

# The Porcupine's Quill

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



Fall 2008

DISTRIBUTED BY UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS



Umbrella leaf (*Darmera peltata*)

G. Brender à Brandis



## **A Note About Production**

The Porcupine's Quill is remarkable in Canadian publishing in that most of the physical production of our books is completed in-house at the shop on the Main Street of Erin Village in Wellington County.

We print on a twenty-five inch Heidelberg KORD, typically onto acid-free Zephyr Antique laid. The sheets are then folded, and sewn into signatures on a 1907 model Smyth National Book Sewing machine.

To take a virtual tour of the pressroom, visit us at YouTube (search on 'Tim Inkster') for a discussion of offset printing in general, and the operation of a Heidelberg KORD in particular. Other videos include a discussion of four-colour printing, smyth sewing and wood engraving.

## A Caledon Sketchbook

Richard B. Nevitt

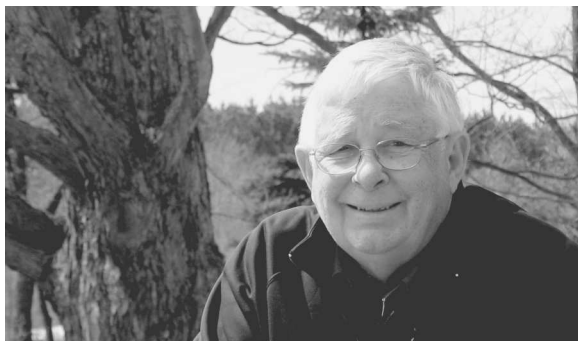


Presented in the form of a journal and including ruminations and more than sixty pen-and-ink drawings, *A Caledon Sketchbook* illustrates chance moments of solitude and articulates a sense of communion with the spiritual side of the Caledon Hills. North and to the west of Toronto, this rolling landscape is home to artist Richard Nevitt. Working from nature is what he loves best, and in this collection his drawings demonstrate the degree to which a simple line scratched with a pen nib can elicit a deep appreciation of a geographic place.

'In Richard Nevitt's hands the act of drawing becomes something more than a mechanical recording of the natural world.... Each of Richard's drawings takes us on a very personal journey of discovery as he delves into the living elements of landscape and its transcendent aspects.... In the turn of a line, a scrap of contour, an oblique hint of mass, form and volume, Nevitt lends his subjects a living quality, a breath of life and of vitality. And above all, *A Caledon Sketchbook* insists that drawing has little to do with style and aesthetics. Drawing is, in its essence, a means to the end of understanding ourselves and of our place in the world.' – Tom Smart, Executive Director

McMichael Canadian Art Collection

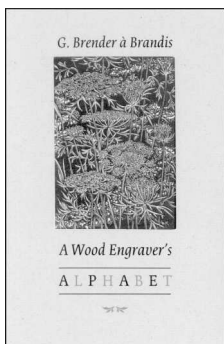
Richard Nevitt taught on the faculty of the Ontario College of Art for many years. In 1993 he was the recipient of the A. J. Casson Award for Distinguished Service given by the Alumni Association in recognition of an outstanding and dedicated contribution to the cause of education. He now works out of his own studio in Caledon and continues to teach, giving workshops at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinburg.



\$18.95 • 128 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"  
ART • 978-0-88984-310-3 • August 2008

## A Wood Engraver's Alphabet

Gerard Brender à Brandis

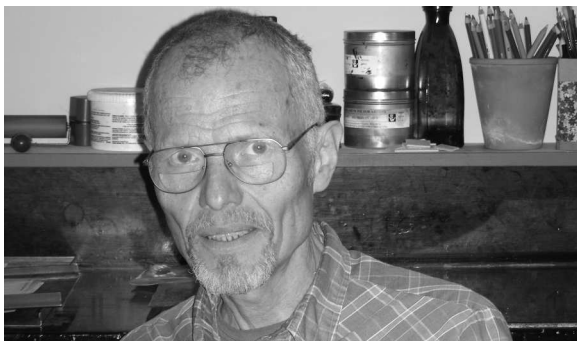


Wood engraver Gerard Brender à Brandis has long been an avid gardener and botanist; his encyclopaedic knowledge of the plant world animates the exquisite microcosm of *A Wood Engraver's Alphabet*. This collection is intended both for the student of the complexities of nature's creations and the patron of the intricate art of wood engraving. The images are presented in the form of an alphabet book but the simple, and sometimes elementary, appreciation of the alphabet format will not suffice here. The abundance of the botanical world, and the multitude of choice

available to represent each letter, allows the mind of artist and reader alike to roam free. A short introduction by the artist illuminates the choices he has made and includes historical tidbits about the lexicon of flowers.

