DEAR READER DO NOT ABSCOND FROM YOUR FATE
FOR YOU HOLD IN YOUR HANDS THE ULTIMATE
SPATE OF SPECULATIONS ON FIVE BOOKS
FORTHCOMING IN SPRING MMXIII FROM
THE INKY & TENACIOUS BIBLIOPHILES AT
Gaspereau Press
PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS TOILING
UNDER THE SIGN OF THE MIRTHFUL G

47 CHURCH AVENUE · KENTVILLE · NOVA SCOTIA · CANADA
LITERARY OUTFITTERS & CULTURAL WILDERNESS GUIDES SINCE 1997
“I believe a book can be a labyrinth whose centre is the journey to itself,” writes Peter Sanger. “A concerto grosso, not a singular declamation.” And indeed in reading Sanger, individual books, like individual poems, may profitably be read as layers in the strata of his oeuvre, each influenced by what was written before and influencing in turn what was to be written next. Taken together, his books describe the long arc of his particular sensitivity to language and his ever-evolving sense of nature, culture and place. “All the poems in Fireship,” writes Sanger, “concern where we were, where we are, where we will be.”

As well as his many prose projects, Gaspereau Press has been publishing Sanger’s poetry since 2002, issuing two full-length collections – Aiken Drum and John Stokes’ Horse. While these volumes remain in print, Sanger’s first two collections, published elsewhere, have essentially disappeared from view – The America Reel (1983) and Earth Moth (1991). With the blessing of their original publishers, Gaspereau Press is marking Peter Sanger’s seventieth birthday in 2013 by reissuing his first two poetry books in a single volume, collecting with them 24 previously unpublished poems which predate them. The volume also includes a new essay entitled “Log-slate.”

Peter Sanger has published numerous books of poetry, including Aiken Drum, which was shortlisted for the Atlantic Poetry Prize, John Stokes’ Horse, and Arborealis, a collaboration with the photographer Thaddeus Holownia. His recent prose projects include, The Stone Canoe: Two Lost Mi’kmaq Texts (with Elizabeth Paul), White Salt Mountain: Words in Time, and Spar: Words in Place. He has also published an extensive study of the life and poetry of Richard Outram, Through Darkling Air. He lives in South Maitland, Nova Scotia.
STAR-NOSED MOLE

Animals reach such perfection we think they can never die like the mole my cat killed to leave lie on the diligent turf.

Too small, it looked brief as a thumb, and how could it shovel away with such delicate plankton for hands or use an anemone nose?

Twenty-two pink fleshy projections felt routes through the loam then neatly clamped shut when this frail eater found meat.

CROSSCUT

Pushing will buckle its blade.

Two men are needed who’ll pull the teeth through hand to hand so one swing of its cut nearly ends where the double began.

STONE ANIMALS

On the cup I was given three deer are circling the earth who are circling it still in a cave said to keep those who find it imprisoned. They will know they must wait for hooves striking when all the stone animals leap from their wall to be what we wished them to be, the first time we knew we were there.

The ocean has never had a biographer quite like Sue Goyette. Living in the port city of Halifax, Goyette’s days are bounded by the substantial fact of the North Atlantic, both by its physical presence and by its metaphoric connotations. And like many of life’s overwhelming facts, our awareness of the ocean’s importance and impact waxes and wanes as the ocean sometimes lurks in the background, sometimes imposes itself upon us, yet always, steadily, is. This collection is not your standard “Oh, Ocean!” versifying. Goyette plunges in and swims well outside the buoys to craft a sort of alternate, apocryphal account of our relationship with the ocean. In these linked poems, Goyette’s offbeat cast of archetypes (fog merchants, lifeguards, poets, carpenters, mothers, daughters) pronounce absurd explanations to both common and uncommon occurrences in a tone that is part cautionary tale, part creation myth and part urban legend: how fog was responsible for marriages, and for in-laws; why running, suburbs and chairs were invented; what happens when you smoke the exhaust from a pride of children pretending to be lions. All the while, the anthropomorphized ocean nibbles hungrily at the shoreline of our understanding, refusing to explain its moods and winning every staring contest. “I wrote these poems,” comments Goyette, “because I know very little about the ocean and yet rely on it like a mirror, a compass.” In Ocean, Goyette demonstrates how a spirited, playful and richly mythopoetic engagement with the world can actually strengthen our grasp on its bigger truths.

