

**NEW**

**STAR**

**BOOKS**

**19/1**

**Fall 2019 /  
Winter 2020**

**New Titles  
& Recent  
Highlights**



# Shot Rock

**Michael Tregobov**

**Fiction**

**256 pp**

**Trade paperback :: 5.5" x 8.5"**

**ISBN 978-1-55420-153-2**

**\$22 CAD / \$20 USD**

Publication date :: September 26, 2019

Winnipeg, Toronto book launches

Author tour

Advanced review copy mailing to national, key regional media

Advertising in *Prairie Books Now*, *BC Bookworld*.

When the smell of October's raked leaves gives way to that of morning frost, a mature Winnipeg man's fancy turns to thoughts of curling.

But this fall Blackie Timmerman has been hogging stones off the ice. His wife of twenty years Deirdre has left him; his precocious son Tino has moved out of the house and into political radicality, mentored by a relentlessly principled Michael MacGilligary, scion of the Winnipeg establishment. The two share a devotion to curling and revolutionary socialism, as well as a friendship whose closeness and secretiveness alarm Blackie on every level.

And now, his north-end Jewish curling rink, the Queen Victoria, Winnipeg's friendliest club, and most dilapidated, is going to be sold and the club disbanded come spring — if the Executive, led by Max Foxman and his clique of *nouveaux riches*, get their way.

It's class war on and off the rink, where all is fair, even Duddy's attempt to seduce Max Foxman's wife Sophie, the girl Max Foxman had stolen from Blackie while our hero was part of the Canadian army invading Sicily in WWII. When not distracted by the nostalgia of lost love and gallantry, Blackie believes that curling finesse and canvassing can swing enough club members to vote down Max Foxman, so that for once the North End guys will sit shot rock.



**Michael Tregebov** was born in 1954 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He graduated from the University of Manitoba with a BA in English. His first book of poems, *Changehouse*, was published by Turnstone Press in Winnipeg in 1976. That same year he began an MFA in Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia. He received his MFA in Creative Writing in spring 1978, immediately after which he moved to Barcelona, where he has made his home ever since.

A teacher of translation, now retired, Tregebov has translated and dubbed Spanish travel programs and industrial American TV shows, including a hundred episodes of *Star Trek* (both generations) and *The Equalizer* into Catalan and Spanish, a million-plus words in corporate, tax and labour law and another million in chartered accountancy, as well as a book of essays (*Escribir y ser*) by Nadine Gordimer, and translations in areas stretching from art history to perfume.

In 2009, his novel *The Briss* was short-listed for the Commonwealth Writers Prize (first novel category) and optioned for film. *The Briss* was followed by *The Shiva* in 2012. In 2015 Penguin Random House Lumen published his translation of, and prologue to, William Carlos Williams's *Kora in Hell* in their best-selling William Carlos Williams Poesía Reunida, chosen by *El País* as one of the best books released in Spain and Latin America in 2015. *Shot Rock* is his third novel. Michael Tregebov lives with Virginia, his wife of 39 years, in El Masnou, a Catalan coastal town just north of Barcelona.

ROGER FARR

*I Am a City Still  
But Soon I  
Shan't Be*



# I Am a City Still But Soon I Shan't Be

**Roger Farr**

Poetry :: Literature

80 pp

Trade paperback :: 5.5" x 8.5"

ISBN 978-1-55420-152-5

\$18 CAD :: \$16 USD

Publication date :: July 4, 2019

- Book launches in Vancouver, Nanaimo, and Gabriola
- Targeted review copy distribution
- Advertising in *BC Bookworld*, *Brick*
- Author tour

*Hailed by the Call as I stepped across  
Venables at Clark following a transverse line  
like all the other commodities circulating aimlessly  
I drifted along corrugated steel walls  
sun burning every body every building every form  
cash exploding from crowns of distant towers  
occupied by the rentiers in this haemopolis of  
arteries and conduits branching out centrifugally.*

At some point in the last decade, the “unreal cities” of Modernity became post-Real. Roger Farr’s *I Am a City Still But Soon I Shan’t Be* metabolizes the modernist long poem in order to provide a psychogeographical I-witness account of this transformation. In nine Cantos, or spheres of hell, Farr moves impossibly between major and minor cities, crossing and re-crossing zones, edging boundaries, charting dreamscapes, always drifting, without ever becoming a flâneur.

