



# *The Porcupine's Quill*

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*Fall 2011*

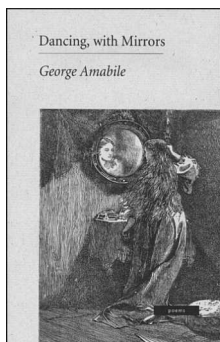


*The Porcupine's Quill*  
**Press sharply.**

*Petting  
a Porcupine  
Is Not As Easy  
As It Looks.*

Thanks to Richard Clewes  
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for the re-branding campaign  
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over the past months.





## Dancing, with Mirrors

George Amabile



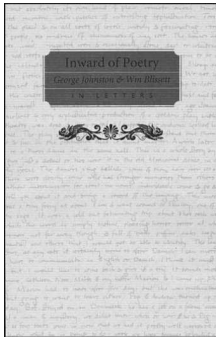
More than twenty years in the making, *Dancing, with Mirrors* is the result of George Amabile's patient examination of his life. The light of careful attention, shining into his past, sends fragments of memory ricocheting into sensuous poems that arrange themselves, as if by magnetic attraction, into eleven remarkable cantos, each with a different focus, rhythm and texture. In this 'lyrical retrospective', decades are distilled into scattered moments: flashes of pain, sparks of affection, the smart of disappointment, small graces of the everyday. Organized thematically into a roughly chronological narrative, these lyrical fragments coalesce into George Amabile's most intelligent and moving collection to date. Intense snapshots of life-defining moments, from his brother's death to his relationship with a younger woman, are rendered with vivid immediacy, but also with a resonating aura that elicits questions which may never be answered by experience alone. These poems offer hard-won wisdom alongside a fierce commitment to life itself, capturing one man's journey in exquisite imagery, an impressive variety of forms and a voice that is recognizably authentic in all its registers.

'What muscular lyricism! Amabile is a fearless singer who finds the right note for every human emotion. With elegance and passion, he pushes against the silence of complacency. He's both of the world and other-worldly, a vatic poet with a sharp intelligence, simply one of the country's best.' – Lorna Crozier

George Amabile, who calls Winnipeg home, has written seven collections of poetry and has been published in over a hundred anthologies, magazines and journals, including *The New Yorker*, *Poetry (Chicago)*, and *Saturday Night*. He has come to be recognized as one of Canada's most accomplished and masterful poets.

\$19.95 • 176 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

POEMS • 978-0-88984-343-1 • Available: September 2011



## Inward of Poetry: George Johnston and William Blissett in Letters

Edited by Sean Kane



*Inward of Poetry* presents fifty years of thoughtful and, by turns, chatty letters between poet George Johnston and his good friend and frequent editor, the scholar William Blissett. Johnston's poems were a part of the folklore of Canadian academia in the 1950s and '60s and Blissett, who often critiqued Johnston's material in draft, enjoys a unique presence in academic folklore today, having seeded it with his perceptions and sayings for over sixty years. This lively collection includes several hitherto unpublished Johnston poems and reveals the development and inner creativity of one of Canada's revered poets and translators. Sean Kane, once a student of both Johnston and Blissett, engagingly presents a friendship told in letters between the two men, set in the affectionate, gossipy, aspiring world of English Studies in Canada.

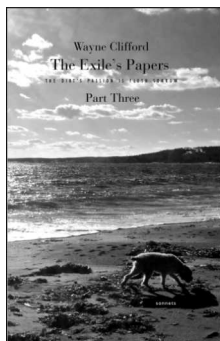
'These letters offer a precious glimpse into an age celebrated in names such as Earle Birney, Robertson Davies, Marshall McLuhan and Northrop Frye. The two humane, generous, self-deprecating figures whose lifelong friendship and half-century of correspondence lie at the heart of this volume shared a love of poetic craft and painstaking workmanship.' – Roberta Frank, Yale University

*Inward of Poetry* redefines what an edition of letters can be: a story told with a novelist's power. . . . In the immediacy of anecdote, reminiscence, biography, social history and family album, as well as in the letters themselves, Sean Kane's teachers become our teachers.' – Gordon Teskey, Harvard University

Sean Kane is emeritus professor of English and Cultural Studies at Trent University. He is the author of *Spenser's Moral Allegory*, *Wisdom of the Mythtellers*, and *Virtual Freedom*, a comic novel shortlisted for the Stephen Leacock Medal.

