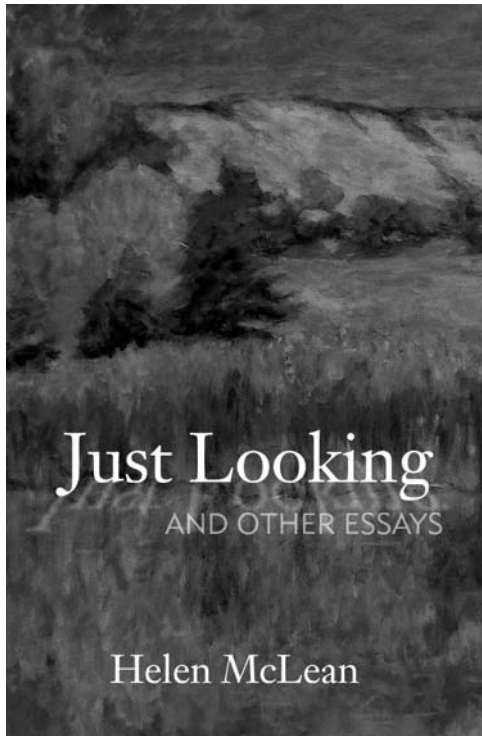




# Seraphim Editions

Spring • **2008** • Catalogue



## Just Looking and Other Essays

Helen McLean

Memoir

0-9808879-2-5 / 978-0-9808879-2-1

\$16.95 Cdn / \$16.95 US, Paper

5.5 x 8.5, 118p.

Includes 10 b&w Drawings

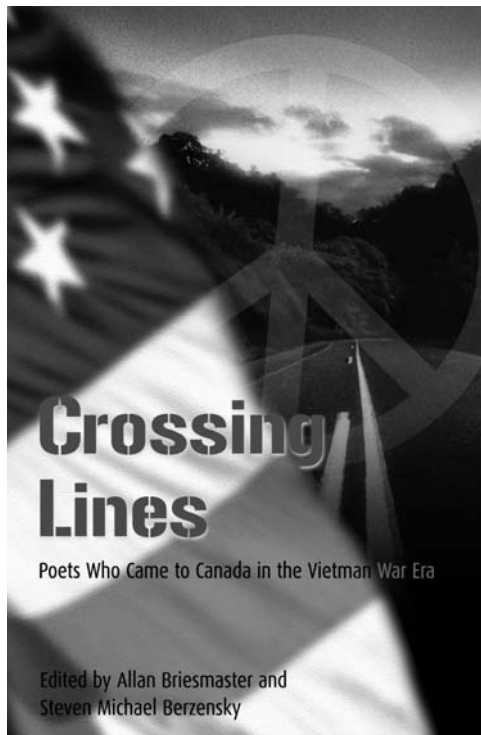
April

Toronto writer Helen McLean meditates on her world with a painter's eye. What at first appear to be simple observations often mask unusual and startling perceptions that prompt the surprised reader to say, "Why, of course!" What compels an artist to paint? What captures her attention and how does she reproduce that initial perception in the studio, days or weeks later? Does an artist record what she sees or what experience has taught her? City-dweller McLean observes an enormous copper beech through many seasons and years; she investigates what lies under the concrete and asphalt of familiar streets; she discusses the non-existent entity we

call the horizon. She inveighs against phoniness in art and the contemporary lack of rigour that Umberto Eco calls an "orgy of tolerance."

**Just Looking** might have been titled "just living." McLean describes her lifelong task of trying to learn Italian; she speaks of "unmet friends," writers who have influenced her life and art. Failing faculties are examined metaphorically: hip-replacement surgery is likened to shoring up the beams of an old house. We are taken step by step through the author's cataract surgery and her overwhelming joy at seeing colours truly again. She urges against sliding into convention and habit in our latter years and warns us to stay alert so we don't waste this precious time sleepwalking.

**Helen McLean** pursues a dual career as painter and writer. Previously published books are *Sketching From Memory*, a memoir, *Of All the Summers*, a novel, and *Details From a Larger Canvas*, a memoir. Her novel *Significant Things* (Dundurn Press) was shortlisted for the 2004 Commonwealth Writer's Prize, Canada and Caribbean division. Her articles, essays and reviews have appeared in *The Globe and Mail*, *The National Post*, *Brick*, *Quill and Quire*, *Books in Canada*, the *Literary Review of Canada*, *Room of One's Own*, and *Ars Medica*. Her paintings have been exhibited across Canada and are in many private and corporate collections including the Bank of Canada, Ottawa. She lives in Toronto.



