fool, Goyette's quirky, often counter-logical poems offer a more potent vision of reality than any documentary account, her eulogy for a girl society let down renewing the prospect for empathy and change.

SUE GOYETTE has published four collections of poetry, *The True Names of Birds*, *Undone*, *Outskirts*, and *Ocean*, which was shortlisted for the 2014 Griffin Poetry Prize. She also published a novel, *Lures*, in 2002. She has won the Pat Lowther Memorial Award, the Atlantic Poetry Prize, the CBC Literary Prize for Poetry, the Earle Birney Prize and the Bliss Carman Award, and been shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award, the Gerarld Lampert Memorial Award and the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize. Goyette lives in Halifax where she teaches creative writing at Dalhousie University.

21.

Poverty had ruined the girl's mother's skin. Her family's particular poverty travelled in a cluster huddled like old women. It would breathe on the milk in the fridge and curdle it. It was more a poverty of spirit. The chair in the living room, for example, couldn't hold a cushion. No matter how many times the mother would plump the chair up, sitting in it was as uncomfortable as being cross-examined. Poverty would file away at the father's voice until his words grew teathy at the edges. It would sometimes steal his words and hide them in the basement until the sound of them furred with mold. No one noticed when poverty arrived in the courtroom except the ghost of the girl. She stuck out her tongue and pulled her ears but it wasn't interested in laughing. It placed its hands on as many coffee cups as it could before it was told to sit down. It was a kind of game and poverty kept score by counting the number of people who exclaimed how fast their coffee had gone cold.

SELECTED

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POETRY

Peeling Rambutan

Gillian Sze

Finalist for the 2014 A.M. Klein Poetry Prize. A poetic travelogue, Gillian Sze's *Peeling Rambutan* meditates upon the rifts between immigrant parents and their Canadian-born children and the struggle of overlapping values which sometimes arises when we view the complexity of our heritage through the lens of the present. ¶ GILLIAN SZE is the author of two previous collections: *The Anatomy of Clay* and *Fish Bones*. Her work has appeared in a number of national and international journals, and has received awards such as the University of Winnipeg Writers' Circle Prize. Originally from Winnipeg, Sze now resides in Montreal. ¶ *Printed offset on laid paper making 80 pages trimmed to 5 × 8 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover and enfolded in an offset printed jacket. Typeset in Rialto. ¶ \$19.95 / 9781554471331*

Circa Nineteen Hundred & Grief

Tim Bowling

Finalist for the 2015 Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize. In his poems, Tim Bowling writes with unapologetic honesty about our complex consciousness of the world and of the increasingly disconnected state of human experience, seeking always to snag on something elemental— "... something in the forest / and the self—a hunger—/like a barbed hook in the jaw/of the salmon whose life,/in full light, we will take,/after this long patience/and silence—" ¶ TIM BOWLING has published over a dozen books of poetry including *The Annotated Bee & Me*, *Fathom*, *The Memory Orchard* and *Selected Poems*. He has also published a memoir, four novels (including *The Bone Sharps* and *The Tinsmith*) and

a creative work on book collecting and poetry entitled *In the Suicide's Library*. Bowling lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

¶ *Printed offset on laid paper making 80 pages trimmed to 5 × 8.5 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover and enfolded in a letterpress-printed jacket on handmade paper. Wood engraving by Wesley Bates. Typeset in Poliphilus. ¶ \$19.95 / 9781554471348*

And I Alone Escaped to Tell You

Sylvia D. Hamilton

Finalist for the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award for poetry. The settlement of African peoples in Nova Scotia is a richly layered story encompassing many waves of settlement and diverse circumstances—from captives to 'freedom runners' who sailed north from the United States with hopes of establishing a new life. The poems in *And I Alone Escaped to Tell You* endeavour to give these historical events a human voice, blending documentary material, memory, experience and imagination to evoke the lives of these early Black Nova Scotians and of the generations that followed. ¶ SYLVIA D. HAMILTON is a filmmaker and writer whose awards include a Gemini and the Portia White Prize. She lives in Grand Pre, Nova Scotia. ¶ *Printed offset on laid paper making 96 pages trimmed to 5.5 × 8.5 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover and enfolded in a letterpress-printed jacket on handmade paper. Typeset in Huronia. ¶ \$19.95 / 9781554471362*

Generations Re-merging

Shalan Joudry

"Each generation must make their own / journey through a thick terrain" starts *Generations Re-merging*, a collection of poems which explores the complex tangle of intergenerational relationships

and cultural issues encountered by a Mi'kmaw woman in the modern context, "where every moment / is the loss of something." Shalan Joudry writes with lucidity of the challenge of confronting these global issues personally on her home ground, and of honouring the hope of past generations by renewing it in the present. ¶ SHALAN JOUDRY is a writer, performance artist and storyteller whose poetry has appeared in *The Nash-waak Review* and *Mi'kmaq Anthology II*. She works as a cultural interpreter and community ecologist at Bear River First Nation, Nova Scotia. ¶ *Printed offset on laid paper making 64 pages trimmed to 5 × 8 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover and enfolded in a letterpress-printed jacket. Typeset in Electra.* ¶ \$18.95 / 9781554471355

