

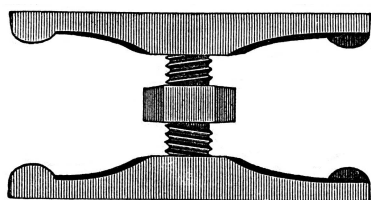


# *The Porcupine's Quill*

DISTRIBUTED BY UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS

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*Spring 2017*



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

# Now Available as exemplary e-Books



In recent years all of our frontlist, and select backlist, has become available in searchable PDF format designed primarily for use on tablets. Ten of these quality digital productions have been favoured with recognition by the eLit awards programme administered by the Jenkins Group of Traverse City, MI.

To date the collection as a whole includes almost 100 Porcupine's Quill titles as well as 17 backlist issues of the *Devil's Artisan*. For best selection ...

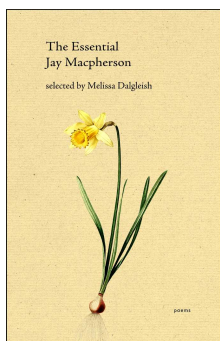
- contact us directly at [store.porcupinesquill.ca](http://store.porcupinesquill.ca)
- or order through **Google Play**, which will facilitate international sales in any number of local currencies. Digital copies of the *Devil's Artisan* are also available from **Magzter**, and select PQI backlist may be available from **Ebsco**, **Gibson Library Services**, **ProQuest** and **Scribd**.

The collection features the poetry of P.K. Page, the Wordless Novels of George A. Walker, and all fifteen titles in our series of 'Essential Poets' featuring work by Margaret Avison, Don Coles, Daryl Hine, D.G. Jones, Travis Lane, Richard Outram, P.K. Page, James Reaney and other luminaries.



*STICKY fingers* is a somewhat irreverent moniker we have adopted for a new digital imprint of the Porcupine's Quill that offers short, attractive, informative editions that probe the intersection between Canadian literature and the book arts, packaged exclusively for mobile devices.

Each chapbook is available in ePub for iPads and Android tablets, and Mobi for Kindle, and retails for \$2.99. The first three titles in the series explore the history of Coach House Press, the career of printmaker Tony Calzetta, and George Walker's stunning re-imagining of Lewis Carroll's classic *Alice in Wonderland*.



## The Essential Jay Macpherson

selected by Melissa Dalgleish

FEBRUARY

**This volume reproduces over 50 of the most important lyrics written by Canadian modernist mythopoet Jay Macpherson. The collection includes poems from all stages of the poet's career, pulling from unpublished works, magazines and periodicals, chapbooks and award-winning collections.**

Jay Macpherson's allusive lyricism and penchant for mythic resonance have made her work central to the development of Canadian poetry from the mid-century and beyond, influencing the careers of the likes of Margaret Atwood among others. Her wry, somewhat formal verse demonstrates an interest in ideas of duality and opposition as well as an enduring fascination with transforming ancient myths into contemporary commentary. With wry humour and musicality, Macpherson explored innocence and experience, the fallen and the exalted, the excluded and the identified.

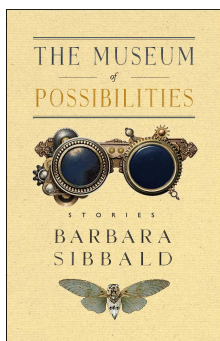
Macpherson became the first Canadian to win *Poetry* magazine's Levinson prize in 1957. Her 1958 collection *The Boatman* won the Governor General's Award for Poetry. Jay Macpherson died in March 2012.

*The Essential Jay Macpherson* brings together the poet's most recognized lyrics charting Macpherson's poetic development and revealing the splendid variety and complexity of her work. This is the 15th volume in the 'Essential Poets' series. It includes a critical introduction as well as a biography and bibliography of works.

**Melissa Dalgleish** is a writer and researcher whose work focuses on mythopoeic modernism in post-war Canadian poetry. Her work has appeared in *Canadian Literature*, *English Studies in Canada*, and the feminist academic blog site *Hook e' Eye*. She lives in Toronto.

