

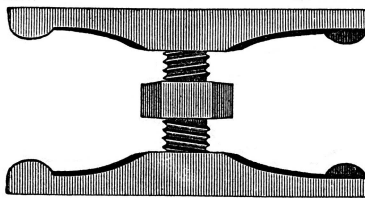


# *The Porcupine's Quill*

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*Spring 2015*



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

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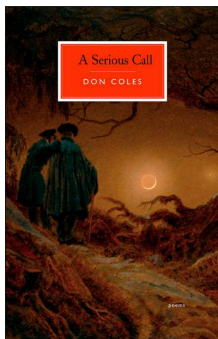
or order through Google Play who will facilitate international sales in any number of local currencies. To date the collection features five titles by P.K. Page: *Brazilian Journal*, *Coal and Roses*, *Hand Luggage*, *Kaleidoscope* and *The Essential P.K. Page*; six titles by wood engraver George A. Walker: *A Is for Alice*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Book of Hours*, *The Life and Times of Conrad Black*, *The Mysterious Death of Tom Thomson* and *The Wordless Leonard Cohen Songbook*; and all ten 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, James Reaney and Anne Wilkinson, as well as P.K. Page.

Other recent releases include  
*Every Minute Is a Suicide* by Bruce McDougall  
and *Bitter Lake* by Marika Deliyannides.

Libraries may prefer to order from  
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for the NOOK device from Barnes&Noble.





## A Serious Call

Don Coles

FEBRUARY

**A new collection from one of the best poets of our era. Don Coles is inspired by a photograph, a line of poetry, a memory. Conversational in tone and often nostalgic, the verses—precisely and confidently crafted—convey thought and emotion without verging on the sentimental.**

The fourteen poems in *A Serious Call* explore suspended moments that act as fertile sites for the study of human relationships and an acknowledgement of the inexorable passage of time. The accessible verses belie the precision of the language and the subtle but nuanced use of poetic device. Full of historical references and literary allusions, Coles's poems demonstrate an appreciation for the seemingly minor incidents of life, diving into them and teasing out a deeper meaning through the benefit of hindsight.

[praise for *The Essential Don Coles*]

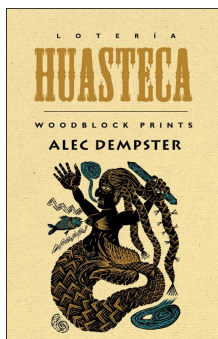
'I can not think of a better introduction to a poet who will be increasingly recognized as one of the best of our era. The exactness, the "odd" nobility, the depth of understanding, the quietness, the tenderness, the plain but carefully nuanced style, and, above all, the beauty of Coles's work, places him, to my mind, in the company of Matthew Arnold and William Stafford.'

—M. Travis Lane, *The Fiddlehead*

**Don Coles** won the Governor General's Award for *Forests of the Medieval World* in 1993 and the Trillium Prize for *Kurgan* in 2000. In addition to ten poetry books, he has also published a novel, a collection of essays and reviews, and translated a collection by Swedish poet Tomas Tranströmer. His poems have appeared in the U.K. in *The Manchester Review* and *PN Review*. Coles lives in Toronto.

**\$14.95 • 64 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"**

**POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-380-6**



## Lotería Huasteca

Alec Dempster

MARCH

With 54 woodblock prints and complementary texts, Alec Dempster depicts historical events and figures as well as the traditional textiles, foods, fauna, flora and mythology of the Huasteca region of Mexico.

Part historical reference, part ethnomusicology lesson and part art book, *Lotería Huasteca* celebrates a rich and vibrant cultural heritage drawn from the area which stretches inland from the Gulf of Mexico and takes in parts of several states including Veracruz, Hidalgo and San Luis Potosi. Dempster's text explains context, origin and relevance to the area's people both in the past and today.

[praise for *Lotería Jarocha*]

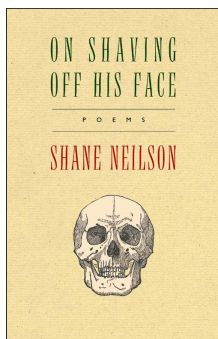
'Alec Dempster has created *una maravilla* of text and image celebrating the musical culture of Mexico's Veracruz region. The texts combine anthropology, folklore, contemporary popular history and Alec's own history and memory as a Mexican-Canadian. The combination is as fresh as a gulf morning breeze.... This is a great project that will delight both the reader with a casual interest in popular culture and the serious aficionado of Mexican music.'