SUE GOYETTE has published three collections of poetry, The True Names of Birds, Undone and Outskirts, as well as a novel, Lures (2002). She has won the Pat Lowther Memorial Award, the Atlantic Poetry Prize, the CBC Literary Prize for Poetry, the Earle Birney Prize and the Bliss Carman Award, and been shortlisted for the Governor General’s Literary Award, the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award and the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize. Goyette lives in Halifax where she teaches creative writing at Dalhousie University and works part-time at the Writers’ Federation of Nova Scotia.
From Sue Goyette’s Ocean:

**THIRTEEN**

The idea of courting began after a group of us smoked the exhaust from a pride of children imagining they were lions. We wouldn’t normally smoke something that potent but the night had begun to pontificate, droning on like a politician promising us more day. Some of us were feeling a little hemmed in. Understand, the strongest we were used to smoking was the echo of a good laugh so this feeling of having paws and a home as far as our growls could reach was something new. At first our prowl was self-conscious. The way we’d nudge into each other. We blushed at the sharp teeth of being touched. Of course, everything changed when we discovered our purr.

**TWENTY-THREE**

The more it ate of us, the less we liked it. It wasn’t rocket science. It was loss. Its reach astounded our fences, rushed into our basements like a hold-up. It was its own getaway car. Some days it was a diva. Petulant. It demanded a spotlight. It gargled before it sang. We made the mistake of treating it like the original pet and leashed it with wharves. Or we’d take pictures of it like it was a starlet getting out of a limo. We followed the soap opera of its life, the tumultuous affair it was having with the moon, its battle with addictions. Its violence. It would leave us broken, making excuses for its temper. It was part pirate, part pantry. We figured out later it must have studied a trade, a career it could fall back on. In seconds it could find our fuse box and re-route our wiring. In this way, the ocean was schooled on how to light us up and then power surge us back into darkness.
NEW POETRY

Brilliant Falls
JOHN TERPSTRA

$17.95 | 9781554471232 | MARCH

Printed offset on laid paper making 64 pages trimmed to 5.3 × 8.5 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover. Typeset in Octavian.

John Terpstra has always had a pension for juxtaposition, for the fault lines where two seemingly opposing truths rub together and make a sort of music. Brilliant Falls, Terpstra’s latest poetry collection, often locates these juxtapositions in the transitions of family life. In one poem, a teenaged daughter has a close scrape while practice-driving, learning “the fact of our fragile enormity upon the landscape.” Terpstra’s sense of life’s fragility and enormity fuels much of this collection, and is especially poignant in those poems dealing with the subject of aging and dying. “There are poems that cut pretty close to the bone,” writes Terpstra, “in terms of my own need to express the difficult and complicated emotions that prompted them.” Yet this collection resists any prolonged wallowing in grief as Terpstra writes his way toward relief, imagining off-beat scenarios where he’s street racing with the Queen of England, encountering Sitting Bull in the form of a crow on a Saskatchewan highway, or being interrogated by Saint Peter in Heaven’s immigration queue. Throughout, Terpstra’s skill for evoking a mood through the sound of his language and the pacing of his expansive narrative style reminds us that poetry is, at the end of the day, essentially an act of exploration and of faith in which: “we still leap aboard, to feel if it shifts / or moves us, trusting and not trusting, / not willing and willing / the rock to roll on.”

John Terpstra has published many books and chapbooks of poetry, the most recent of which, Disarmament, was shortlisted for the Governor General’s Literary Award in 2004. A retrospective of his work, Two or Three Guitars: Selected Poems, was published in 2006. Terpstra has also published three prose projects: Falling Into Place, a creative investigation of a giant glacial sandbar which lies beneath one of Canada’s busiest transportation corridors; The Boys, or, Waiting for the Electrician’s Daughter, the story of his wife’s three brothers, who lived with muscular dystrophy until their early twenties; and Skin Boat: Acts of Faith and Other Navigations, a frank reflection on faith and church in a secular era. He lives in Hamilton, Ontario.
Wheels

After buying a used van on Gladstone Avenue today, I drove off, and all the people on the sidewalk stopped in their tracks, pointed and began to cheer and wave and throw streamers from the higher buildings, causing a big commotion. All for this used van I bought today on Gladstone, or so I thought, until I saw the Queen of the Commonwealth in the rearview mirror, tailgating, kissing my exhaust in a classic ’53 pickup, souped-up, with a hood-scoop, itching to pass. She was wearing a halter top and looked impossibly young, and I wouldn’t have recognized her at all except for the tiara, and that distinctive profile, coined in the side window as she gunned past me, squealing round the corner like she owned the place, beating the lights like a local.

