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Spring 2012



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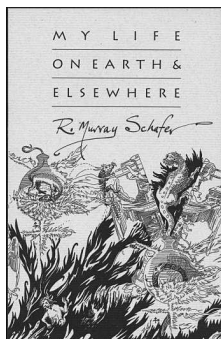
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or order through Google who will facilitate international sales in local currency (Australia, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States). To date the collection features four titles by P.K. Page: *Coal and Roses*, *Hand Luggage*, *Kaleidoscope* and *The Essential P.K. Page*; and three titles by George A. Walker: *A Is for Alice*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Book of Hours*.

Other recent releases include *Complete Physical*, *Fine Incisions*, *The Essential Richard Outram*, *A Suit of Nettles*, *Casanova in Venice*, *Surpassing Pleasure*, *Beasts of New York*, *Little Comrades*, *Dancing with Mirrors* and *Inward of Poetry*.

Backlist titles available for the benefit of students at Wilfrid Laurier and Brock (respectively) include Richard Outram's *Mogul Recollected* and Paul Glennon's *The Dodecahedron*.





My Life on Earth and Elsewhere

R. Murray Schafer



My Life on Earth and Elsewhere, a memoir by the internationally-acclaimed Canadian composer, music educator and writer R. Murray Schafer, traces the author's life and growth as an artist from his earliest memories to the present. Scenes from his youth as an aspiring painter, a music student at the University of Toronto and a sailor on a Great Lakes freighter give way to memories of his several years of work and wandering in Europe, where he gained a deeper understanding of his vocation, and found, especially in Greece, the inspiration for much of the astonishing music he would create after his return to Canada.

Music is central to many of R. Murray Schafer's memories. 'One of the sounds that I'd almost forgotten until I began to write this chronicle was the tinkling of the piano keys when my mother used to wipe them with a wet cloth,' he writes. 'In the early years the high and low keys would be passed over quite quickly while the middle notes got the heavy scrubbing.' The detail of this small, nearly-forgotten childhood memory is a poignant example of the way sounds can remain present in the imagination even when they originated in the distant past.

Born in Sarnia in 1933, R. Murray Schafer is an internationally acclaimed composer, environmentalist, educator, scholar, visual artist and writer. He has taught at Memorial and Simon Fraser universities, and received honorary degrees from Trent, Simon Fraser, Carleton, Toronto, and Concordia universities in Canada and Mendoza (Argentina) and Strasbourg (France). His music is widely praised and performed all over the world. He lives on a farm east of Peterborough.

\$27.95 • 304 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

AUTOBIOGRAPHY • 978-0-88984-352-3 • Available: May 2012



Wayworn Wooden Floors

Mark Lavorato



Mark Lavorato draws on his skill as a novelist, composer, and photographer in this debut poetry collection, *Wayworn Wooden Floors*, rewarding readers with poignant, emotionally-genuine vignettes. These frank, thoughtful poems evoke both the tragedy and the comedy endemic to daily existence. Lavorato's poems are penned in accessible, unpretentious verse, which is as clear as it is varied in form, tone, and vantage. The author composed much of the collection over the course of a thousand-kilometre trek, the experience of which he channels through 'on the trail' verse. The exotic locales he has experienced colour some part of the freshness of the imagery throughout, while his interpretations of our history, and our struggles, infuse the diction with clarity and immediacy.

[about Lavorato's novel, *Veracity*] 'One of the most relevant, original and compulsive reads of my life. Mark Lavorato is an intelligent, perceptive and talented writer and I can't recommend this book highly enough.

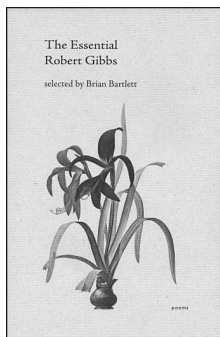
– Dave Clayton via manybooks.net

[about Lavorato's novel, *Believing Cedric*] 'The writing is inventive without being showy, and Lavorato has a gift for letting characters' emotions seep out, often catching the reader unprepared. Exceptional.' – *Quill e' Quire*

Mark Lavorato was raised on the Canadian Prairies, but has spent most of his adult life living, working and writing during his travels throughout Central and North America, the Caribbean, and Europe. He was inspired to write while reflecting on unsettling stories he'd heard in the jungles of Guatemala. He lives in Montreal.

\$16.95 • 96 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

POEMS • 978-0-88984-351-6 • Available: June 2012



The Essential Robert Gibbs

selected by Brian Bartlett



Like other titles in our 'Essential Poets' series, *The Essential Robert Gibbs* provides an ideal introduction to, and survey of, the work of this beloved Canadian poet. It collects some of the finest, most thought-provoking works from throughout Gibbs' career. The precision, originality, and playfulness of Robert Gibbs' poems have captivated readers for many years. Mixing the cerebral and the heartfelt, Gibbs' poems investigate and celebrate family, history, and nature with decisive imagery, idiomatic immediacy, punning wordplay, and breadth of imagination. Sometimes compared to Gerard Manley Hopkins and Margaret Avison, he has been called a 'gourmet of the minimal' who 'devotes himself to asserting the value of the ordinary' (M. Travis Lane) and his work demonstrates both a sophisticated grasp of the human mind and a warm familiarity of voice.

'Selecting poems for this book was difficult at times due to the wealth of possible choices, and I found it painful to leave out poems that have dazzled, delighted, and moved me. Gibbs' strongest poems are among the most distinctive of the past half a century in Canadian poetry.'