—Gary Cristall, instructor at Capilano University, producer of music festivals

**Alec Dempster** was born in Mexico City but moved to Toronto as a child. In 1995 he moved back to Mexico and settled in Xalapa, Veracruz, where his relief prints eventually became infused with the local tradition of son jarocho music. He has produced six CDs of son jarocho recorded in the field but is perhaps best known for his two lotería games—Lotería Jarocha, and Lotería Huasteca—which include over a hundred prints. He has had solo exhibitions in the United States, Canada, Mexico, France and Spain. Alec now lives in Toronto.

\$18.95 • 136 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75"x 5.56"

ART/Prints • 978-0-88984-383-7



## On Shaving Off His Face

Shane Neilson

MARCH

**A collection of intense poems that are raw, heartbreaking and often unsettling. They explore the themes of pain, grief and childhood illness, particularly as experienced by parents.**

The overarching image that permeates the book is that of the face, which acts as the vehicle by which illnesses both physical and mental are made apparent to the narrator as well as to the reader. Divided into three parts, Book I concerns itself with the recognition of illness in the expressions of the face. Book II is structured in the form of an imaginary academic conference to explore the Darwinian concept of expressionism—the ways in which facial expressions indicate and affect emotion. Book III takes on a sorrowful, more desperate tone as the speaker attempts to cope with a child's illness. The poems are rich in medical, historical and Biblical references, precise and carefully chosen.

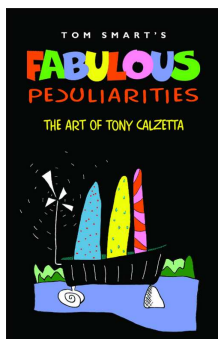
'Our lives are an alternating mixture of doing and undergoing, taking action and enduring. But what of those moments when we can only stand by and suffer—for instance, the catastrophic illness of our child? This is the terrifying, all-too-real terrain that Shane Neilson is driven to explore in his new book, *On Shaving Off His Face*, a fusion of pure naked expression with experimental demolition and reconstruction of language and history.'

—A.F. Moritz, Griffin Poetry Award winner for *The Sentinel*

**Shane Neilson** has published several collections of poetry and works in the genre of memoir, short fiction, biography and literary criticism. He is also a physician with a focus on mental illness, pain and disability. Though he currently lives in Oakville, Ontario, virtually all of his work is rooted in rural New Brunswick.

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

POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-382-0



## Fabulous Peculiarities

THE ART OF TONY CALZETTA

Tom Smart

APRIL

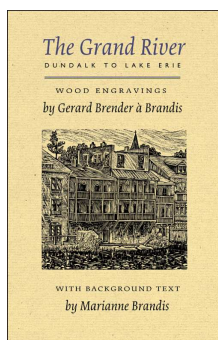
Canadian artist Tony Calzetta works in a narrative style which allows audiences to ‘read’ his work as a sort of visual fiction. Curator Tom Smart traces the development of Calzetta’s current artistic style and examines his collaborative printmaking projects.

This short monograph explores the work of Canadian artist **Tony Calzetta**. The first part of *Fabulous Peculiarities* is largely biographical, chronicling Calzetta’s artistic development. As an art student at the University of Windsor and later at York University, Calzetta distinguished himself for his ability to understand and respect the theoretical trends of art while intuitively understanding their limitations. He cultivated a unique voice with a personal imagery, style and lexicon of sources. Calzetta gained a reputation as a formalist due to his process-based approach. He spent decades honing his craft and experimenting with means of better engaging his audience then gradually adopted a more narrative style. Out of this interest arose several collaborative printmaking projects—*How God Talks in His Sleep and Other Fabulous Fictions* (a *livre d’artiste* composed of Calzetta’s artwork alongside texts by Leon Rooke), and its complementary set of folios, *Peculiar Practices*. Smart includes a short synopsis of both works, detailing the content—art and poetry—of the various folios.