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

POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-401-8



## The Museum of Possibilities

Barbara Sibbald

MARCH

**A collection of 15 'shadow-box' narratives—short, concentrated scenes depicting complicated relationships, strong emotions and hard consequences.**

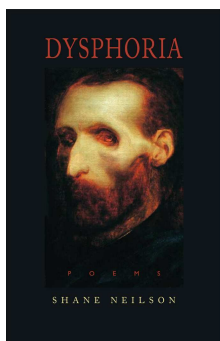
Barbara Sibbald presents a collection of quirky short stories focusing on pivotal moments of intense longing—for love, for power, for fame, for freedom, for revenge, and perhaps most of all, for connection in an increasingly disaffected world. Sibbald is a master of the slow burn, and of building psychological tensions in unexpected ways. And yet there is humour at times as well, which allows the reader bursts of levity that are at once ridiculous and delightfully dark.

*The Museum of Possibilities* is delivered in three parts. The five initial stories of women discovering the consequences of their actions—or inactions as the case may be—are full of psychological suspense, and verge on the supernatural. A second grouping of flash-fiction stories is wry, witty and satirical, and features the unbelievable antics of the jealous, bitter, disaffected and fearful who are trapped inside their own domestic purgatory. Lastly there is a short-story cycle and coming-of-age saga of air force brat Wanda. The stories in this section focus on Wanda's first moments of sacrifice and jealousy, of sexual experimentation, of empathy, and of desperation, starting from childhood and proceeding through adolescence to adulthood.

**Barbara Sibbald** is an author, editor and journalist. She has published a number of books including *The Book of Love* and *Regarding Wanda*. A health journalist for over twenty years, she currently works as News and Humanities editor at the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. She lives in Ottawa, Ontario.

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

**FICTION/Short Stories • 978-0-88984-400-1**



## Dysphoria

Shane Neilson

MARCH

**A heart-rending poetic commentary on the pain, anxiety and dissatisfaction that go hand-in-hand with mental illness, and on the complex and emotional interplay between doctor, patient and outsider.**

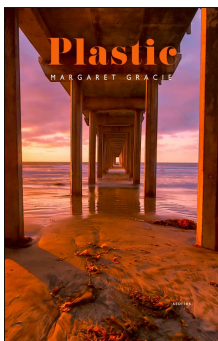
*Dysphoria* is a collection of complex and impassioned poetry by physician-poet Shane Neilson. The collection's title references the dissatisfaction and uneasiness endemic in approaches to dealing with and relating to mental illness.

The book is divided into three sections: Part one, 'The Grand High Medium Abominable', attempts to bring readers inside the mind of the mental health patient. A jumble of emotions, reactions and relevant cultural allusions come together to paint a portrait of mental illness. Part two, 'Medical Inquiries and Observations Upon Diseases of the Mind', draws from Dr. Benjamin Rush's 1812 textbook of the same name, depicting the gruesome history of mental health treatment. Rush advocated the practice of heroic medicine: he focused on bloodletting, purging, disorientation, and causing fear, pain and shame in his patients. Part three, 'Pain on a one-to-ten scale', presents a more intimate and personal consideration of physical and mental illness, from a speaker who is at once sufferer, doctor and observer. It provides a powerful rumination on parenthood and communicates the anxiety and helplessness of a father who recognizes and rails against the unfairness of his children's suffering.

**Shane Neilson** is a poet and physician who has also published in the genres of memoir, short fiction, biography and literary criticism. He is a fellow of the College of Family Physicians of Canada, a Vanier Scholar at McMaster University, and acts as editor for BC publisher Frog Hollow Press. He lives in Oakville, Ontario.

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

POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-402-5



## Plastic

Margaret Gracie

APRIL

**A series of interconnected stories document the life of former beauty queen Debbie Pearce. Debbie appears to have it all, and yet she struggles to balance the responsibilities of motherhood with her own relentless pursuit of the American Dream.**

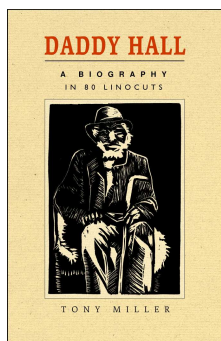
*Plastic* tells Debbie's story over the course of several years. Debbie lives in La Jolla, California, with her doting husband Greg, her daughter Tiff and her son Keegan. She has a modestly successful career as a model, actress and public speaker. Her life is seemingly perfect but she is dissatisfied. A series of interconnected short stories from the points of view of eleven different characters—from close family members to indifferent acquaintances—highlight key moments in Debbie's life. All have been affected by Debbie and her decisions in some way—whether it is her daughter, who gives up on attaining her mother's approval; her father, who recognizes his own faults reflected in his daughter's actions; her young protégé, Brandie, who suffers the consequences of Debbie's attentions; or her personal assistant, Cassandra, who discovers that despite the trappings of wealth, Debbie doesn't quite have it all figured out.

