

NEW WEST COAST

72 contemporary
british columbia poets



Edited by
Fred Candelaria



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NEW: WEST COAST

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NEW WEST COAST

72 contemporary
british columbia poets
new poems with personal commentaries
and autobiographical sketches



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Fred Candelaria



NEW: WEST COAST
edited by
Fred Candelaria
is published simultaneously as
West Coast Review, XII/2 (1977)
and
INTERMEDIA book ISBN 0-88956-065-X

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articles or reviews.

Cover by Alan Gallett
Designed, printed & bound
by
Intermedia Press
Box 3294
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada V6B 3X9

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Main entry under title:

New : West Coast

Published simultaneously as *West Coast review*,
v. 12, no. 2, 1977.
Includes index.
ISBN 0-88956-065-X pa.

1. Canadian poetry (English) — 20th century.*
2. Canadian poetry (English) — British Columbia.*
I. Candelaria, Frederick H., 1929- II. *West Coast review*.
PS8293.N49 C811'.5'408 C77-002243-X
PR9195.7.N49

*This book is dedicated
to the people of British Columbia,
their land, their poets, their poetry.*

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FRED WAH

sounds of o and ree
tryi-, try to make breath
sounds that make (sky)
mine (me) to breathe

(see breath
out in front of you
as a white mist in the cold air

or some school teacher reading us a story
about the arctic and how cold it can get
it was so cold someone's words were frozen in the air
and centuries later when it warmed up
language popped out right in front of them
right out of the air
breath
which makes sound from my body
air which flies out of me
through o and ree
oooooory oooooory
breaking open as spittle would crackle in the frozen air
(crystal

as he leaves her
as he moves
as he leaves for the whalehunt
he blows his breath
into a kelp bubble
shaped like a small balloon
ties it and gives it to her
to hold for him
until he returns
or so that she knows he wont
when it deflates

around her neck
she wears his breath
or over her bedpost at night
his breath

(horizon of ocean swells and tides
something like old sealskin
strip of seaweed necklace
box of cedar
air
to hold for me
til I get back)

ok I get a sense of it now
 breath can reach my toes
 I can take there the thought
 and breath goes with it
 simple exercise mechanics
 image disconnected out
 beyond the foot
 remember **hw hw**
 question and answer remember
 the only bird of poetry
 the night
 Sanskrit "to breathe"
 out only empties the container
 a handful of dead toenails
hw hw

mmmmmmmmm
 hm
 mmmmmmmmm
 hm
 yuhh Yeh Yeh
 thuh moon
 huh wu wu
 nguh nguh nguh
 w——h
 w——h

The name is Chinese from Cantonese grandfather who came out to railroad work. And then English and then Swedish. From 1939 Swiftcurrent, Saskatchewan to Trail and Nelson where I "thickened" to Coast university New Mexico New York and back since 1967 in the mountains now to teach at Selkirk College, build the house with Pauline, Jenefer and Erika, watch it all happening.

* * *

The four poems in this anthology are part of a series of pieces which are thematic cycles. "breath" and "sound" are obvious parts of a paradigmatic thought-rhyme overlapping with "death", "heart", "family", etc. in other pieces. The process is simply one word at a time, one line at a time, one piece, and so on. I find I look for any music therein. "as he leaves her" uses a coast Native story to feel out what might be available to the whole story. "mmmmmm" is sounds of breathings while seeing the moon. From up here in the mountains the poem looks like the signal of a great intensity in language, an unavoidable configuration of thought and sound, still.



New West Coast is the most important book of contemporary B.C. poetry in print. It contains over 250 poems never before published and short autobiographical sketches as well as personal commentaries by the poets themselves. The poets included are:

earle birney paul belserene eric ivan berg carolyn borsman
 george bowering joseph britt fred candelaria david conn
 mike doyle frances duncan brian fawcett gary geddes leona
 gom gwen hauser lionel kearns scott lawrance richard lemm
 dorothy livesay florence mcneil george mcwhirter dorothy
 manning rasunah marsden seymour mayne judi morton rona
 murray c.j. newman morgan nyberg wayne padgett stan
 persky helen potrebenko henry rappaport kevin roberts m.j.
 skapski robin skelton bill standeven d.h. sullivan edwin
 varney george woodcock carolyn zonailo bill bissett sue ann
 alderson stephen bett marilyn bowering michael bullock
 melodie corrigan ida coulter ken fernstrom cathy ford paul
 edmund gotro cam hubert louise hyndes beth jankola charles
 lillard rosalind macphee daphne marlatt gladys mcLeod
 susan musgrave jon paul marguerite pinney jill rouke allan
 safarik ulrich schaffer andreas schroeder roslyn smythe karl
 sturmanis allen sutterfield robert sward jim terral robert
 tyhurst sean virgo fred wah j. michael yates