Author, art gallery director, curator, and columnist, **Tom Smart** is especially noted for his award-winning critical biographies, catalogues and monographs on Canadian artists. Smart has worked in art galleries and museums across Canada and the United States. His bi-weekly column ‘The Curator’ appears in the *Saint John Telegraph-Journal*.

\$16.95 • 80 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

ART CRITICISM • 978-0-88984-379-0



## The Grand River

DUNDALK TO LAKE ERIE

G. Brender à Brandis / Marianne Brandis

APRIL

Wood engraver Gerard Brender à Brandis and writer Marianne Brandis reveal the private life of the Grand River in Ontario; their collaboration documents the ecological, social and historical significance of this Canadian Heritage River.

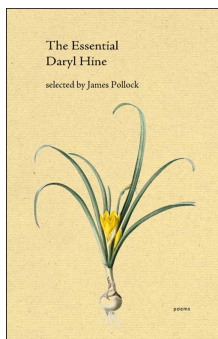
Winding for nearly 300 kilometres through southwestern Ontario, the Grand River has a watershed rich in prehistoric, historical and contemporary features. It is important in the history of First Peoples, and the story of European settlement along its banks is a microcosm of that in Canada as a whole. The watershed contains many treasures, such as part of the Carolinian Forest, some of the best farmland in Canada, the spectacular Elora Gorge and a wealth of historic architecture.

In images and words, *The Grand River* explores the river's history, beginning with its formation after the end of the last Ice Age. The book gives insight into the private life of a river—the dialogue of land and water—as well as the ways in which a river interacts with the planet. It takes the reader on an imaginary journey from the Grand's first drop of moving water at the source to the point where it flows into Lake Erie.

**Gerard Brender à Brandis** has been engraving on wood for fifty years. His work is represented in many collections from coast to coast, including the Art Gallery of Ontario, Gallery/Stratford and the National Gallery of Canada. Gerard's sister, **Marianne Brandis**, has written historical fiction, biography and memoirs, as well as explorations of the relationship between people and their natural and built environment. Both are now living in Stratford, Ontario.

\$24.95 • 150 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

ART/Prints • 978-0-88984-381-3



## The Essential Daryl Hine

selected by James Pollock

MAY

**This collection presents a judicious selection of the work of a poetic virtuoso—a friend of James Merrill and Richard Howard—long celebrated for his learned wit, rhetorical mastery and cosmopolitan sensibility.**

The poems selected for this volume engage with a remarkable variety of metres, forms, subjects and genres over a six-decade-long career. Hine's poetic vocation was inspired in part by his mother's death when he was just thirteen. The themes of death and mortality, the tyranny of time, the fragility of love and the struggle of art against death pervade his work. His poems skilfully surmount formal abstraction by balancing traditional themes and forms with the tenderness and honesty of personal reflection. He also wrote with great wit, style and insight about a wide range of gay male experience.

My watery prison shatters in a prism  
As I flounder up the fatal falls'  
Arpeggios of air, a cataclysm  
Of cataracts and broken intervals.  
  
Still in the murk of motionless canals  
I dreamt away my staid maturity  
Till stirred by that immortal voice which calls  
From the heights of the mountains to the depths of the sea.

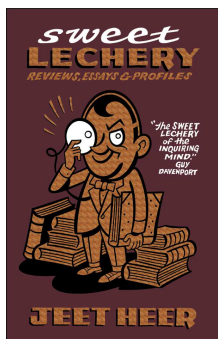
[an excerpt from "The Trout"]

**James Pollock** is the author of *Sailing to Babylon* which was a finalist for the Griffin Poetry Prize and the Governor General's Literary Award in Poetry. He lives with his wife and son in Madison, Wisconsin.

\$14.95 • 64 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75"x 5.56"

POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-385-1





## Sweet Lechery

Jeet Heer

Topics range from eye-opening accounts of the hidden link between sexuality and economics, or between porn and high-brow literature, to the effects of partisanship—particularly Republican—on criticism, biography and readerly trust.

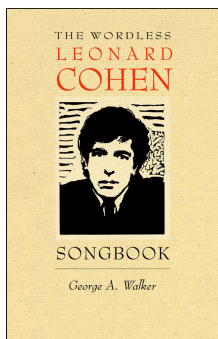
Jeet Heer's *Sweet Lechery* is a collection of essays that form a broad commentary on the social, historical and political forces behind contemporary reading and writing. Organized mostly around individual authors and books, each essay also reaches beyond the context of the work to draw attention to broader cultural implications on literature and society.