Margaret Gracie gives readers powerful insights into alienation, modern conceptions of motherhood and today's obsession with self-image.

**Margaret Gracie** has worked as an ESL instructor, translator, communications consultant and as a writer and editor for the federal government. Her stories have been published in Canadian and American journals as well as a British anthology. *Plastic* is her first published book of fiction. She currently lives in Victoria, BC in her dream home overlooking the harbour.

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

POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-404-9



## Daddy Hall

A BIOGRAPHY IN 80 LINOCUTS

Tony Miller

APRIL

**A striking visual saga in linocuts of the life of John ‘Daddy’ Hall, a man of Mohawk and African-American descent who survived war, capture and slavery to become a pillar of the community in 19th-century Owen Sound. With an introduction by George Elliott Clarke.**

Born of a Mohawk father and an escaped-slave mother, John ‘Daddy’ Hall was a product of not one but two oppressed peoples. His gripping tale is the stuff of legends—of the War of 1812, the harsh realities of slavery and of triumph in the face of adversity. Over the course of his 117-year life, Hall identified as a freeman, a scout for the British under Chief Tecumseh, a captured slave, an escapee on the Underground Railroad, a town crier in Owen Sound, a husband and, as his nickname aptly suggests, father to an impressive number of children.

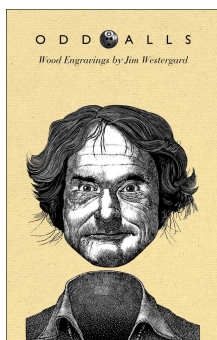
Tony Miller’s 80 stark and arresting linocuts present an unflinching portrait of a remarkable African-Canadian whose story of resilience and reinvention offers a fascinating glimpse into the history of Southwestern Ontario.

‘Kudos to Tony Miller in imagining and drafting Hall’s story as he does. We see the poised, white-hand-held bullwhip and we see the pregnant black belly; we see the War of 1812 as a series of muskets and tomahawks; we see Hall enslaved, we see him escape. He be a prototype, one-man Underground Railroad. Finally, we see him crying ‘Freedom!’ through the streets of Owen Sound.’ —George Elliott Clarke

**Tony Miller** is a Canadian painter, sculptor and printmaker. Born and raised in Owen Sound, his experiences of facing racism and poverty instilled in him a fascination with his African roots. His art reflects an appreciation of the beauty of many cultures and seeks to explore the effects of past and present on humanity.

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

**BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY/Cultural Heritage • 978-0-88984-403-2**



## Oddballs

Jim Westergard



PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

**They say truth is stranger than fiction. Jim Westergard proves it with forty portraits and brief biographical sketches of historical figures who gained fame—or notoriety—through curious behaviour and circumstance.**

This collection of wood engravings, accompanied by short pithy biographies, showcases fantastically detailed, warts-and-all portraits of some of history's most peculiar figures. Jim Westergard creates a veritable rogues' gallery, populated by notorious historical rebels and eccentrics like Rasputin, Pope Joan and Ned Kelly as well as lesser-known oddballs. Each portrait conveys not only skilled technique and natural ability, but also a whimsy and mischief that brings the image and its subject to life. The biographies are engaging, wryly humorous and sometimes tongue-in-cheek, conveying the ridiculousness of the person or situation being described. *Oddballs* pays tribute to the zany, bizarre, mischievous and just plain odd rascals who, by accident or design, have found their way into the annals of history.