From John Terpstra’s Brilliant Falls:

THE WOMEN OF SHALOM

The impeccably groomed women of Shalom Manor glide over the corridor linoleum to the dining hall as though they are walking on water, by faith, or supported on four-wheel walkers, their men having already fallen or been made near helpless by a long life and a less flexible body, conditions which, by way of contrast, have imparted to the women a dignity and bearing, the women who meet our eyes and bestow smiles and nods as my brother and I move through their midst, our mother’s garment bags, filled with our mother’s clothing, slung over our arms like limp, life-size Heimlich dolls.

As requested by staff, we have been spring-cleaning her closet. “We’ll save one of the dresses,” my brother tells me.

I don’t understand what he’s getting at, distracted as I am by the upright survivors who traverse this window-tunnel of light bathed in their own translucence, their smiles that grow stiff as eyes drop to our burden.

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In the winter of 2009, Harry Thurston travelled to Campbell River on Vancouver Island to serve a term as writer-in-residence in the former home of the renowned fisherman and environmentalist Roderick Haig-Brown. While there, he and his longtime friend Allan Cooper embarked on a poetic correspondence; Thurston would send his Campbell River poems east and Cooper would reply. In this, they were consciously following the model of the Wang River Sequence, a poetic correspondence written by the Chinese poets Wang Wei and P’ei Ti over 1200 years ago. “Our poetry – separately – has always been rooted deeply in the natural world,” writes Thurston. “Like many other Western poets, we have looked to the East, to classical Chinese poetry, as one model to best express our relationship with what we now call the environment, a no less reverential term than Nature.” The resulting twenty-one poems are reflective and richly imagistic, chronicling a single winter season as experienced by two writers on opposite Canadian coasts.

Allan Cooper has published a dozen books of poetry, including, *The Alma Elegies*, *Gabriel's Wing* and *Singing the Flowers Open*. He has twice won the Alfred G. Bailey Award for poetry and received the Peter Gzowski Award in 1994. He is the founder of Owls Head Press and has been the editor of the intermittently-published literary journal *Germnation* since 1982, when he took it over from Harry Thurston. Cooper is also a songwriter and performer. His recent musical projects include *Rosedale* and *Songs for a Broken World*. He lives in Alma, New Brunswick.

Harry Thurston is a poet, journalist and naturalist. His poetry collections include *Animals Of My Own Kind*, *Broken Vessel*, *Ship Portrait* and *If Men Lived On Earth*. He has also written for many of North America’s leading magazines, including, *Audubon, Canadian Geographic, Harrowsmith* and *National Geographic*, and has served as a contributing editor at *Equinox* since its inception in 1981. His most recent non-fiction work, *The Atlantic Coast, A Natural History*, won the 2011 Lane Anderson Award. Thurston lives in Tidnish Bridge, Nova Scotia.
**V • FIRST SNOW, MID-DECEMBER**

In the night it has snowed for the first time. The branches bear the weight of this winter blossoming, whiter than dogwood—but one has broken under its cold beauty.

One broken branch says we have lived a long time, and more will break. Part of us wants to live forever; another wants to lie down with that branch beneath the heavy snow.

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**X • FINGER BELLS**

The little birds in the bare branches wear golden crowns. As dusk falls their songs are like the ringing of finger bells—tolling the end of the light.

Where do the little singers go at dusk, after the sun has abandoned the hills? Like Buddhas, eyes closed, they meditate on the small cones of silence.
In 1755, Jeremiah Bancroft enlisted to fight against the French Empire in North America. Embarking from Boston that April with 2,000 of his countrymen, his attention was focused on the objective of capturing Fort Beauséjour at Chignecto, located on the present-day border between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Bancroft could not have predicted the fort’s rapid surrender, nor his New England force’s redeployment against the civilian population of Acadia. His journal preserves an eyewitness account of the deportation of the Acadians in the Grand-Pré area, offering readers a day-by-day account of one of the most dramatic events in Canadian history. Edited, introduced and annotated by Jonathan Fowler and Earle Lockerby, and supported with maps and illustrations, this publication marks the first appearance of Bancroft’s diary in book form. It also launches “Diaries of the Acadian Deportations,” a new series of history books aimed at attentive readers of Canadian history.