'Working on this series of engravings reminded me that the Victorians delighted in employing flowers to send messages, having an established lexicon of meanings for many common flowers. One might send foxgloves to express a suspicion of insincerity, snapdragons to underscore offence at another's presumptiveness (and don't the tight-lipped snapdragons in my engraving have an offended air about them?), and pansies to confirm "You occupy my thoughts." And some plants have a unique significance for each of us, associations with events or people in our own lives.' – from the Introduction

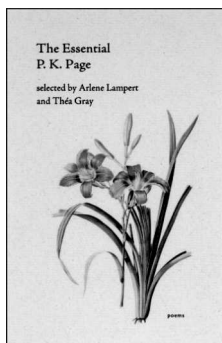
Gerard Brender à Brandis specializes in wood engravings but also works in watercolour and publishes handmade limited editions. He is best known as a botanical artist, with a special interest in orchids. His work is included in a number of public galleries, as well as in numerous private collections throughout the world. His studio is located on Brunswick Street in Stratford.



\$16.95 • 64 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56"x 8.75"  
ART • 978-0-88984-311-0 • August 2008

## The Essential P.K. Page

selected by Arlene Lampert and Théa Gray



This is the second volume in our 'Essential Poets' series. Our 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 small but carefully considered selection it is hoped these chapbooks will invite an intimate acquaintance and ongoing engagement with the poems. Selected by Arlene Lampert and Théa Gray, the collection is admittedly wildly idiosyncratic and certain to be controversial. Arranged alphabetically for easy reference, these poems do not reflect a 'young' or a

'mature' voice; for Page, time is not linear and change does not occur along a narrow path. Think of this volume as a sort of pocket P.K. Page making its way into backpacks, carry-on luggage, doctors' waiting rooms ...

P.K. Page needs no introduction. This is a poet who writes in many genres and on an infinite number of subjects. The source of her poetry is always love – whether in vivid portraits of her inner and outer landscapes; startling insights into the past, the present, the future; illumination of some tiny detail of ordinary life; or admonishments for our neglect of the earth and of each other. Page is an alchemist who turns language into pure gold, a magician who dazzles with sleight of mind. *The Essential P.K. Page* is perceptive, elegant, romantic (yet never sentimental), sometimes downright funny, wholly conscious.

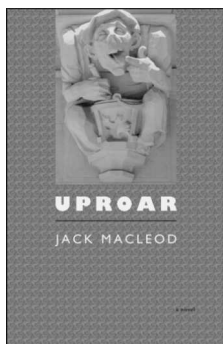
P.K. Page has written some of the best poems published in Canada over the last five decades. In addition to winning the Governor General's award for poetry in 1957, she was appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1999. In 2002, her selected poems, *Planet Earth*, was shortlisted for the coveted Griffin Poetry Prize. She lives in Victoria.



\$12.95 • 64 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56"x 8.75"  
POETRY • 978-0-88984-308-0 • September 2008

## Uproar

Jack MacLeod



Jack MacLeod's first two novels established him as that rarest of talents, a writer who can entertain while also grappling with ideas and social issues. *Uproar*, his new novel, is the story of a marriage in free fall, a career on the skids and the bewildering era we have only just recently survived. Included among the list of zany characters is 'Zinger' – that remarkable literary creation who first made an appearance in *Zinger and Me* (1979), and whom the actor Don Harron has called 'one of the most memorable characters in Canadian literature'.

J. T. McLaughlin is a Professor of Economics who appears blessed until his wife of twenty-four years suddenly ups and leaves him. J. T. becomes despondent. At this point Zinger, a high-school chum and journalist, bursts upon the scene. Amidst the machinations of academia, passionate encounters at Catholic spas, and slanderous accusations of sexist, racist and homophobic behaviour, MacLeod creates an exhilarating romp through the pressing issues of the day.

