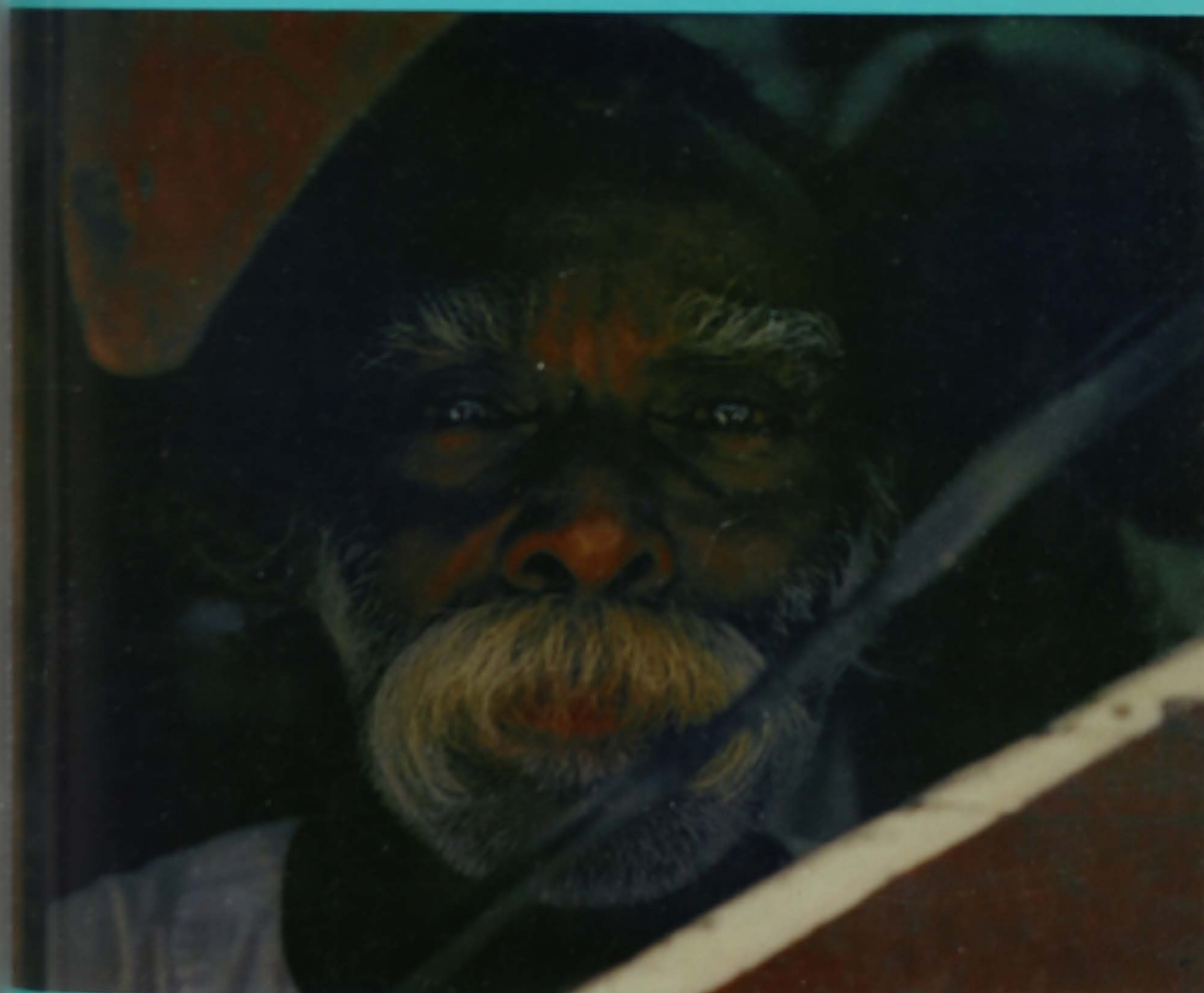


THE MALAHAT



REVIEW

NUMBER
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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THE MALAHAT REVIEW



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Photograph by Michael Ondaatje

THREE POEMS BY FRED WAH

The Poem Called Syntax

We live on the edge of a lake called Echo.
I love this notion that noise makes something,
so the lake holds all noise in its depths
and when the dog barks it gets it from the lake.

About nine thousand feet above these lakes (all lakes)
there is a geometry of sound, something like Plato's cave of noise.
It is from that construct the dog's bark takes shape,
a resounding of an earlier bark conditioned by the alpine.

History and physics. Acoustic paradigms in a bog of algae.
When I tell all my cousins and friends about this
they'll come to live on the shores of this lake and clean it up.
From the balconies of their summer homes they'll ask a lot of
questions.

Maybe My Grandmothers Went North

Here I am on the prairies again listening to a voice
telling me I should be further north. But I'm not
ready. There's no one else with me. The grass has been eaten
by grasshoppers or is all dried up. Every person I have known
in this landscape has moved to another town, but none of them
have gone any further north.