\$29.95 • 352 pp • sewn paperback • 5.56"x8.75"

LITERARY COLLECTIONS • 978-0-88984-345-5 • Available: October 2011



## The Exile's Papers, Part Three

Wayne Clifford



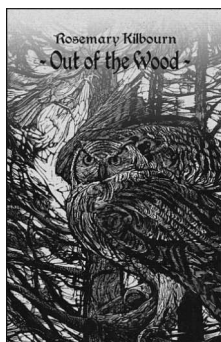
Wayne Clifford's *Exile's Papers* first appeared in 2007 with the publication of *The Duplicity of Autobiography*, but this creative project – a four-part series of surreal, straightforward, narrative or mythic, and endlessly varying sonnets – is the culmination of decades of effort. In 2009 the series continued with *The Face As Its Thousand Ships*, and now emerges the third installment: *The Dirt's Passion Is Flesh Sorrow*. Clifford's sonnets defy categories or boundaries. He is a master of the form and every page is an example of how a great poet can use a complicated structure to achieve depth of thought, beauty and explosive resolutions (or, in many cases, questions). Clifford often draws on his own life experiences – fatherhood, love, death and uncertainty – but he also has plenty to say about God, pop culture and the foolhardiness of certain current political figures. In the end, though, the collection remains a remarkably cohesive, intelligent and death-defying foray into an ancient form that never knew what hit it.

'From the first line – "I wrote my life in sand" – to the last lines, directed at the reader, Wayne Clifford engages ear, eye and imagination. From limerick-like verses to complex metaphysical conceits, Clifford's breadth of skill within this closed form is impressive. The varieties of sonnet he employs, along with his use of recurring voices and images to create narrative, make this an intriguing and involving read.' – Heather Craig, *Telegraph-Journal*

Winner of the E.J. Pratt Prize early in his career, Wayne Clifford attended the International Writers' Workshop at Iowa City, and worked in the School of Journalism with Harry Duncan, before returning to Canada, where he taught in Kingston, Ontario. He now lives on Grand Manan in the Bay of Fundy.

\$19.95 • 192 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

POEMS • 978-0-88984-344-8 • Available: October 2011



## Out of the Wood

Rosemary Kilbourn

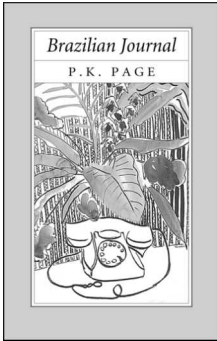


*Out of the Wood* presents eighty reproductions of wood engravings created by Rosemary Kilbourn. Each print is accompanied by Kilbourn's own anecdotal commentary, offering insight into the art of wood engraving as well as reminisces about her life as an artist. *Out of the Wood* serves as a chronological retrospective, starting with samples of early work she completed in London in the 1950s and thence documenting the remarkable growth of her utterly unique style over the next five decades. Kilbourn's engravings often depict local scenes of nature and countryside, and her affection for the rural life shines through in the sweep of her burins. The writing is fresh and humble, welcoming the reader into Kilbourn's world and offering a rare glimpse into the core mechanics of a wood engraver. The reach of Rosemary Kilbourn's art truly spans the country, having found welcoming homes in galleries and churches from Victoria to Montreal. Her engravings on wood have inspired and influenced a generation of artists that include Gerard Brender à Brandis, Wesley W. Bates and George A. Walker, but Kilbourn herself lives in quiet seclusion in a nineteenth-century schoolhouse – known as the Dingle School – in the midst of a protected forest area on the Niagara Escarpment, and she's lived there in the woods since she bought the property in the late 1950s.

Rosemary Kilbourn has been active as a teacher, a wood engraver and a stained-glass artist. As an engraver she has created illustrations for a number of books. Her work has been widely exhibited and is found in major museums and galleries across the country. She has been elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts and to the Society of Wood Engravers (England). She continues to reside in the Dingle School in the Caledon Hills.