## **Crossing Lines Poets Who Came to Canada in the Vietnam War Era**

**Edited by Allan Briesmaster and  
Steven Michael Berzensky**

Poetry Anthology  
0-9808879-1-7 / 978-0-9808879-1-4  
\$19.95 Cdn / \$19.95 US, Paper  
6 x 9, 224p.  
April

*Crossing Lines* is the first major anthology of poetry by men and women who grew up in the U.S. and then emigrated to Canada during the Vietnam War era. This book will be released forty years after the most dramatic year of that era, 1968: the year of the Tet Offensive, the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, the Chicago Democratic Convention, and the election of Richard Nixon.

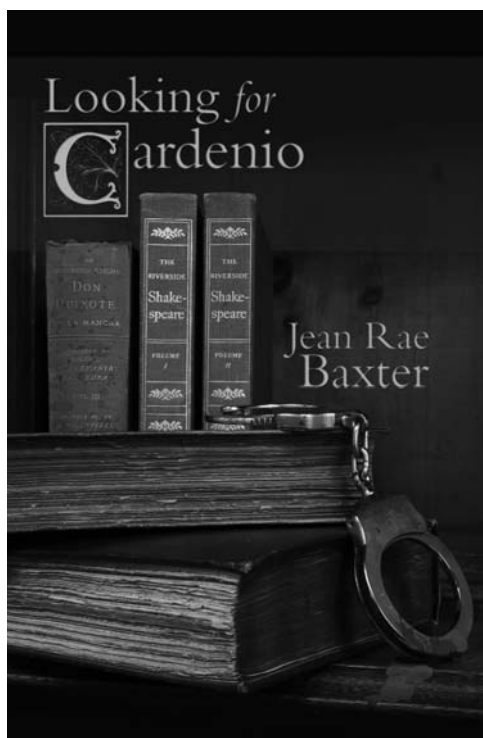
*Crossing Lines* offers surprising insights into the watershed period of the Sixties and Seventies, and

explores provocative themes related to our own time. More than sixty poets are represented here who have made significant contributions to Canadian culture and society. A remarkable number have achieved great literary distinction, and all have written powerful poetic statements for this book. Among the contributors:

Bert Almon, George Amabile, Rosemary Aubert, Edward Baranosky, E.D. Blodgett, Michael Boughn, Kent Bowman, Ronnie Brown, Terry Ann Carter, Sue Chenette, Jim Christy, James Deahl, Pier Giorgio di Cicco, Chris Faiers, George Fetherling, Eric Folsom, Douglas Gary Freeman, Katerina Fretwell, Roger Greenwald, Kim Goldberg, Jeremy Harman, Ernest Hekkanen, Bruce Iserman, Ellen Jaffe, Pat Jasper, Daniel Kolos, Richard Lemm, Alison Lohans, Keith Maillard, Dave Margoshes, Steve McCabe, Susan McCaslin, Wendy Morton, Joe Nickell, Ken Norris, Bud Osborn, Ruth Roach Pierson, Wayne Ray, John Reibetanz, Peter Richardson, Leon Rooke, Libby Scheier, Norm Sibus, Robert Sward, Richard Teleky, J. Michael Yates, Liz Zetlin, and others.

**Allan Briesmaster** was born in Massachusetts and came to Canada in 1969. He is the author of nine poetry collections, most recently *Interstellar* (Quattro Books, 2007). The main organizer of the prestigious Art Bar Poetry Reading Series from 1993 until 2002, he is now one of four authors running the monthly Toronto WordStage. As a freelance editor and publisher he has been instrumental in the production of over 50 books of poetry and non-fiction. He lives in Thornhill, Ontario.

**Steven Michael Berzensky (Mick Burrs)** was born in California in 1940 and moved to Canada in 1965. Among his 35 books and chapbooks are *The Names Leave the Stones: Poems New and Selected* (Coteau, 2001). He has won numerous awards for his poetry, fiction, non-fiction, humour, and drama. While editing *Grain* literary magazine (1988-90), he founded the Annual Short Grain Contest. He has resided in Vancouver, Edmonton, Regina, and Yorkton, Saskatchewan – and now lives in Toronto.