Neither of my grandmothers
learned to drive. I don't know if they ever had mushrooms
to cook with. It was pretty dry here then too. They hardly ever
smiled but when they did they were indoors. Maybe
the earth heaved with ecstasy, maybe not.

The Bird Part of It

Oar sticks in the lake. Moon and stars colourless.
This bird will get to be a part of it, you between.

China makes noise. When my mother read Pearl Buck.
Let's see — Pearl, Yellow, and there's that other one.

Grain of the sun which is the key to your thighs.
Luce meles I mean. Skilled as a rower, a waver.

Not for sport. Sail, sunset, etcetera.
Oarswoman, Tisserande, and the crows.

Stars are like that. Shove it.
Stillness is everywhere tonight. Pierceless rocks.

We say admiringly how the loon oars the water.
Heaven is simple. A river. My horn of.

Stars are genetic. Salt.
After all, those wounds are for her. Thus music, too.

Stone-meal, sin, plenty of it. That's advertising.
My little woman of the night. In Japan, it's true.

Puts or pushes or sticks or shoves his always.
-euse, euse.

Notes on Contributors

LLOYD ABBEY's poems appeared in *Malahat* #62; his poems and stories have been recently published in *The Capilano Review*, *Canadian Literature*, and *Prism international*. He lives in Vancouver.

DOUG BEARDSLEY is the author of four books of poetry. He is currently working on a new volume of poems entitled "A Dancing Star"; his literary essay on Canadian hockey, *Country on Ice*, will be published shortly by Polestar Press. He teaches English at the University of Victoria and Creative Writing at Camosun College; he is a book reviewer for the *Victoria Times-Colonist*.

WILLIAM BEDFORD was born in Grimsby and has taught at Sheffield, The Open, and London Universities, and Middlesex Polytechnic. His stories, poems, and essays have appeared in a number of periodicals, including *Poetry Review*, *Punch*, and *London Magazine*.

DIANA BREBNER studied philosophy at the University of Ottawa. Her poetry has been published in *Fiddlehead*, *Rubicon*, and *Poetry Canada Review*. She lives in Ottawa.

AARON BUSHKOWSKY's poems are from a manuscript called "ed and mabel: lines to another field." He lives in Edmonton and has had two plays produced there, and other work published in *Dandelion*, *CVII*, and *West Coast Review*.

JAMES DEAHL is a native of Pittsburgh who moved to Canada in 1970. He is the author of two books of poetry; the most recent is *No Cold Ash* (Sono Nis, 1984).

JOHN DITSKY's poem collections include *Scar Tissue*, *The Katherine Poems*, and *Friend & Lover* (Ontario Review Press). He teaches at the University of Windsor and is poetry editor of *The University of Windsor Review*.

GAIL HARRIS's first book of poetry, *The blue silk underwear of the incredible Miss Rainwater*, has just been published by Coach House Press. She lives in Victoria where she runs a bed and breakfast establishment.

ELIZABETH HAY, a writer and broadcaster born in Owen Sound, Ontario, and based in Toronto, has had stories published in *The Canadian Forum*, and poetry in *The Capilano Review*.

CYNTHIA HOLZ was born in New York and has lived in Toronto for the past decade. Her short stories have appeared in a number of publications, including *Malahat*, *Grain*, *Room of One's Own*, and *The New Press Anthology* #2. She has recently completed a collection of stories.

SUSAN HYKIN, born in New York City, now lives in Victoria. In 1984 she received the Governor General's medal as the top graduating student at the University of Victoria. Her degree is in psychology.

P. K. IRWIN's drawings and paintings have been shown in numerous galleries in Canada and Mexico and are held in private and public collections, including the National Gallery of Canada. Her most recent books, under the name P. K. Page, are *Evening dance of the grey flies* and *The Glass Air*.

JASCHA KESSLER's most recent story collections are *Classical Illusions* and *Transmigrations*. *The Face of Creation: 26 Poets*, translated from the Hungarian, will be published in 1987. Since 1961 he has been a professor of English & Modern Literature at the University of California in Los Angeles.

DAVID MANICOM's poetry has appeared in numerous Canadian journals. He has degrees from the University of Toronto and McGill, where he is currently writing a dissertation on politics and poetry in contemporary Ireland. He is assistant editor of *Rubicon*.

DAPHNE MARLATT usually lives and writes in Vancouver, though an appointment as writer-in-residence took her to the University of Alberta last year, and a recent reading tour with Betsy Warland took her to Australia and Norway. She is a member of the editorial collective "Tessera" which publishes an annual issue of *Quebecoise* and English-Canadian feminist theory and criticism. Her most recent book of poetry is *Touch to my Tongue* (Longspoon, 1984). "Ana Historic" is a recently completed novel.