\$27.95 • 208 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

ART • 978-0-88984-346-2 • Available: November 2011



## Brazilian Journal

P.K. Page



'How could I have imagined so surrealist and seductive a world? One does not like the heat, yet its constancy, its all-surroundingness, is as fascinating as the smell of musk. Every moment is slow, as if under warm greenish water ...' So writes P.K. Page in this new edition of *Brazilian Journal*. In exquisite prose Page responds to the wildlife, the people and the colours of Brazil. In 1957, she moved to Brazil with her husband, Canadian ambassador Arthur Irwin. The hot, lush landscape was utterly captivating to her and for the next three years Page recorded her life in this intimate, vibrant, startlingly funny journal. Accompanied by numerous illustrations that Page created while on her travels, this is a fascinating account of life in a magically unfamiliar place.

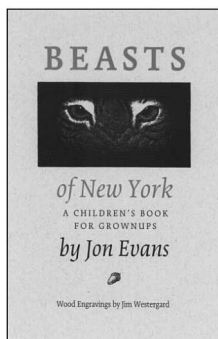
*Brazilian Journal* is the second addition to a series of volumes to be published as a complement to an online hypermedia edition of the *Collected Works of P.K. Page*. The on-line edition is intended for scholarly research, while this new print edition offers a beautiful text to those who love and wonder at the talent of one of Canada's greatest poets.

'In *Brazilian Journal* P.K. Page is a breathless visitor on another planet, seeing every living creature as equal in wonder. A diplomat's rage is as intriguing as that of a marmoset. The finery on the wings of a passing insect is on par with the ball gown of a general's wife.... And because she was learning how and how not to live in a foreign country this book is a fabulous and witty and compassionate *ars poetica*.' – Michael Ondaatje

This new edition is edited by Suzanne Bailey. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of English Literature at Trent University. Her most recent publication is *Cognitive Style and Perceptual Difference in Browning's Poetry*.

\$27.95 • 320 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

AUTOBIOGRAPHY • 978-0-88984-347-9 • Available: December 2011



## Beasts of New York

Jon Evans with engravings by Jim Westergard

*Beasts of New York* is an epic, action-packed urban quest full of very eccentric, often hilarious, extremely dangerous characters who also happen to be animals. As vivid and complicated as humans, these characters include Zelina, the mercurial Queen of All Cats; Snout, a massive and power-hungry rat; and Karmerruk, an arrogant, dangerous hawk. Treachery leads to a monstrous war among the wildlife of New York City, and Patch, a young squirrel, is forced into exile. Patch must journey across deadly, human-ridden streets, parks and sewers to return to Manhattan and his home in Central Park, and to rescue all the animals from a sadistic enemy – the King Beneath.

Jon Evans's New York City of wildlife is deeply imagined; the urban landscape wavers between the familiar and the disturbingly bizarre, while award-winning artist Jim Westergard's intricate wood engravings illuminate the settings and many characters.

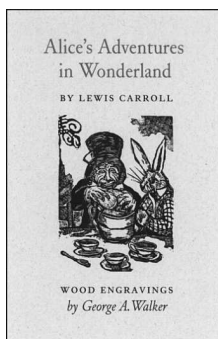
'Through the eyes and hearts of Evans's furry characters, *Beasts of New York* gets at a lot of complex stuff: issues of identity, specifically nature versus nurture are explored without being heavy-handed, and the real-life distances between bravery and cowardice, loyalty and disloyalty, hope and despair are often revealed to be just a hair's breadth apart. Beautifully engraved portraits of the main characters by Jim Westergard heighten our ability to empathize with them throughout the book.' – *ForeWord Reviews*

Jon Evans is the author of four thrillers, one graphic novel, and one dark urban fantasy. His journalism has been published in *Wired*, *The Guardian*, *Reader's Digest* and *The Globe and Mail*. His debut novel, *Dark Places*, won the 2005 Arthur Ellis Award for Best First Novel. Evans currently lives in Toronto.

\$25.95 • 256 pp • sewn paperback • 5.56"x8.75"

FICTION/FANTASY • 978-0-88984-341-7 • Available: May 2011





## Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

George A. Walker

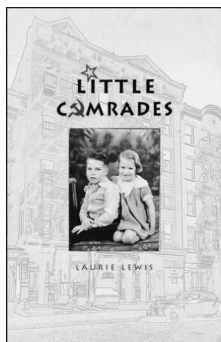
In 1980, art student George A. Walker and professor Bill Poole from the then-named Ontario College of Art started work on the first Canadian publication of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. It took ten years to complete. Walker created over two hundred playful, eccentric wood engravings to illustrate the pages of this letterpress masterpiece, but only 177 copies of the book were ever printed. Now Walker is an internationally acclaimed artist and the Porcupine's Quill has made this unique artwork, alongside the book that inspired it, widely available to lay readers – and this time with several extra illustrations that were not included in the first edition. With an insightful introduction by Alberto Manguel, the author of *The Dictionary of Imaginary Places*, this 2011 edition celebrates Alice's spectacular adventures as well as her equally spectacular artistic heritage.