Jonathan Fowler is a historical archaeologist who teaches at Saint Mary’s University. He holds degrees from Saint Mary’s, Acadia University, the University of Sheffield, and the University of Oxford and has wide-ranging interests in the fields of archaeology, anthropology and history. For the past decade, Jonathan has directed archaeological excavations at Grand-Pré National Historic Site. He is the co-author, with Paul Erickson, of two popular books on regional archeology, Underground Nova Scotia and Underground New Brunswick.

Earle Lockerby studied chemistry, engineering and management at Mount Allison University, Nova Scotia Technical College and the Imperial College in London before embarking on a thirty-year career in the nuclear power industry. Since his retirement in 1996, he has turned his attention to his other passion, eighteenth-century Maritime history, publishing papers in such peer-reviewed scholarly journals as Acadiensis, Canadian Journal of Native Studies and Native Studies Review. Author of Deportation of the Prince Edward Island Acadians, Lockerby splits his time between his residence in Sandford, Ontario, and his summer cottage at Darnley, PEI.
The deportation of the Acadians continues to provoke discussion and debate two and a half centuries after the fact. It is an ‘Event of National Historic Significance in Canada’,† and for people of Acadian descent it exists simultaneously as an historical nadir and a fulcrum of national memory. Genealogists and family organizations actively commemorate it, and historians, political scientists, archaeologists, artists and anthropologists examine it to better understand imperialism, ethnic violence, identity, material culture and forced migration. Consequently, the deportation endures as a compelling subject with a broad constituency.

Despite the effervescence of Atlantic Canadian history in recent decades, and a resurgence of interest in the Acadian story in particular, many of the essential primary texts relating to the deportation remain difficult to find. Even if they can be tracked down, their specialized language and unfamiliar geographical and historical contexts impose barriers to understanding. This is unfortunate because several remarkable diaries survive from the mid-18th century, and they offer vivid and intimate portraits of events most of us have known only in broad brush strokes. In this eyewitness testimony of a soldiery deployed against civilians there is an opportunity to know the deportations afresh, and perhaps perceive them through a wider lens than that held by previous generations.

Our intention with this book, and those which may follow, is to transcribe and annotate a collection of ‘Diaries of the Acadian Depocations’. Many have been in print before, but they are no longer available in bookstores. In fact, most have not been published for 80 years or more. Previous versions also lack the extensive annotations and commentary that accompany our treatment of the sources. The compelling testimonies contained in these texts are of value to a broad community of interest, and it is our hope that they will be read and re-read by students and teachers, travelers, local historians and enthusiasts, as well as by the Acadian Diaspora and its many friends.

We begin with the diary of Jeremiah Bancroft, an otherwise historically anonymous young man who served as a junior officer in a New England regiment in 1755. In April of that year, his fleet sailed north from Boston, as many of his countrymen’s flotillas had done before, to wage war against the French Empire in Acadia or Nova Scotia, as it was then uncertainly called. His regiment’s destination was the upper reaches of the Bay of Fundy and Fort Beauséjour, a star-shaped work of timber and turf that staked the French king’s claim in what Bancroft and his people likely saw as British territory. As he embarked, Jeremiah Bancroft could not have known that Beauséjour would turn out to be a paper tiger, and that his main task in the months ahead would be to round up and deport the Acadians of Grand-Pré. His diary takes us there day by day.

† On May 10, 1955 Parks Canada designated the Acadian deportation as an ‘Event of National Historic Significance’. A plaque attesting to this designation exists in front of the Visitors’ Centre at Grand Pré National Historic Site, similarly designated by Parks Canada on June 12, 1982. The landscape of Grand-Pré was designated on June 30, 2012, as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
When Viv flies to Buenos Aires for a secret liaison with Clive, there is no ambiguity as to their intentions – adultery. But this is where conventionality terminates in Stephen Marche’s new novel, a work whose lyric richness and inventiveness skilfully embody the tumbles and turns of love in a postmodern age. The result is an evocative, lithe method of storytelling which, infused with Marche’s wit, insight and telescopic emotional range opens fresh possibilities for long-form fiction. ¶ Stephen Marche is a columnist and the author of Raymond and Hannah, Shining at the Bottom of the Sea and How Shakespeare Changed Everything. He lives in Toronto.