Many of the essays combine biographical research, literary critiques and social commentary. In addition to reviewing the works of influential writers like Margaret Atwood, Douglas Coupland, Leon Rooke and Yann Martel, Heer provides rich biographical context and incisive social analysis. He documents the literary lives of strong literary personalities like John Metcalf, Guy Davenport, and John Updike as well as the strengths and weaknesses of well known communication theorists like Marshall McLuhan and Hugh Kenner.

**Jeet Heer** is a cultural journalist and academic whose work has appeared in such publications as the *National Post*, *Slate.com*, the *Boston Globe*, *The Walrus*, and *The Guardian*. He has co-edited eight books and been a contributing editor to another eight volumes; among them is *A Cultural Studies Reader*. With Chris Ware, he continues to edit the *Walt and Skeezix* series from *Drawn and Quarterly*. Jeet is the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship. He divides his time between Toronto and Regina.

\$24.95 • 272 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

LITERARY CRITICISM/ESSAYS • 978-0-88984-378-3



## The Wordless Leonard Cohen Songbook

George A. Walker

**A series of wood engravings celebrating the 80th birthday of one of Canada's most beloved cultural icons and commemorating the artistic accomplishments of Leonard Cohen over a career that spans six decades.**

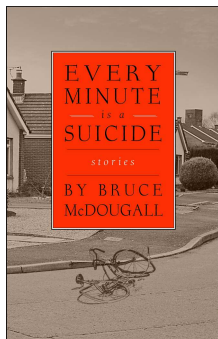
Arranged chronologically—beginning with the young Leonard Cohen on his tricycle and ending with an image of Cohen being cared for by a young nurse—Walker's engravings depict scenes from Cohen's many and varied creative endeavours, including poetry, novels, singing and songwriting. The book also presents portraits of some of the famous characters who shared Cohen's life and friendship, from poets Irving Layton and Allan Ginsberg, to musicians Joni Mitchell and Janis Joplin, to celebrated artist Andy Warhol.

*The Wordless Leonard Cohen Songbook* takes as its inspiration not only Cohen's own poems, novels and songs, but also other sources, from biographies about the Canadian icon to short anecdotes relayed at a concert. In his images, Walker also strives to communicate the importance of Cohen's Zen Buddhist philosophy.

**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. He is also the illustrator of the first Canadian editions of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Alice Through the Looking-Glass*. George A. Walker was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Art for his contribution to the cultural area of Book Arts.

\$22.95 • 192 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

ART/BIOGRAPHY • 978-0-88984-375-2



## Every Minute Is a Suicide

Bruce McDougall

**What is the mystery and the tragedy that consumes the imagination of a young man? In nineteen closely linked stories the author unravels a coming-of-age tale and paints a ‘portrait of the artist as a young man’.**

The narrator—as a young boy and as a young man—is haunted by a question: ‘Why did his father disappear from his life when he was only eight years old?’ When the truth is at last revealed, the protagonist discovers that, through writing, he can find meaning in the unhappy past and reach an understanding of his own struggles to grow up in a fatherless world. Each story journeys towards an answer with appearances by regular people from many walks of life—wealthy, working class, gay, straight, men, women—leading regular lives and making their way through an undercurrent of tragedy and finding reasons to persevere.

‘At the heart of this book is a remarkable piece of writing, “Every minute is a suicide”. Its emotional arc—from cyanide sarcasm to a tentative redemption, a deeply moving forgiveness of self and others—is brilliantly finessed. McDougall can be uproarious and heartbreaking in the same paragraph, even the same sentence. And none of it feels faked.’

—Steven Heighton, author of *The Dead Are More Visible*

**Bruce McDougall** has written or co-written sixteen collections of non-fiction. He has published essays in *The Antigone Review* and short stories in *Geist*, *subTerrain* and *Scrivener*. He is a graduate of Harvard College, where he was an editor of *The Harvard Lampoon*, and attended the University of Toronto Law School before becoming a full-time writer. He lives in Toronto.

\$22.95 • 192 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

FICTION/Short Stories • 978-0-88984-377-6

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