Fireship: Early Poems, 1965–1991

Peter Sanger

Peter Sanger's first two books *The America Reel* (1983) and *Earth Moth* (1991) are collected along with 24 previously unpublished poems which predate them. ¶ PETER SANGER has published numerous books of poetry, including *Aiken Drum*, which was shortlisted for the Atlantic Poetry Prize. He lives in South Maitland, Nova Scotia. ¶ *Printed offset on laid paper making 192 pages trimmed to 5 × 8 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover and enfolded in an offset-printed jacket. Typeset in Centaur.* ¶ \$25.95 / 9781554471218

Ocean

Sue Goyette

Finalist for the 2014 Griffin Poetry Prize. The ocean has never had a biographer quite like Sue Goyette. Living in the port city of Halifax, Goyette's days are bounded by the substantial fact of the

North Atlantic, both by its physical presence and by its metaphoric connotations. *Ocean* demonstrates how a spirited, playful and richly mythopoetic engagement with the world can actually strengthen our grasp on its bigger truths. ¶ SUE GOYETTE has published three collections of poetry and a novel. She has won the Pat Lowther Memorial Award, the Atlantic Poetry Prize, the CBC Literary Prize for Poetry, the Earle Birney Prize and the Bliss Carman Award, and been shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award. Goyette lives in Halifax. ¶ *Printed offset on laid paper making 80 pages trimmed to 5.3 × 8.5 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover and enfolded in a letterpress-printed jacket. Typeset in Huronia.* ¶ \$19.95 / 9781554471225

Brilliant Falls

John Terpstra

Winner of the 2015 Hamilton Arts Council Literary Award for Poetry. John Terpstra has always had a penchant for juxtaposition, for the fault lines where two seemingly opposing truths rub together and make a sort of music. *Brilliant Falls* often locates these juxtapositions in the transitions of family life. Terpstra's skill for evoking a mood through the sound of his language and the pacing of his expansive narrative style reminds us that poetry is, at the end of the day, essentially an act of exploration and of faith. ¶ JOHN TERPSTRA's *Disarmament*, was shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award in 2004. *Two or Three Guitars: Selected Poems* was published in 2006. He lives in Hamilton, Ontario. ¶ *Printed offset on laid paper making 64 pages trimmed to 5.3 × 8.5 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover. Typeset in Octavian.* ¶ \$17.95 / 9781554471232

The Deer Yard

Allan Cooper & Harry Thurston

Following the model of the Wang River Sequence, a poetic correspondence between the Chinese poets Wang Wei & P'ei Ti over 1200 years ago, These twenty-one reflective and richly imagistic poems chronicle a single winter season as experienced by two poets on opposite Canadian coasts. ¶ ALLAN COOPER has published a dozen books of poetry, including, *The Alma Elegies*. He has twice won the Alfred G. Bailey Award for poetry. Cooper lives in Alma, NB. ¶ HARRY THURSTON is a poet, journalist and naturalist. His poetry collections include *Broken Vessel*, *A Ship Portrait* and *If Men Lived on Earth*. Thurston lives in Tidnish Bridge, NS. ¶ *Printed offset on laid paper making 64 pages trimmed to 4.75 × 7 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover and enfolded in a letterpress-printed jacket. Typeset in Deepdene. Includes a new wood engraving by Wesley Bates.* ¶ \$17.95 / 9781554471201

Handfuls of Bone

Monica Kidd

Handfuls of Bone takes the reader to the end of the road and back, to outports both literal and figurative, to consider how it is that things somehow hold together. Kidd's is a poetic which embodies the twin skills of her physician's training—cool-headed and unblinking observation-based diagnosis combined with compassion, empathy and humanity. ¶ MONICA KIDD lives with her family in Calgary, Alberta, where she writes and practises medicine. ¶ *Printed offset on laid paper making 80 pages trimmed to 5 × 8 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover. Typeset in Garamont.* ¶ \$19.95 / 9781554471140

Black

George Elliott Clarke

Blistering with defiance, tempered with tenderness and desire, *Black* is a startlingly passionate collection of poems from one of Canada's most gifted writers. George Elliott Clarke combines fiery outrage with delicate confessions of love, creating a commentary on soul and culture that is both shocking and transformative. ¶ GEORGE ELLIOTT CLARKE is an Africadian poet, schooled in (Atlantic) Canadian and African-American verse. Clarke is currently the E.J. Pratt Professor of Canadian Literature at the University of Toronto. His award-winning books include *Whylah Falls* and *Execution Poems*. ¶ *Printed offset on wove paper making 152 pages trimmed to 5 × 8 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover. Typeset in Garamond and Gill Sans.* ¶ \$21.95 / 9781554471034

Forge

Jan Zwicky

Finalist for the 2012 Griffin Poetry Prize. A set of variations that employs a restricted, echoic vocabulary to explore themes of spiritual catastrophe, transformation and erotic love. ¶ JAN ZWICKY is a philosopher, musician and award-winning poet. Her poetry collections include *Thirty-seven Small Songs & Thirteen Silences*. Zwicky lives on Quadra Island, British Columbia. ¶ *Printed offset on laid paper making 80 pages trimmed to 5 × 8 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover enfolded in a letterpress-printed jacket. Typeset in Deepdene.* ¶ \$19.95 / 9781554470976

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