## Looking for Cardenio

Jean Rae Baxter

Mystery

0-9808879-0-9 / 978-0-9808879-0-7

\$18.95 Cdn / \$18.95 US, Paper

5.25 x 8.25, 247p.

April

Shakespeare scholar Deirdre Gunn, her reputation tarnished by an affair with a student, is denied tenure at Melrose University. Her career seems ruined, until a classmate from her student days approaches her with a centuries-old manuscript that may be Shakespeare's lost play, *Cardenio*. If genuine, the manuscript is priceless. Here is Deirdre's chance to redeem her reputation and return with glory to the academic world.

Despite her suspicions, the temptation proves irresistible, but murder turns her plans upside down. Now a "person of interest" to the police, Deirdre sets out to find the real killer. As she soon discovers, possession of the manuscript puts her own life in danger. Deirdre finds herself in a tangle of personal relationships, plus a mystery that reaches back to

Shakespeare's time. While unravelling the mystery of the manuscript, she also comes face to face with an unresolved issue of her own past.

After a career in education, **Jean Rae Baxter** turned to full-time writing several years ago. Although her original intention was to write for young adults, she soon discovered a special affinity for noir. Her ironic stories have been published in various literary journals and anthologies and have won numerous awards. In her debut collection, *A Twist of Malice*, Baxter explored the dark side of seemingly everyday lives, earning considerable critical acclaim. In 2007 Ronsdale Press published her young-adult historical novel, *The Way Lies North*. With *Looking for Cardenio*, a literary murder mystery set in a quiet Canadian university town, she has turned to the dark side once again.



## *A Twist of Malice*

Short Stories

0-9734588-4-4 / 978-0-9734588-4-8

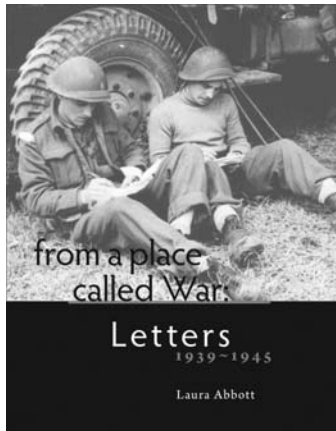
\$19.95 Cdn / \$17.95 US, Paper

5 x 7.5, 248p.

*There's always a place in crime fiction for short-story authors with kinky sensibilities. After all, Sherlock Holmes was no straight shooter, and Cornell Woolrich was positively weird. So Jean Rae Baxter is in good company with this collection of tales about the odd, the bent and the murderous, told in a light ironic style that's perfect for short fiction. All of the stories in A Twist of Malice are skillfully composed. This is a great late-night book when you just want to read yourself into another, nastier, world.*

– The Globe & Mail

*Baxter has the storyteller's knack of gripping the reader throughout, and she brings her characters to life in economical strokes.* – Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine



**From a Place Called War: Letters 1939–1945**

**Laura Abbott**

History  
 0-9735487-6-2 / 978-0-9735487-6-1  
 \$26.95 Cdn / \$26.95 US, Paper  
 7 x 9, 304p.  
 Includes 55 b&w Photographs  
 April

Documentary researcher Laura Abbott has assembled this extraordinary collection from thousands of letters and diaries found in archives and libraries in North America and Europe and from attics, shoeboxes, and closets. **From a Place Called War: Letters 1939-1945** tells the story of the Second World War in the words of combatants, eyewitnesses, and loved ones on the home front from over a dozen different nationalities and presents an all-encompassing view of a truly “world war.”

Dear Father Dalton,

Jack and George over there with you are good boys, and Bert, well I was grieved and also proud and honoured. I had a son that the Lord thought was worthy enough to die for his King and country.

When the Almighty loaned me my sons I knew when he wanted them, he would call them home. I do not feel that my son is gone from me. I feel that he is right here with me, as I write this letter, and he has just gone to prepare a place for all of us. I was fortunate that God loaned him to me for 21 years.

Father please talk to Jack and George, and try and make them not think of revenge. God knows best.

Thanks for your kindness and prayers.

