

CVI

contemporary verse two

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featuring
**POETRY
FROM
THE
KOOTENAYS**

edited by Fred Wah and Mark Mealing



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|------------------------|-------------------|

How to read a map

side
to start from
side
a city
get a vehicle/animal
check out the growth
how does it look
look at the people
get together with them
i.e. put your arms around one of them
any one of them
stretch yourself
loosen
its like old friends
a story sometimes
you tell yourself
then something else happens
now where are you
an intense map of routes
places to find again
or discover
i.e. imagine
through all that
a boy walking up the road toward you
his jacket is the same orange
as the life preserver he is carrying
and then next
not there yet
death
i.e. you noticed it
waits down the road
see
it is a story
everybody's running
someplace
over the hill

over what they imagine to be a hill
not paying attention to the terrain
signs
become questions
grows
across the plan
maybe not a city
look at them
they are not birds
the signs are not other creatures
try this
the signs are projectile
have weight
cause death
just like an arrow
with feathers at one end
and you know what at the other
things all around
the night sky filled with them
we still think they're stars
but they get in the way of the vision
the trace of thought, the line
grows into the side
but a forest
with a big boulder in the middle of it
the middle of the forest
there
proportion gets out of it
dance
gets it together
leaves us in a heat
and the complicated tracks remain
how to get
gahh gahh gahh
gahh gahh gahhhhhh
headless moons
from here to there

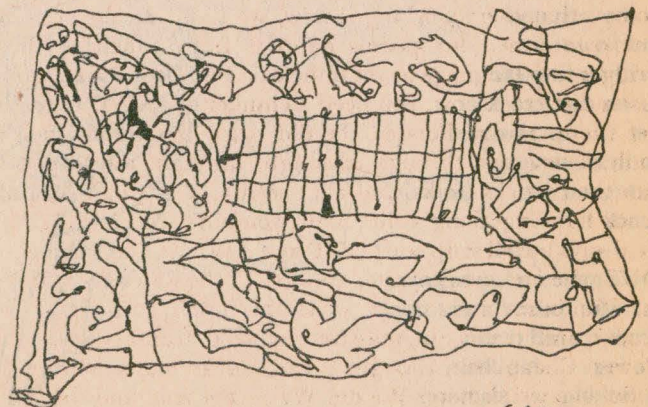
incredibly difficult shapes
even languages
place
the place
the land jive
the land
on the other side of the water
the soft, the hard
the softest hard
and more directions
story
from here to there, line
from
gets nowhere
past death
journeying
and the returns
he called it
cute
the boomerang
i.e. the truth
path flows through a crowded corn-field
near Albuquerque
near Toronto
near Iraklion
south of here there are ripe tomatoes
nothing is solved
the side
is

— Fred Wah

Song

When Mother goes to Glory
Baby goes to bed
We put the roof on when the rain starts to fall

— Rishia McDowell / 4



Douglas and MacIntyre

Dear Mr. Foster:

Your letter requesting information on our forthcoming poetry books arrived safely (which in itself is a miracle with our Post Office). I can elaborate on forthcoming books although I am going to refrain from saying anything about hopes and fears. We are planning two new titles this Fall — **MONKEYS' WEDDING** from Jeni Couzyn and **MYSELF IN THE RAIN** from Tom Howe — and draft catalogue copy is attached. In fact, **MONKEYS' WEDDING** is a re-issue being done jointly by ourselves and Heinemann in the U.K. but it is the first time the book will have had significant distribution in Canada. Jeni is returning to Canada this Fall and we are expecting to arrange a national reading tour. Tom Howe is a young Vancouver poet whose work first appeared in Al Purdy's **STORM WARNING II**.