'*Uproar* is a lovely book, funny, clever, and a vivid reflection of the times. Beneath the entertaining surface, MacLeod had created a classic comic plot which takes the hero down through a broken marriage, a disintegrating career and a too-close acquaintance with the bottle, but emerges at the end into the sunlight. A story that is full of people like us, mostly at our worst, but sometimes at our best. I found it hugely satisfying.' – Eric Wright

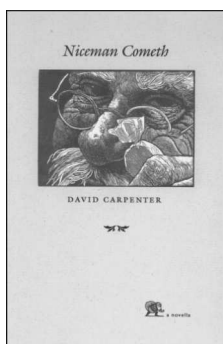
Born in Regina, Jack MacLeod taught at the University of Toronto from 1959 to 1996, then gradually shifted from academic writing and editing to the more challenging endeavour of writing comic novels. He is currently professor emeritus in the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.



\$27.95 • 272 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"  
FICTION/NOVEL • 978-0-88984-306-6 • October 2008

## Niceman Cometh

David Carpenter



*Niceman Cometh* is a book about Glory. Glory Sacher lives in Saskatoon, and this is the story of one year in her life, and of the men that covet her. The year is centred around Christmas, and the Niceman is Santa Claus. After her marriage fails, Glory, as a single mum, is left to raise her six-and-a-half-year old son alone. Bobby is a precocious, yet normal, sort of a boy. Does well at school, except when overcome by depression caused by the comings and goings of mum's many admirers. As Glory's friend Jolene explains it succinctly, 'Glory had a good eye for a sonofabitch!'

'All through June and July, Glory clung to the following resolution: under no circumstances would she allow herself to be ambushed by Garth Bullard.... She might run the risk of seeing him at his old game, trolling for bimbos.... She even resolved never to turn the dial to CHAF Radio, in case she happened to hear his patter on *Night Howl*.... Garth was a man with a dream, a golden voice, and a fatal flaw. He was flesh-foolish. He wanted to be loved by great armies of women, he craved it.'

Carpenter's voice captures both the bleakness and the unexpected joys of life. Filled with moments of high humour but grounded by the sense of defeat and rejection that we all face, this novel provides an insight into the human condition, its foibles, its delights and its lunacy.

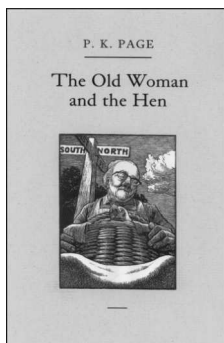
David Carpenter's novel, *Banjo Lessons* (1997) won the City of Edmonton Book Prize. Several essays from *Writing Home*, his first collection of nonfiction, have won prizes in the *Western Magazine Awards*. David Carpenter lives in Saskatoon, where he is the fiction editor of *Grain Magazine*.



\$16.95 • 144 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56"x 8.75"  
FICTION/NOVEL • 978-0-88984-307-3 • November 2008

## The Old Woman and the Hen

P.K. Page



'Once upon a time there was a poor woman who lived alone and performed small chores for her neighbours in return for food. One day, as she was going home, she heard a strange voice speaking from the roadside. 'Luck,' the voice said. 'Good luck. Quick, pick me up. Up.' The old woman searched among the roadside grasses and found a hen. Such a bedraggled creature she had never seen before. Its feathers were all awry and its beautiful red comb drooped to one side. 'Poor thing,' said the woman and she picked it up and smoothed its feathers and put it in her basket and took it home.'

*The Old Woman and the Hen* is a charming folktale written by one of Canada's best known poets. Written simply, but infused with the rhythm and wordcraft that only a poet of P.K. Page's talent can deliver, the text is accompanied by six original wood engravings created for the book by Jim Westergard.

'The adults who make children's ... books have a variety of roles. There's the merry uncle who sings and dances and picks you up and whirls you around. There's the wise teacher. There's the responsible parent.... P.K. Page presents another voice, that of the dignified, contained, slightly mysterious grandparent.... She's slightly stern. She expects good behaviour. But ... you know she will take your observations and comments seriously. She won't think you're cute. You will have her full attention.' — *Quill & Quire*

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. She is also the author of an alphabet book, *A Brazilian Alphabet for the Younger Reader*, which is a whimsical chapbook for the young and the young-at-heart.