**Roger Farr** is the author of *Surplus* (2006), *Means* (2012), and *IKMQ* (2012), a finalist for the Dorothy Livesay Prize for Poetry in 2013. He lives on Gabriola Island, BC.

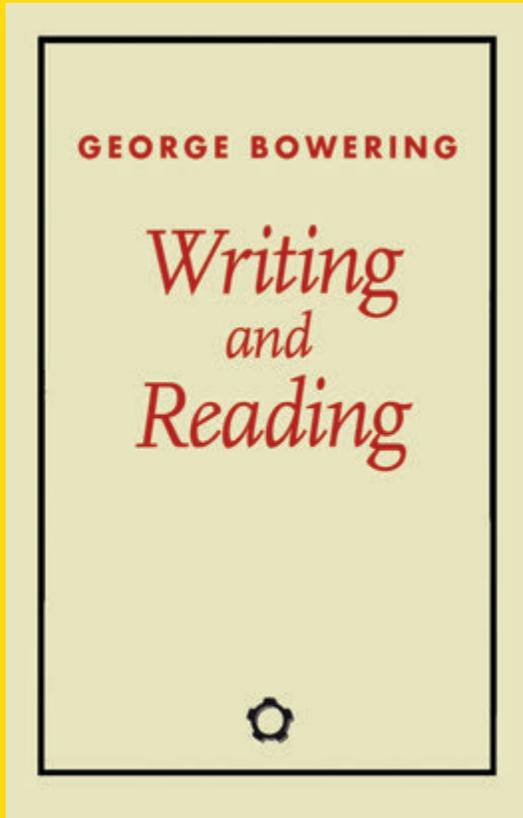
*“[IKMQ] should be handed out to poets who are considering reading or mentioning Wittgenstein as a kind of contraceptive device — because whether Farr intended this or not (and I’d be interested to know, one way or the other), his poems do what Wittgenstein never quite managed: they look at things independently of us.”*

— Warren Dean Fulton, *Lemon Hound*

*“Farr’s I is particularly complex, his name blurring the line between the conceptual and the expressive, the character I and the poet’s I/eye.”*

— Melissa Dagleish, *Canadian Literature*





# Writing and Reading

**Essays**

**George Bowering**

Essays :: Criticism

144 pp

Trade paperback :: 5.5" x 8.5"

ISBN 978-1-55420-154-9

\$18 CAD / \$16 USD

Publication date :: September 26, 2019

- Vancouver book launch
- Advertising in *BC Bookworld*, *The Capilano Review*, *Subterrain*, *Geist*
- Targeted review copy distribution

In the course of a writing life that has spanned more than five decades and encompasses almost eighty books of fiction, poetry, history, and criticism he's written and another thirty that he's played an editorial role in, George Bowering has learned a thing or two about the craft.

*Writing and Reading* features thirty recent essays, ranging from a single paragraph to 12,000 words, spanning the range of the author's curiosity, which includes collecting, difficulty, film, painting, photography, music, and Vancouver's poets from Apollinaire and Blaise Cendrars to the present day. Bowering writes perceptively about his encounters with texts, and writers, including David Bromige, Judith Fitzgerald, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Robert Kroetsch, Michael Ondaatje, Joe Rosenblatt, and every book he read in 1967, Canada's centennial year.