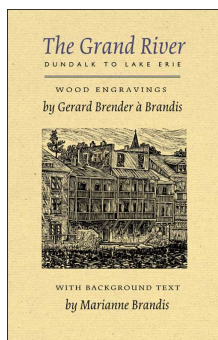
'[The] prose is simple, lean, direct, and aims strait to the heart of the (partially perverted) funny bone.... Both prose and drawings are close-up, morbid, droll, ribald, irreverent, unexpected, but always artful and oh, so hilarious.' —from the Introduction by Barry Moser

**Jim Westergard** has been creating prints from wood engravings since the 1960s. He works on a cantankerous old Vandercook SP-15 proof press which he has affectionately named the 'Spanish Fly'. His book *Mother Goose Eggs* was released by the Porcupine's Quill in 2005. Jim Westergard lives in Red Deer, Alberta.

**\$18.95 • 112 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"**

**ART/Curiosities & Wonders • 978-0-88984-389-9**





## The Grand River

DUNDALK TO LAKE ERIE

G. Brender à Brandis /  
Marianne Brandis

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED



**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.**

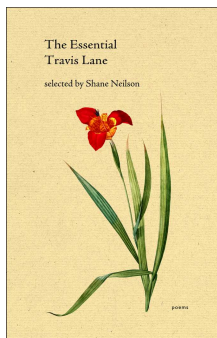
Winding for nearly 300 kilometres through southwestern Ontario, the Grand River has a watershed rich in prehistoric, historical and contemporary features. It is important in the history of First Peoples, and the story of European settlement along its banks is a microcosm of that in Canada as a whole. 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 Travis Lane

selected by Shane Neilson



PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

**This 'Essential' gathers together a superb selection of poems from a Canadian poet who combines exquisite observations of the natural world with profound thoughts about time and mortality.**

Inspired by nature, science, topics in the news, art and music, New Brunswick poet Travis Lane demonstrates a clear-eyed perceptiveness and rhythmic formal technique. *The Essential Travis Lane* celebrates her lilting, insightful work by bringing to the fore a selection of her shorter poems. These poems are fine examples of her linguistic mastery, as well as the wisdom and heart that characterize her voice.

'... A poet of vigorous intelligence and close perception, unafraid to say what she sees.' —Jan Zwicky

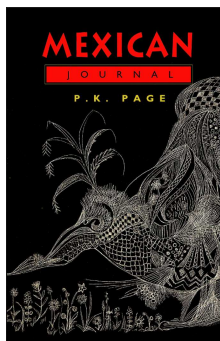
'... her lines are suffused with a music scored by a feeling intellect, one attuned to nature.' —George Elliott Clarke

**Travis Lane** has published fourteen books of poetry. She has won the Atlantic Poetry Prize, the Alden Nowlan Prize for Excellence and the Banff Centre Bliss Carmen Poetry Award. Her poetry reviews have also appeared in many publications. She lives in Fredericton, NB and holds the title of Honourary Research Associate for the Department of English at the University of New Brunswick.

**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. *On Shaving Off His Face* (PQL) is his most recent publication. Though he currently lives in Oakville, Ontario, virtually all of his work is rooted in rural New Brunswick.

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

POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-388-2



## Mexican Journal

P.K. Page



PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

**Raw in emotion and blunt in its confessional style, this journal exposes shadows and undersides in its painfully intense but richly productive analysis of a self that faces internal and external darkness.**

From the first memorable lines—‘Black, black, black is the colour of the Mexican night’—*Mexican Journal* hints at the shadows that plagued the mind and spirit of P.K. Page during her tenure as wife of Arthur Irwin, Canadian ambassador to Mexico in the early 1960s.

In her journal entries, Page attempts to compartmentalize her various selves as wife of a diplomat, tourist, silenced poet, visual artist and religious novice. Her entries acknowledge troubling phobias and spiritual barrenness, as well as her painful acceptance of the gloom of the Mexican night. They document Page’s study of surrealism and the country’s ‘dark gods’, and reveal her struggle to overcome her personal dark night of the soul through the mystical teachings of Sufism. Unpublished during Page’s lifetime, *Mexican Journal* serves as a counterpoint to the wondrous and sensual *Brazilian Journal* (2011).

**P.K. Page** has written some of the best poems published in Canada over the past seven 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. She is the author of dozens of books, including poetry, a novel, short stories, essays and books for children.

The editor of this volume is Margaret Steffler. She is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of English Literature at Trent University.

**\$27.95 • 288 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"**

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY/Literary • 978-0-88984-364-6**

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