Helena Leopold

*This was penned in response to a letter of condolence from RC Chaplain Mike Dalton to the Leopold family of Windsor, Ontario. Herbert (Bert) A. Leopold, was a pilot with the RCAF and was killed in the Battle of Britain. Nine months later, tragedy was to strike the Leopold family again with the death of their son George Henry, 27, at the battle of Dieppe.*

*When Beryl Myatt's mother wrote this letter, she was unaware her child had perished 600 miles out to sea. The SS City of Benares was torpedoed by a German U-boat at 2200 hours (10pm) on September 17, 1940. Two hundred and fifty-eight died, including seventy-seven children. The Overseas Evacuation Scheme, which sent over a thousand children to safety in Canada, was discontinued.*

21st September 1940

Our dearest Beryl,

We expect that you enjoyed your voyage on the boat across the wide Atlantic Ocean, and your long journey on the train to Winnipeg. We don't suppose you saw any icebergs during your voyage across, as it would hardly be quite cold enough at this time of year. How would you like to be a nurse on a big Ocean Liner when you grow up, Dear?

Now, sweetheart, don't forget what we told you. We want you to let auntie and uncle see that you can be a great help to them about the house by helping to the best of your ability, such as running errands, & helping auntie with her housework and her baking, and above all dear, keep your bedroom tidy and always hang your clothes up in their right place, and this will show Auntie and Uncle that you really appreciate the opportunity they have given you to have a grand holiday in one of the most interesting countries in the world – CANADA – the home of the Maple Leaf. — You haven't forgotten “The Maple Leaf for Canada, the Rose for England, the Leek for Wales, the Thistle for Scotland, and the Shamrock for Ireland” ....

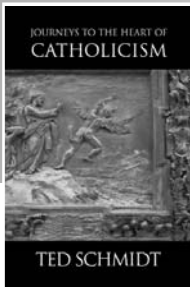
Well Dear, please give our Love to auntie and uncle, & when you write you must tell us all about what you are doing.

Everybody at home sends their Love. Must close now with Tons of Love and heaps of Kisses. God Bless you.

Mummy and Daddy

XXXX

## Recently Released



### Journeys to the Heart of Catholicism

Ted Schmidt

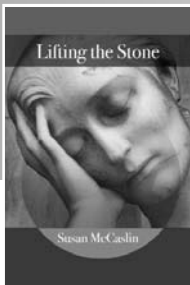
Religion

0-9735487-9-7 / 978-0-9735487-9-2

\$19.95 Cdn / \$18.95 US, 246p.

*Ted Schmidt, to use a term of German political theologian Johannes Metz, has a “dangerous memory.” He remembers well the Catholic Church’s social teachings on justice, human rights, and the common good, and recalls a time when such ideas had greater institutional favour. He offers a forceful, and at times, unvarnished critical reflection which strives to not only “comfort the afflicted, but afflict the comfortable.”*

– Stephen B. Scharper, former editor at Orbis Books and editorial director of Novalis Publishing, Associate Professor, the Centre for Environment, University of Toronto



### Lifting the Stone

Susan McCaslin

Poetry

0-9735487-8-9 / 978-0-9735487-8-5

\$16.95 Cdn / \$15.95 US, 86p.

*With an equal measure of grace and grit, she sings from the still centre of being human and conscious on a glorious, defiled, everyday earth of love and pollution, dogs, moths and God.*

– John Terpstra



### The Cabbage of Paradise: The Merzbook and Other Poems

Colin Morton

Poetry

0-9735487-7-0 / 978-0-9735487-7-8

\$16.95 Cdn / \$15.95 US, 96p.

*Colin Morton ... has achieved the best balance between the varying demands of the documentary form: between objective fact and subjective interpretation, between documentation and lyricism, between his persona and himself ... The Merzbook strikes me as a quite major addition to the genre.*

– Stephen Scobie, *Malahat Review*



### Surviving the Censor

— The Unspoken Words of Osip Mandelstam

Rafi Aaron

Poetry

0-9734588-7-9 / 978-0-9734588-7-9

\$16.95 Cdn / \$14.95 US, 88p.

John Barton, the editor of the *Malahat Review*, noted that Rafi Aaron's prose poems “are powerful, evocatively imagined works, rich in detail and intellectual resonance.” They are filled with lyricism and leaping imagery that goes beyond the facts to convey the dark spirit of the times and illuminate those areas where little or no information exists.

Winner of the 2007 Canadian Jewish Book Award for Poetry.

**Poetry**

The Afterlife	Robert Boates	0-9699639-4-7 / 9780969963943	\$10.00
The Angel Notebook	Luciano Iacobelli	0-9735487-5-4 / 9780973548754	\$16.95
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A Twist of Malice	Jean Rae Baxter	0-9734588-4-4 / 9780973458848	\$19.95

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**For Children**

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