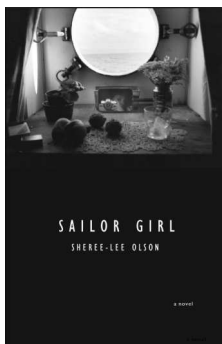
\$10.95 • 32 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

FOLKLORE/JUVENILE • 978-0-88984-309-7 • October 2008



## Sailor Girl

Sheree-Lee Olson



*Sailor Girl* is both coming-of-age tale and love poem to the natural world. Set on the grainboats of Canada's Great Lakes in the summer of 1981, it follows the literal and figurative journey of Kate McLeod, a rebellious photography student looking to earn money for school. Using tight, salty dialogue and gripping description, the book renders a sharp-edged portrait of life lived on the edges of society. It is also a love story in which a middle-class girl finds a deep connection with the unruly young men and tough-minded women of the lakes. Life on the water is physically and socially restrictive, and Kate

kicks against the rules, both written and unwritten. *Sailor Girl* is a uniquely Canadian story, one that preserves a vanishing part of our heritage.

'Olson understands the appeal of tough sex and wide open water. She's got a great ear, too. Here is a book about a girl rebel written in prose that cuts to the quick.' — Katherine Govier, author of *Three Views of Crystal Water*

'I'd go anywhere with Kate McLeod, the raunchy and reckless protagonist of *Sailor Girl*. Finally a Canlit heroine who shows us that girls can drink like fish, work like dogs, swear like sailors and still be good to the bone. Once you have clanked beer mugs with Kate, I guarantee you will take her to bed and not put her down till dawn.' — Leah McLaren, author of *The Continuity Girl*

Sheree-Lee Olson was born in Picton, Ontario, a town on the shores of Lake Ontario. She has three university degrees, in fine arts, philosophy and journalism, financed largely by working on Great Lakes freighters. In 1985, she joined *The Globe and Mail* as an editor, and in 2007–8 she was a Canadian Journalism Fellow at Massey College, University of Toronto.

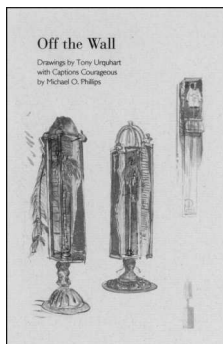


\$27.95 • 288 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"  
FICTION/NOVEL • 978-0-88984-301-1 • In print / June

## Off the Wall

Tony Urquhart, with captions courageous

by Michael B. Phillips

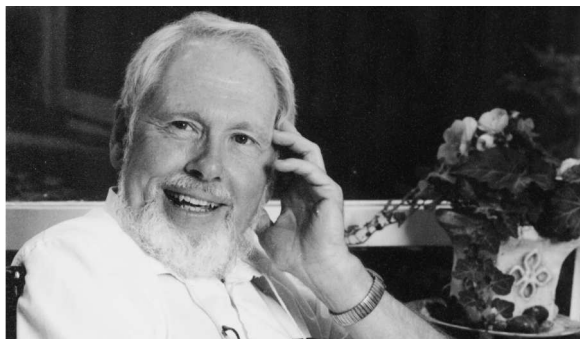


A series of 113 drawings which served as studies for artist Tony Urquhart's ubiquitous box sculptures – strange, surreal, almost absurd objects. These preliminary sketches provide a unique window into the mind and process of the artist. Captions for the drawings are provided by Michael Phillips who has approached them as if coming on a batch of drawings without prior knowledge of their intent. He has tried to divine something of the artist's purpose in designing these objects, and to speculate on the end of various projects. *Off the Wall* – amusing, irreverent, nonsensical – is exactly that!

In order to facilitate the construction of his box sculptures Urquhart required working drawings, idea drawings and even drawings of the stands upon which the sculptures would sit. These works were not intended as ends in themselves, but nonetheless they are as complete, interesting and exciting as the artist could render. Urquhart explains that one of his 'artistic heroes' is Leonardo da Vinci – whose idea drawings for flying machines, military catapults and siege cannons have never been surpassed.

Tony Urquhart is recognized as one of Canada's pioneering abstract artists. His work has been featured in important private and public collections around the world. He was professor of Fine Arts at the University of Waterloo for many years and now divides his time between Ireland and Stratford, Ontario.

