A DOZEN OR SO BOOKS THAT WE’VE NEGLECTED TO PRATTLE ON ABOUT UNTIL NOW
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*Explore our backlist at [www.gaspereau.com](http://www.gaspereau.com)*

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Penelope waits for Odysseus’s return, so the story goes, but literary tradition tells us little about this act of waiting, an act every bit as epic as her husband’s exploits. In this suite of poems, Sue Goyette steps into the disorienting world of Penelope’s domestic upheaval, a world populated by a swarm of opportunistic suitors, a tempestuous teenage son, a goddess and sundry sentient objects and talking creatures. Written with a wit and a penchant for magic realism reminiscent of both Ocean and The Brief Reincarnation of a Girl, Goyette’s Penelope chronicles the human qualities of waiting—grief, doubt, depression and anger, but also determination, strength and grace—as Penelope breaks her long silence and exclaims her own story.

SUE GOYETTE has published five previous collections of poetry, The True Names of Birds, Undone, Outskirts, Ocean (winner of the 2015 Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Masterworks Arts Award and finalist for the 2014 Griffin Poetry Prize) and The Brief Reincarnation of a Girl. She has won the Pat Lowther Memorial Award, the Atlantic Poetry Prize, the CBC Poetry Prize, the Earle Birney Prize, the ReLit Award and the Bliss Carman Award. Goyette lives in Halifax where she teaches creative writing at Dalhousie University.

The poems in Annick MacAskill’s debut collection No Meeting Without Body are confident and crisp. Departing from works of art and literature, historical figures, myth and anecdote, her poems draw the reader into their subjects with unaffected frankness and intimacy, answering society’s most reductive forces with a resistance rooted in the dignity of human connection.

ANNICK MACASKILL is the author of a chapbook entitled Brotherly Love: Poems of Sappho and Charaxos (2016). Her poems have appeared in journals such as Grain, Prism International, Versal, Room Magazine, The Fiddlehead, and Arc. She has been selected as a finalist for the CBC Poetry Prize, the Ralph Gustafson Poetry Prize and a Pushcart Prize. Originally from Ontario, she currently lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia.
This Kind of Thinking Does No Good

What will surprise you about Alison Smith’s poems is the tenaciousness that lies beneath their grace and wit, their unwillingness to concede the bittersweet complexity of human experience to either gross reduction or cowed silence. Exploring the domestic epics of relationships, childbirth and parenting, as well as societal issues like patriarchy and justice, Smith discovers that often “we barely know how feelings think.” But if our stories sometimes elude us—like a skipping rope, where one end is “held slack / by skeptics, the other turned too fast”—Smith’s poems jump in and find expression’s rhythm.

ALISON SMITH is the author of The Wedding House, Six Mats and One Year, and the chapbook Fishwork, Dear. She was shortlisted for the 2013 CBC Poetry Prize. Her poems have appeared in Guernica Magazine, Fjords Review, Event Magazine, Rusty Toque, Understorey and Lemonhound. She lives in New Germany, Nova Scotia.

Ghost Estates: A Snakeskin Seminar

Born of notes scrawled during a lunchtime lecture on “Orpheus in Ireland, Seamus Heaney and the Poet’s Task, and Other Matters,” Ghost Estates dives into the shadowy shatter zone where modernity meets myth and magic. Confronted by our collective implication in a complex web of societal injustice—from global conflicts, to the Irish Troubles, to the wholesale theft of aboriginal land that now constitutes ‘Canada’—Sean Howard asks, What is the poet’s task? These poems chart his serpentine quest, following association, incident, murmur and memory backward to the underworld that lurks beneath the facade of our High Estate.

SEAN HOWARD is the author of three collections of poetry, Local Calls, Incitements and The Photographer’s Last Picture. As well as appearing in numerous literary journals, his work has been featured in The Best Canadian Poetry in English in both 2011 and 2014. Howard lives in Main-à-Dieu, Cape Breton, and is an adjunct professor of political science at Cape Breton University.
Christopher Patton's *Unlikeness Is Us* presents fourteen new translations of Old English poems preserved in the tenth-century *Exeter Book*, including well-known works like “The Seafarer” and “The Wanderer,” as well as others rarely seen in translation. Prioritizing their integrity as poetry, Patton’s translations work the Anglo-Saxon alliterative line into a patterned, four-beat contemporary English form, retaining the relentless forward drive of the originals and adhering to sometimes idiosyncratic scribal punctuation. Through his critical introduction, notes and commentary, Patton presents the reader with the complex history of these texts’ transcription, translation and interpretation, departing from long-dominant Augustinian premises in favour of an approach that embraces the materiality of text and “a world animate, alarming, marvellous, and weird.”