– Brian Bartlett (from the Foreword)

Born in 1930 in New Brunswick and educated at the University of New Brunswick and at Cambridge University, Robert John Gibbs taught in his native province for many years. In the 1950s, his poems began to appear in *The Fiddlehead*. His work has been published, and has been reviewed in *Canadian Book Review Annual*, *University of Toronto Quarterly*, *Canadian Literature*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *The Telegraph-Journal*, among many others. Robert Gibbs lives in Fredericton.

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

POEMS • 978-0-88984-349-3 • Available: April 2012



Words for Elephant Man

Kenneth Sherman



'Man is a/fascinating animal', Kenneth Sherman writes, and it is this fascination that drives the narrative in this new edition of *Words for Elephant Man*. Written in the voice of Joseph Merrick, the 'Elephant Man' plagued with a disfiguring condition that ravaged much of his body, Sherman reveals his subject to be more than just a living curiosity. Sherman's Merrick, acutely observant, is equally fascinated by those around him as well.

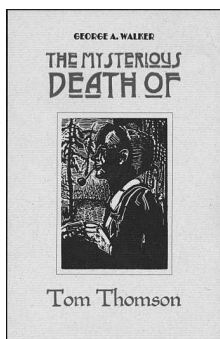
Using found lines from historical record interwoven with his own beautifully-rendered verse, Sherman's collection triumphs as a haunting, eloquent portrait of a man whose body was both disabler and enabler, a man who was both a commodity and a huckster, mechanical and organic, and whose extraordinary circumstances overshadowed the remarkably ordinary desires he shared with humanity. Sherman's Merrick is observant, clever and authentic, and possessed of a voice that resonates through the years and into the hearts and minds of readers.

'It is the weaving of anecdotal fragments and epiphanies that gives the voice authority here. We can believe the poet behind the mask ... Merrick's intelligence, humour, and grace come through in moments of astute analysis and celebratory faith.' – *Contemporary Verse II*

Kenneth Sherman has a BA from York University, where he studied with Eli Mandel and Irving Layton, and an MA in English Literature from the University of Toronto. He is a faculty member at Sheridan College where he teaches Communications; he also teaches a course in creative writing at U of T. Sherman's collection of essays, *What the Furies Bring*, won a Canadian Jewish Book Award in 2010. He lives in the Armour Heights district of Toronto.

\$16.95 • 96 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

POEMS • 978-0-88984-350-9 • Available: March 2012



The Mysterious Death of Tom Thomson

George A. Walker



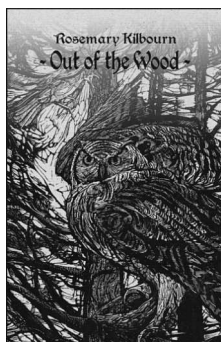
In George A. Walker's newest work, *The Mysterious Death of Tom Thomson*, the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of the iconic artist are explored through some one hundred and nine wood engravings, creating a work that eulogizes not only the artist himself, but also the struggle of the artist's attempt to express himself while constrained by society, the reality of the moment, and mortality. Walker's engravings pay homage to Thomson's contribution to Canadian culture both through representations of his own life and of the contemporary artistic community, alluding to the circumstances of his life and death in ways that a text-based work could not.

'Through Thomson's impressionistic style, the paintings from this period communicate at once both the harshness of the Canadian landscape as well as Thomson's steadfast love of the land, now threatened by the rise of industrialization. It was Thomson's relentless search for the definitive landscape that could accurately express an emotionally-charged wilderness that appeals most to us in his legacy. I hope it is deemed appropriate that such an artist, who rarely wrote a word but painted and sketched hundreds of images, will have his story retold in the language he understood best: the language of pictures.' – George Walker

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.

\$22.95 • 224 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

GRAPHIC NOVEL • 978-0-88984-348-6 • Available: April 2012



Out of the Wood

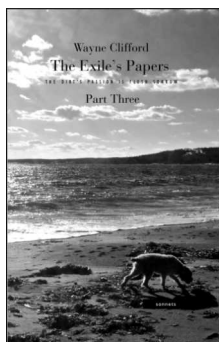
Rosemary Kilbourn

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: February 2012



The Exile's Papers, Part Three

Wayne Clifford

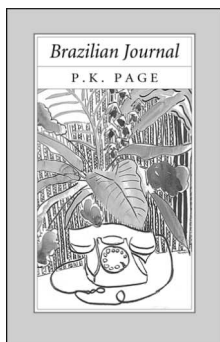
Wayne Clifford's *Exile's Papers* first appeared in 2007 with the publication of *The Duplicity of Autobiography*, but this creative project – a four-part series of surreal, straightforward, narrative or mythic, and endlessly varying sonnets – is the culmination of decades of effort. In 2009 the series 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: December 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.

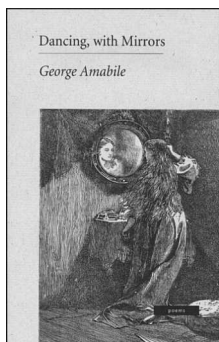
Brazilian Journal is the second addition to a series of volumes to be published as a complement to an online hypermedia edition of the *Collected Works of P.K. Page*. The on-line edition is intended for scholarly research, while this new print edition offers a beautiful text to those who love and wonder 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 • 304 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

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



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: November 2011

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