Cheers,
Scott McIntyre

Caitlin Press

Dear Robert Foster, CVII:

Thanks for your letter, sorry this is late, but have just returned from the east. The top portion of this should indicate to you what we've been working on at the moment, and we've sent review copies of these books. As for our future plans — we are not yet committed to any specific titles, except for a chapbook called **TWO ISLAND POETS**, work by young Vancouver Island poets Andy Mathisen & Tim Merrill. So far Caitlin has been a local press, though our philosophy is not necessarily regional; myself, Cathy Ford & Ingrid Klassen are the editors, but work has been contributed by others as well. We have no set ideological, nor specifically 'feminist' bias, though we happen to be a group of women. We're interested in publishing limited edition poetry 'chapbooks', focusing on the quality of the

writing & the production, while at the same time working from the premise that poetry books should be reasonably priced & bring fresh, new work to attention.

yours for Caitlin Press,
Carolyn Zonailo

BC Monthly

BC MONTHLY/Box48884/
Vancouver BC V7X 1A8
subscriptions: \$15 for 5 issues.

BC MONTHLY comes out half a dozen (metric) times a year, in editions of from 250 to 600 copies. At least one issue a year is a magazine containing, almost, a selection of poetry, fiction, essays, reviews, letters, graphics, etc. from up to 30 contributors — the next magazine includes work by Colin Brown, Jorj Heyman, Lionel Kearns, Cathy Ford, Don Austin, Victor Coleman, John Tutlis, Rick Simon, among others. The other issues are small books by such writers as Penny Kemp, Brad Robinson, bp Nichol, Gerry Gilbert, Daphne Marlatt, David Cull, Roy Kiyooka, Rhoda Rosenfeld. BC MONTHLY hasn't accepted government money since 1971, so it probably has the smallest debt of any Canadian literary press. The editorial policy is nobody's business but the readers' writers' & artists' involved — but here's a clue: a month is a measure of space, not time.

Talonbooks

Dear Robert;

Re: your March 29th request for copy for your issue of CV - II.

TALONBOOKS is pleased to announce a new pocketbook series of selected Canadian poets for the fall of 1979. This series will be introduced with the following six volumes: **bill bissett, SELECTED POEMS**, Warren Tallman, ed.; **GEORGE BOWERING, SELECTED POEMS**, Robin Blaser, ed.; **FRANK DAVEY, SELECTED POEMS**, Michael Andre, ed.; **DAPHNE MARLATT, SELECTED POEMS**, Fred Wah, ed.;

bp Nichol, SELECTED POEMS, Jack David, ed.; and **FRED WAH, SELECTED POEMS**, George Bowering, ed. TALONBOOKS has, over the years since 1967, published first editions of the work of all of these writers, as have other Canadian and American literary houses. Despite the fact that all of these poets have been quite prolific over the last two decades, their work remains largely inaccessible, primarily because most of these first editions, (the publication of which was largely supported in first edition form) are now out of print. The twin factors of rising publication costs (over 200% since 1973) and the lack of available subsidy for reprints has virtually guaranteed that the work of these authors will stay out of print unless some alternate method of presentation and marketing of this material is found. We believe we have found such a method with this new **SELECTED POEMS** series. All of the volumes in this series will appear in a relatively inexpensive mass-market paperback format, and contain about 100 pages of the poets' work along with an introduction of about 18 pages (128 pages overall). The intent of the series is to introduce the general reader to a significant body of work by important writers of their time, writers whom they may have overlooked over the years because of the publication and distribution contingencies outlined above. The introductions are specifically targeted at the undergraduate university and college student, and are intended to give the student a good overview of a representative selection of the authors' best work to date. Most of the volumes will contain **some** previously unpublished material, as one would expect in a collection of work from writers actively committed to the further development of their craft. Two to four additional volumes will be added to the series annually.

Further developments from the poetry editor's desk at TALONBOOKS include the publication of Fred Wah's **BREATHIN' MY NAME WITH A SIGH**, also scheduled for the fall of 1979.

Hope that's the kind of stuff you are looking for/can use.

Best Regards,
Karl H. Siegler