WALTER McDONALD's latest book, *The Flying Dutchman*, recently won the University of Cincinnati's 1986 George Elliston Poetry Prize and will be published by Ohio State University Press. He is director of Creative Writing at Texas Tech University.

RENNIE McQUILKIN recently published *North Northeast*. He was educated at Princeton and Columbia Universities and lives in Simsbury, Connecticut.

JANOSZ MEISSNER is a professional photographer living in Victoria.

PETER MILLARD was born in Wales and now teaches English at the University of Saskatchewan. He collects art obsessively. This is his second appearance in *The Malahat Review*.

ROGER NASH's work has appeared in a variety of magazines in Canada, Britain, and the United States. He was awarded first prize in the annual *Prism international* poetry contest for 1985. His second book of poems, *Psalms From the Suburbs*, was published by Quarry Press this year.

JOHN NEWLOVE lives and works in Ottawa. His latest book, *The Night the Dog Smiled*, was published by ECW Press in April.

LESLIE NUTTING is a Toronto poet whose work has appeared in *Quarry*, *Fiddlehead*, *Poetry Canada Review*, and other magazines. In 1983 he edited *The Toronto Collection: an anthology of the new Toronto poets*.

MICHAEL ONDAATJE has written two books of fiction and six books of poems, the most recent of which is *Secular Love*. He lives in Toronto.

OTTO ORBAN was born in Budapest in 1936. He is the author of seven books; his most recent is a book of poems, *Szep nyari nap... (A Lovely Summer Day...)*, published in 1984.

JUDITH POND completed her master's degree in German literature at Queen's University and currently works there in the Art History slide collection. Her work has appeared in *Descant*, *Prairie Fire*, and *Coming Attractions*, Oberon's annual anthology.

JOHN REPP holds an MFA in poetry writing from the University of Pittsburgh. His poems and reviews have appeared in recent numbers of *The Cincinnati Poetry Review*, *Images*, *The Texas Review*, and *The Greenfield Review*.

JOAN FERN SHAW's collection of linked stories, *Raspberry Vinegar* (Oberon, 1985), recently won the Gerald Lampert Award for new fiction. She is fiction editor of *Waves*.

KIRSTI SIMONSUURI's first volume of verse, *Murattikaide / Ivy Balustrade*, won the J. H. Erkkö Prize for the best first book published in Finland in 1980. She has translated into Finnish the work of Virginia Woolf, Sylvia Plath, and Simone Weil, and has spent the last two years in the United States as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar.

JUDITH SKILLMAN lives in Bellevue, Washington, and is vice-president of Northwest Renaissance, a group of poets and publishers. Her work has appeared in numerous American journals and anthologies.

PAT KEENEY SMITH teaches at York University in Toronto. This interview is from a work in progress, a collection to be titled "From Impulse to Art: Interviews with 20 Writers."

HEATHER SPEARS was born in Vancouver and has lived in Denmark since 1962. She has published three books of poetry and one book of poetry and drawings, *Drawings from the Newborn*, 1986. Her drawings of infants have been exhibited in Scandinavia and Canada.

PHILIP ST. CLAIR teaches at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. His most recent book is *Little-Dog-Of-Iron* (Boise State/Ahsahta, 1985).

ROBERT SWARD, freelance writer and author of fourteen books of poems (including *Poet Santa Cruz*, Jazz Press), has taught at University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop and Cornell University. This interview is from a work in progress, a collection to be titled "From Impulse to Art: Interviews with 20 Writers."

SHARON THESEN is currently on leave from teaching at Capilano College, during which time she hopes to finish one book and begin another. Her most recent book is *Confabulations: Poems for Malcolm Lowry* (Oolichan Books).

KEITH VAUGHAN (1912-1977) was a British artist who moved from a neo-romantic mode to a semi-abstractionism based on Matisse, Cezanne, and De Stael. Although he often took still life and landscape as subjects, a late major concern was to integrate the male figure into landscape. Vaughan also contributed to *Penguin New Writing* and was author of *Journals and Drawing 1939-1965* (London: Alan Ross, 1966).

FRED WAH is the author of eleven books of poetry; his most recent is *Waiting For Saskatchewan* (Turnstone, 1985). He teaches at Selkirk College and for the Kootenay School of Writing in Nelson and Vancouver. He is a contributing editor of *Open Letter* and a managing editor of *SwiftCurrent*, an electronic literary magazine available through a database at York University, Toronto.

PHYLLIS WEBB's most recent book of poetry is *Water and Light* (Coach House Press, 1984). *The Vision Tree: Selected Poems* won the 1982 Governor General's Award; a collection of her essays and radio talks, *Talking*, was also published in 1982. She lives on Salt Spring Island, B.C.

DIETER WESLOWSKI was born in Germany and has lived in the U.S. since 1958; he works as a psychiatric orderly. His poems have appeared in numerous American journals.