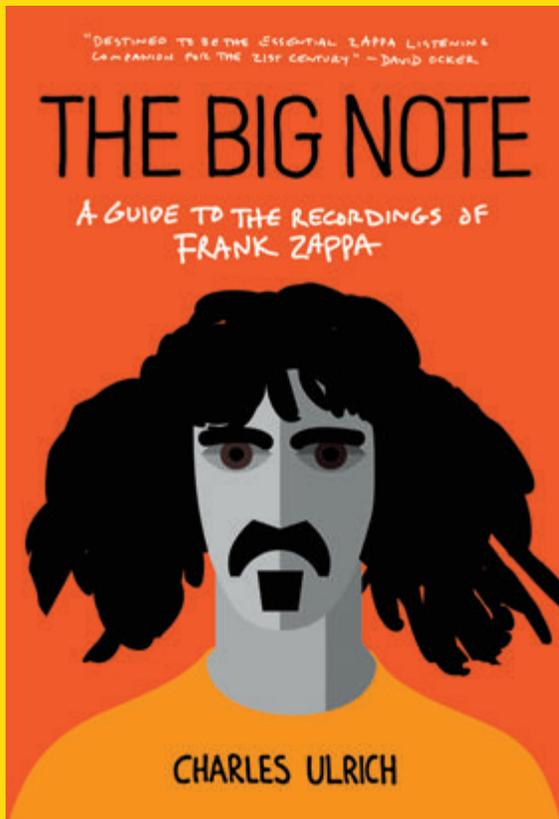
Running through *Writing and Reading* is the theme of reading — and paying attention — and its centrality to any writing practice.

Born in 1935 and raised in the southern Okanagan town of Oliver, BC, **George Bowering** has won the Governor-General's Award for both Poetry (in 1969, for *Rocky Mountain Foot*) and Fiction (in 1980, for *Burning Water*).

George Bowering was Canada's first Parliamentary Poet-Laureate, and is a member of the Order of Canada as well as the Order of British Columbia. His most recent books include *No One* (fiction, 2018), *Ten Women* (short stories, 2015), *The World, I Guess* (poetry, 2015), and, with George Stanley, *Some End / West Broadway* (poetry, 2018).



PHOTO: MARK MUSHET



# The Big Note

**A Guide to the Recordings of  
Frank Zappa**

**Charles Ulrich**

Music

800 pp

Trade paperback :: 6.75" x 9.75"

ISBN 978-1-55420-146-4

\$45 CAD / \$39 USD

Published May 8, 2018

The product of more than fifteen years of research by Charles Ulrich, *The Big Note* is the complete guide to the music of Frank Zappa.

Based on careful listening to authorized and unauthorized recordings, and drawing on hundreds of interviews with Frank Zappa and numerous musicians who worked with him, *The Big Note* provides detailed commentary on 1,663 tracks spanning 100 albums recorded over 35 years, backed up by 1,773 citations.

*“Wow. This is it. This is the big one.<sup>1</sup> A fantastic achievement.<sup>1</sup> Fantastic. I’ve been a Zappa listener/scholar for 30+ years, and I’m learning new things.<sup>2</sup> Just unbelievable!<sup>1</sup> Unbelievably phenomenally excellent!!!<sup>3</sup> The final say in the matter of Frank Zappa’s music.<sup>4</sup> Indispensible.<sup>5</sup> Unparalleled.<sup>5</sup> Simply amazing. This book is a must buy for any Zappa fan.<sup>2</sup> Essential.<sup>5</sup> Big, beautiful and smells great.<sup>2</sup> I find it enhances my listening experience and comprehension.<sup>3</sup> It is a monster.<sup>1</sup> You will learn more about Zappa and his music from this book than from anything else ever written.<sup>2</sup> Extraordinary ... not only for Zappa fans. Musicians of all genres will benefit from his approach to creating complex arrangements with uncommon devices and instruments.<sup>6</sup> A must-have!<sup>1</sup> An absolute must-own.<sup>3</sup> Will thrill dedicated musicians and musicologists alike.<sup>7</sup> Worth every dollar.<sup>1</sup> You need this book!<sup>5</sup> Seems mandatory to me.<sup>1</sup> Charles Ulrich has done a great service to Zappa fans everywhere.<sup>5</sup> Damn, is all I can say.<sup>1</sup> I simply have no words!<sup>1</sup> Words fail me.<sup>1”</sup>*