"Tender and dark at the same time, these extraordinary woodcuts reflect their maker's youthful energy. An introduction by Alberto Manguel says it best: "Glimpses, snapshots, details of larger scenes tell of Walker's reading, a reading that follows Alice's frantic pace, far from Victorian sobriety, from madness to greater madness." Both Alice's story and these remarkable illustrations communicate on many levels." – *ForeWord Magazine*

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.

\$18.95 • 144 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

ART/JUVENILE FICTION • 978-0-88984-339-4 • Available: April 2011



## Little Comrades

Laurie Lewis

With wit, pathos and blistering honesty, Laurie Lewis's memoir begins with her child's-eye understanding of family. Her abusive father is an important man in the Alberta Communist Party; her mother, a committed Party member, tries to protect her children from his alcoholic rages and to maintain the pretence that everything is all right.

Laurie watches her brother's anger, her mother's unhappiness, and learns to keep secrets – her own and other people's. When she is fifteen a new life begins as her mother leaves her marriage and takes Laurie with her to New York City, where Laurie faces fervent anti-Communist sentiment as well as eye-opening experiences with men and new freedom for women.

'Defly rendered and simply told, with thoughtful recollection and frequent sparks of humour, this personal narrative is grounded in and propelled throughout by a clear and fierce intelligence.' – Diane Schoemperlen

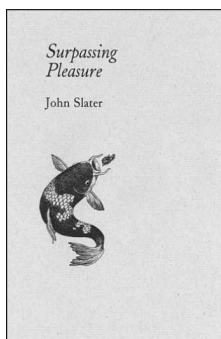
'*Little Comrades* is an important personal and political memoir and at the same time a touching, unusual mother-and-daughter story. While the New York chapters are especially engaging, the whole book exudes a real freshness and relevance, reminding us that the past was always modern in its own way.'

– Steven Heighon

Laurie Lewis is a Fellow of the Graphic Designers of Canada and founder of Artful Codger Press. During her thirty years in publishing, she worked at Doubleday and UTP, and also taught book design in Guyana, the Philippines, and at Ryerson University in Toronto. She now lives in Kingstons, Ontario.

\$22.95 • 216 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

AUTOBIOGRAPHY • 978-0-88984-342-4 • Available: June 2011



## Surpassing Pleasure

John Slater

A unique collection from a talented new poet, *Surpassing Pleasure* pulls hard in two directions. Launching for 'the every-coloured light/streaming through the bright rose-window', or savouring 'flow caught longing for the ground', these poems arrive at surprised moments of fusion. Whether straining at the leash of formal constraints like a watchdog 'hot on the trail of his own release' or nestling into them like 'bees nuzzling into ... rain-wet petals', John Slater combines density and compression with an expressive, fluent music. Open forms, even at their most ragged and disjunctive, remain rhythmically knit and crafted, while the occasional sonnet, villanelle, or ghazal retains something of the ease and authenticity of speech. This energetic first collection moves freely from the world of professional snooker to drunken adolescent escapades.

'There are indeed pleasures surpassing ordinary pleasure in these poems. Whether his topic is the cracking of a safe, drinking in a late-night bar, hauling furniture into a new house, or chanting prayers in the monastery, Slater crafts poems of sharp-eyed wit. His poetry awakens us to those moments when the nitty gritty of everyday life is unexpectedly transformed.'

– Peggy Rosenthal, author of *The Poets' Jesus*

John Slater pursued life as a Cistercian monk until 2000. Immersion in the rhythm of monastic living, its definite structures and open spaces, were formative in the genesis of *Surpassing Pleasure*. His poetry has appeared in *Canadian Literature*, *Queen's Quarterly* and *PN Review*. John Slater is currently at work on a degree in theology from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

\$16.95 • 112 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

POEMS • 978-0-88984-340-0 • Available: June 2011

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