Michael B. Phillips enjoyed a diplomatic career as Canadian Ambassador to a number of countries. He was also Minister for Public Affairs in London and Consul General in New York. His own artistic life was limited to the execution of wall drawings using indelible crayon. Phillips is retired and lives in Ireland.

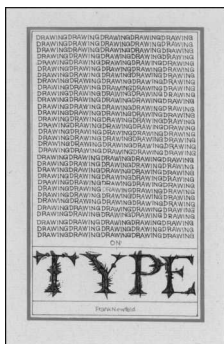


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# Drawing on Type

## Frank Newfeld

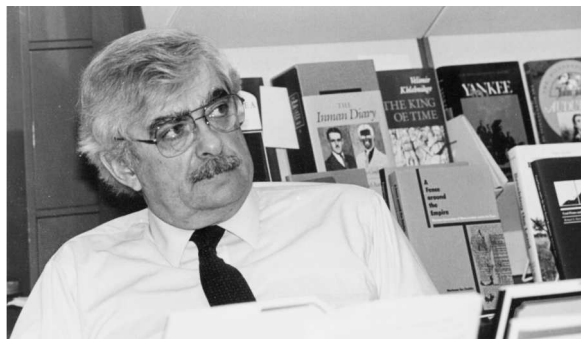


*Drawing on Type* is the life-story of one of Canada's more colourful book-world characters – Frank Newfeld, designer, illustrator and storyteller extraordinaire. It is a wide-ranging account, beginning with Newfeld's youth in England during the Second World War and leading to his involvement in the book trade in Canada. Eventually becoming Art Director, and subsequently, Vice-President of Publishing at McClelland & Stewart, he went on to co-found the Society of Typographic Designers of Canada (now the Graphic Designers of Canada) and to manage the illustration program at

Sheridan College. Newfeld pulls no punches: he is critical of a college system that infantilizes its students; of childrens'-book illustrators that insult young readers' intelligence; of authors, artists, designers and editors who condescend to their collaborators. Yet he is as unflinching in his evaluations of himself as he is in his evaluations of others, for *Drawing on Type* is also a reckoning of self.

'The "pleasure of visual sophistication" has certainly been the foundation of Frank Newfeld's career. Newfeld has combined art and humour with an intellectually rigorous practice and applied it to the design of the Canadian book. The result has been a rarely seen sophistication and artistry that stands far above others in the field.' – Randall Speller, Art Gallery of Ontario

Frank Newfeld has designed and/or illustrated hundreds of books – among them the Canadian classics *Alligator Pie* and *Nicholas Knock*. He has won over 170 awards, including three medals from the prestigious Leipzig Book Shows. Two major articles about his work have appeared in *DA, A Journal of the Printing Arts* (nos. 45 and 56). Frank Newfeld lives in Oakville, Ontario.



\$27.95 • 352 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"  
AUTOBIOGRAPHY • 978-0-88984-304-2 • In print / August

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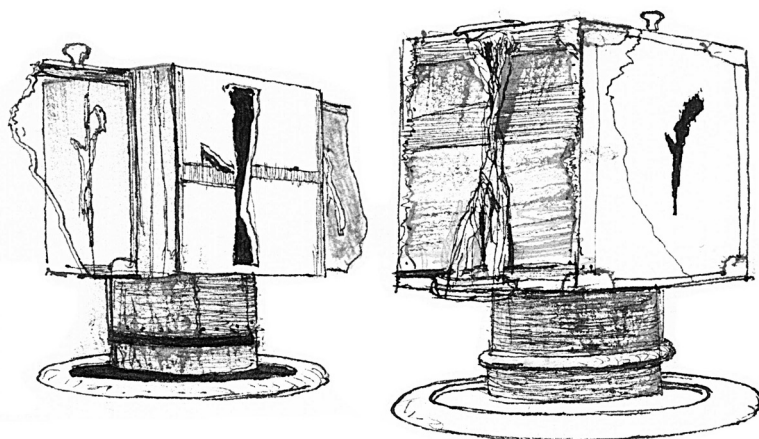
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The Porcupine's Quill is an independent Canadian publisher which operates with the assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council. The generous support of the Ontario Media Development Corporation through the Ontario Book Publishers Tax Credit (OBPTC) and the OMDC Book Fund, as well as the support of the Government of Canada through the Book Publishing Industry Development Programme (BPIDP), is also gratefully acknowledged.



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