1. Zappateers.com forums
2. Steve Hoffman Music Forums
3. Zappa.com forums
4. John Corcelli, Critics at Large
5. Amazon customer reviews
6. *BC Bookworld*
7. *Georgia Straight*

**Charles Ulrich** (BA, Pomona College; PhD, UCLA) taught linguistics at ten universities in the United States and Canada. Since 1994 he has been active in the on-line Zappa fan community — on alt.fan.frank-zappa, zappateers.com, and his own website, The Planet Of My Dreams. He lives in Vancouver, BC.



## Collapsible

### Tim Conley

Fiction  
180 pp  
Trade paperback :: 5" x 8"  
ISBN 978-1-55420-151-8  
\$18 CAD / \$16 USD  
Published February 28, 2019

The short story form is unambiguously un-dead in this new album of thirty fictions from writer Tim Conley, coming at the reader in a variety of shapes and guises running the gamut from elliptical micro-fictions to tales of the inexplicable.

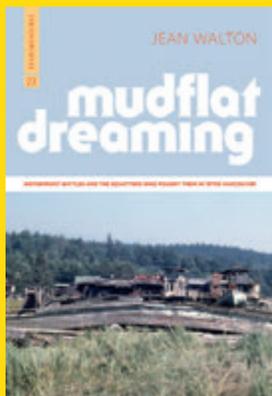
*"Outstanding ... Conley's combinations of surreal plot developments and silly comedy alongside often sincere, even sentimental character moments has drawn comparisons to Franz Kafka and Italo Calvino, but a better comparison might be the rarely read but stunningly brilliant Robert Walser, whose microfictions remain some of the greatest in history. At his best, Conley recalls Walser's strange, quiet, near-mystical and somewhat mystifying moments. ... electric and exciting, dense but breezy, and exceptionally well-crafted."*

— Jonathan Ball, *Winnipeg Free Press*

*"Conley marshals a succession of anti-realist tactics to examine the nature of human consciousness and its fragility in a world of shifting signifiers and unstable referents. ... Though there is a political undercurrent at work here, Conley's stories are never so determined as to suggest a rigid or incontestable meaning; the title of the collection can refer to the form and function of the short story itself, which the author delights in stretching, reducing, altering, or contorting in pursuit of idiosyncratic modes of expression."*

— Steven W. Beattie, *Quill & Quire*

**Tim Conley** is the author of several collections of short fiction, including *Unless Acted Upon* (Mansfield Press, 2019) and *Dance Moves of the Near Future* (New Star, 2015), as well as poetry and criticism, including *Useless Joyce: Textual Functions, Cultural Appropriations* (University of Toronto Press, 2017). He teaches modernist and contemporary literature at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario.



## **Mudflat Dreaming** **Waterfront Battles and the Squatters** **Who Fought Them in 1970s Vancouver**

**Jean Walton**

Transmontanus 23

History :: Cultural studies

204 pp

Trade paperback :: 6.75" x 9.75"

ISBN 978-155420-149-5

\$24 CAD / \$20 USD

Published October 4, 2018

*Mudflat Dreaming* tells the story of two communities on Vancouver's waterfront fringes in the 1970s — the Maplewood Mudflat squatters' community on the North Shore, and Surrey's embattled Bridgeview neighbourhood.