Brian Bartlett has published seven collections of poetry (including *The Watchmaker’s Table* and *Wanting the Day: Selected Poems*) and two books of prose (*Ringing Here & There: A Nature Calendar* and *All Manner of Tackle: Living with Poetry*). His writing has won numerous prizes, including the Atlantic Poetry Prize, *The Malahat Review’s* Long Poem Prize and the Acorn-Plantos Award for People’s Poetry. Bartlett lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he teaches at Saint Mary’s University.
After studying Fine Art at Mount Allison University, Mary Pratt (b. 1935) settled in Newfoundland with her husband and strove to pursue her passion for painting amidst the demands of raising a family. Over her career, Pratt developed a painting technique that embodied qualities of light, depth of field and focus evocative of the photographic image, creating a body of work that renders the common everyday items of our lives somehow luminous. Pratt is a Companion of the Order of Canada and was awarded the Molson Prize in 1997.

RAY CRONIN

Mary Pratt: Still Light

Alex Colville (1920–2013) is perhaps Canada’s best known twentieth-century painter. After serving as a war artist in the Second World War, Colville went on to produce a body of work whose influence has extended into the broader culture. Working in a heightened-realist style, Colville invests imagery from his everyday small-town life with tension, evoking the individual’s precarious assertion of humanity and order upon a landscape where the experience of nihilism and despair are never fully eclipsed.

RAY CRONIN

Gerald Ferguson: Thinking of Painting

Painter and conceptual artist Gerald Ferguson (1937–2009) played a central role in transforming Halifax’s Nova Scotia College of Art and Design into one of North America’s leading art schools in the 1970s. Skirting easy categorization, his work pursued a conflicted, anti-romantic, ‘tough’ school of high modernism, one which directly challenged the historical context within which paintings had been made, collected and discussed for centuries. Internationally exhibited and collected, Ferguson’s work won him the 1995 Molson Prize for distinguished contribution to Canadian culture.
This book celebrates the life and work of acclaimed New Brunswick photographer Thaddeus Holownia, former head of Fine Arts and professor emeritus at Mount Allison University, and recipient of the Lieutenant-Governor’s Award for High Achievement in the Arts. As well as providing a biographical overview, Peter Sanger’s lyrical survey contextualizes Holownia’s extensive body of work, revealing how his photographs “construct, refine, vary, sustain, and share patterns of spatial structure, imagery, and thematic implication in a continuous present which is the true tense of Holownia’s art.”


In August 1833, American artist and adventurer John James Audubon came ashore near Pictou, Nova Scotia, on his way home from three months exploring the Labrador coast—part of the ongoing research for his famous multivolume work, The Birds of America. Audubon spent eight days touring the province, visiting with local people (like the naturalist Thomas McCulloch) and collecting specimens, recording a wide range of observations in his journal. These journal entries provide context to one of Audubon’s important scientific relationships, as well as insights into life and travel in colonial Nova Scotia. The text is introduced and extensively annotated by Eric L. Mills, with original illustrations by Wesley Bates.

Eric L. Mills is Professor Emeritus of History of Science in the Department of Oceanography at Dalhousie University, and Inglis Professor at University of King’s College, both in Halifax. Mills lives in Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia, where he is an avid birder.
ANDREW STEEVES

Sixty over Twenty:
Letterpress Books & Broadsides
Printed at Gaspereau Press,
1997–2017

While immersed in the work of editing and publishing trade books at Gaspereau Press, Andrew Steeves has also produced an eclectic array of letterpress-printed, limited-edition books and broadsides. In this book he revisits sixty of these projects, chronicling the influence that using traditional book-arts tools has had on his thinking about culture, design and manufacturing. His frank commentary explores the wider implications of practising handwork in the digital age, exploring the relationship between art, craft and community.

ANDREW STEEVES is a writer, editor, typographer, letterpress printer and literary publisher, and one of the co-founders (with Gary Dunfield) of Gaspereau Press. He has won over 50 citations for excellence in Canadian book design from the Alcuin Society. His essay collection Smoke Proofs: Essays on Literary Publishing, Printing and Typography appeared in 2014.

KRISTINE TORTORA

Carl Dair and the Cartier Typeface:
Selected Correspondence

This collection assembles all of the known correspondence of Canadian typographer and type designer Carl Dair (1912–67) concerning the conception, development and reception of his Cartier typeface. The letters span from Dair’s 1956–57 studies under the punchcutter P.H. Rädisch at the Enschedé typefoundry in Holland, to the voluminous response to the release of the First Proof of Cartier in 1966 until his sudden death in 1967, including candid criticisms and detailed critiques from some of the twentieth century’s foremost typographic minds—Sem Hartz, John Dreyfus, Paul Standard, Beatrice Warde, Hermann Zapf and others. Together with annotated transcriptions of all of Dair’s surviving “Epistles to the Torontoians,” this collection gathers lively, thoughtful and timely communications to and from typographers, designers, tradesmen and scholars across Canada and the world. An informative and entertaining resource for enthusiasts of typography and history alike.

KRISTINE TORTORA studied book history and print culture at the University of Toronto, where her research into the Canadian private press movement brought her into contact with the collection at the Robertson Davies Library at Massey College. She works at Trip Print Press, a letterpress printshop, and AmpersandAmpersand. She lives in Hamilton, Ontario.

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