Starnino reports on the state of poetry with his usual sleeves-rolled-up approach to literary criticism which synthesizes broad observation with close reading. Engaging both icons (Atwood, Birney, McKay, Moritz, bp-Nichol) and lesser-knowns, he writes with the style, wit and intensity of a poet-critic, offering confident, intelligent candour where we have too often settled for ‘bland, much-recycled truisms’. ¶ Carmine Starnino has published four critically acclaimed volumes of poetry including, most recently, This Way Out, which was nominated for the Governor General’s Literary Award. Starnino lives in Montreal, where he is poetry editor for Véhicule Press and a senior editor for Reader’s Digest Canada.

This book aims to help observers evaluate bird sightings in Nova Scotia by focusing on the finer details of occurrence and identification. Compiling and evaluating a broad range of historical and contemporary data gathered by both ornithologists and amateur observers, Ian McLaren provides brief accounts of the status and key identification issues for all bird species, distinctive subspecies, and variations believed to have occurred in Nova Scotia up to 2010. ¶ Ian McLaren is professor emeritus at Dalhousie University. In 2012, The American Birding Association awarded him the prestigious Ludlow Griscom Award for Outstanding Contributions in Regional Ornithology. He lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

This may well be the funniest book ever written by a Canadian—at least intentionally. Leacock himself claimed that “the works are of so humorous a character that for many years it was found impossible to print them. The compositors fell back from their task suffocating with laughter and gasping for air.” Gaspereau’s edition marks the centenary of its original publication. ¶ Stephen Leacock (1869–1944) was a Canadian humourist, essayist and political economist. Canada’s highest award for humour is named in his honour.
Monica Kidd’s *Handfuls of Bone* takes the reader to the end of the road and back, to outports both literal and figurative, to consider how it is that things somehow hold together. Kidd’s is a poetic which embodies the twin skills of her physician’s training—cool-headed and unblinking observation-based diagnosis combined with compassion, empathy and humanity. ¶ 

**Monica Kidd** is the author of two novels (*Beatrice* and *The Momentum of Red*), a book of non-fiction and a collection of poetry (*Actualities*). She lives with her family in Calgary, Alberta, where she practises medicine.

In her debut collection, Basma Kavanagh engages the natural world and seeks to explore our relationship to it. Hers is a poetics of description which subverts scientific observation and the authoritative language of nomenclature for mythopoetic ends. This is a book which turns over rocks and looks under them in search of truth in its soft, damp hiding places, poems which instruct us to “[d]escent. Blend / your knowing with the breath of earth”. ¶ **Basma Kavanagh** is a painter, poet and letterpress printer living in Brandon, Manitoba. She produces artist’s books under the imprint Rabbit Square Books. Her poems have appeared in the chapbook *A Rattle of Leaves*, published by Red Dragonfly Press, and are included in anthologies in the United States.

Blistering with defiance, tempered with tenderness and desire, *Black* is a startlingly passionate collection of poems from one of Canada’s most gifted writers. George Elliott Clarke combines fiery outrage with delicate confessions of love, creating a commentary on soul and culture that is both shocking and transformative. ¶ **George Elliott Clarke** is an Africadian poet, schooled in (Atlantic) Canadian and African-American verse. Clarke is currently the E.J. Pratt Professor of Canadian Literature at the University of Toronto. His award-winning books include *Whylah Falls* and *Execution Poems*.

In the figure of John Stokes’ horse—a crudely-carved toy horse depicted in a David Blackwood engraving—Peter Sanger locates an imaginative gesture requiring the suspension of disbelief, for child and adult alike—a winged mount into a world where myth and memory mix. Looking at language, memory and art through the lens of language presents the very sort of riddle on which Sanger’s poetics thrive. ¶ **Peter Sanger** has published numerous books of poetry, including *Aiken Drum* which was shortlisted for the Atlantic Poetry Prize. His recent prose projects include *The Stone Canoe: Two Lost Mi’kmaq Texts*, *White Salt Mountain*, *Spar* and his extensive study of the life and poetry of Richard Outram, *Through Darkling Air*. He lives in South Maitland, Nova Scotia.
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