*'Mudflat Dreaming is a wonderfully evocative account of the varied ways in which an alternative Vancouver was imagined, constructed and lived by its residents in the 1970s. From waterfront squatting to protests over basic amenities, the book recovers a city that has long since disappeared but whose history remains as important as ever. A timely and urgent reminder of what it means to think about and inhabit cities differently.'* — Alexander Vasudevan, author of *The Autonomous City: A History of Urban Squatting*

*'Jean Walton's lively account of two quite different 1970s communities resisting a growing "culture of cement" appears at a time when Vancouver's neighbourhoods are being eaten up by that same cement. Part oral history, part film archive research, Mudflat Dreaming resuscitates the spirit of opposition to uniformity and profit-making at the*

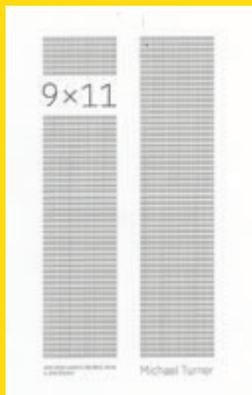
*expense of those who recycle, self-build, and live by water.'*

— Daphne Marlatt

*'Squatters, shackers, beachfront bohemians, whatever you want to call them, they've been a neglected chapter of Vancouver's history for too long. Now Jean Walton has rescued two of these communities from obscurity in her vivid and thoughtful account.'*

— Daniel Francis

**Jean Walton** teaches English and film studies at the University of Rhode Island. She spent her teenage years in North Surrey, where her family operated Wally's Motel.



# 9x11

and other poems like  
Bird, Nine, x, and Eleven

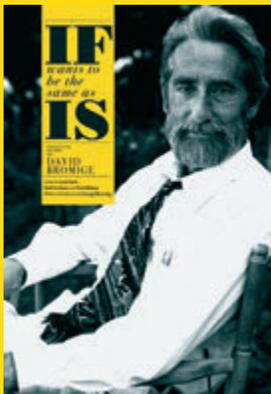
## Michael Turner

Poetry :: Literature  
86 pp  
Trade paperback :: 5.5" x 8.5"  
ISBN 978-1-55420-150-1  
\$18 CAD / \$16 USD  
Published September 11, 2018

How you view 21st century life depends largely on the view from your place, which depends on where you can afford to live. In this suite of texts and poems written over twenty years that span the infamous towers, Michael Turner drops in to see what condition he's in, a subject whipped into insistence by the rhythms that shape his city, his neighbourhood, his universe.

In her *Globe and Mail* review of Turner's "startlingly straightforward and minimalist" *8x10* (2009), Zoe Whittall concludes: "*8x10* is an unsettling and daring work, a tangible symbol of our anxious world and the stark emotional devastation of war. I hope Turner starts a trend in Canadian literature, because Canada needs more writers like him."

*'Reading Michael Turner's extraordinary 9x11 I was reminded of Christa Wolf's Accident, how global crisis intensifies the daily — except that in Turner's / our current state disruption has become the new norm. Disruption both terrifies and excites the poet — the stacked monotony of skyscrapers is broken both by the horror of people leaping out of buildings and by Mallarme's thrilling abandonment of vertical structure in "Un coup de dés jamais n'abolira le hasard" (1897). All the reflections and contemplative rhymes add up to a holographic text that begs repeated reading. "9x11" is a date, a disaster, and the measurements of the poet's room. For Turner architecture is a form of poetic divination, and poetry is a form of architecture. Living in a city, community is inevitable — coffee house / apartment building / poetry peers — and despite his caution, Turner's tense heart proves very big.'* — Dodie Bellamy



# if wants to be the same as is

Essential Poems of David Bromige

Edited by Jack Krick and Bob Perelman

Introduction by George Bowering

Poetry :: Literature

582 pp

Trade paperback :: 6.75" x 9.75"

ISBN 978-1-55420-134-1

\$45 CAD / \$35 USD

Published June 21, 2018

With essays by George Bowering,  
Bob Perelman, and Ron Silliman

David Bromige (1933 – 2009), a Canadian born in London, resident of California after the early 1960s, produced a body of work that evades efforts at categorization. *if wants to be the same as is* presents the essential poetry and poetics of the essential David Bromige for a new generation of his readers.

*'There is no more brilliantly inventive poet writing in the United States at this time...a poet of enormous intellect, humor and innovation who is always shifting out from under the solutions of the last book and posing new questions and linguistic possibilities for a song.'*  
— Kathleen Fraser

*'He is among the three of four most significant writers of his generation...He is an outstanding story-teller, and...at the same time, he is capable of great lyrical moments in which the full resonance of ear and eye are brought to a focus...uncompromising in his commitment to the full complexity of poetry as a language art.'*  
— Michael Davidson

*'Outstanding in this generation out of Canada for me has been the work of David Bromige... He has gained the art and language in which he brings his readers deeper than any consideration of a personality to the awareness of a living man.'* — Robert Duncan



## Sitting Shiva on Minto Avenue, by Toots

Erín Moure

Biography / Memoir :: Literature

160 pp

Trade paperback :: 6" x 9"

ISBN 978-1-55420-141-9

\$21 CAD / \$19 USD

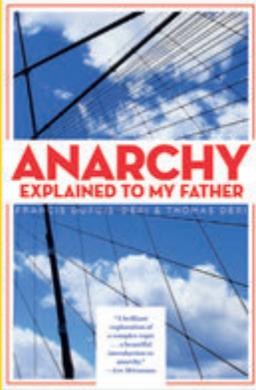
Published October 26, 2017

Finalist for the Mavis Gallant Non-Fiction Prize (Quebec Writers Federation) and the City of Vancouver Book Prize, *Sitting Shiva on Minto Avenue, by Toots* is the story of a man who had no obituary and no funeral and who would have left no trace if it weren't for the woman he'd called Toots, who took everything she remembered of him and — for seven days — wrote it down.

“.. [A] book of sorrow that bears comparison to the great ones, among them Didion's *The Year of Magical Thinking*, *White's Once and Future King* ...” — *The Malahat Review*

Erín Moure, a poet who once lived in Vancouver, begins this “work of the imagination” (“minto,” in Galician, means “I’m lying”) with a quote from Judith Butler about those persons who have “come to belong to the ungrievable,” though there may be some that grieve them.





# Anarchy Explained to My Father

**Francis Dupuis-Déri and Thomas Déri**

Translated by John Gilmore

Political Studies

224 pp

Trade paperback :: 5.5" x 8.5"

ISBN 978-1-55420-137-2

\$20 CAD / \$18 USD

Published November 2, 2017

*Anarchy Explained to My Father* (first published by Lux Éditeur in 2014 as *L'anarchie expliquée à mon père*) is a provocative and accessible discussion of the revolutionary mode of thought that rejects all forms of domination and seeks, in the words of Louise Michel, "order through harmony." Francis Dupuis-Déri, a professor of political science and a radical anarchist, reveals through dialogue with his father the deeply humanistic and peaceful roots of anarchism.

The wide-ranging conversation covers the ideas of classic writers such as Proudhon, Bakunin, and Goldman, as well as contemporary thinkers like Taiaiake Alfred, Patricia Hill Collins, and Randall Amster; the main flavours of anarchism, from anarcho-syndicalism to anarcho-feminism; anarchist views on oppressive systems like the state, capitalism, and patriarchy; the tremendous achievements that anarchist activists have contributed to, such as labour unions and eight-hour work days; and the recent resurgence of anarchism in protest movements and activist groups around the world. *Anarchy Explained to My Father* is a timely initiation to a way of thinking that's more relevant than ever.

*"This book should be read by anyone who wonders what anarchism is, what it can be, and how we work towards it."* — Mark Leier, author of *Bakunin: The Creative Passion* and *Rebel Life*

**Francis Dupuis-Déri** teaches political science at Université du Québec à Montréal and is the author of numerous books and articles about anarchism, including *Who's Afraid of the Black Blocs? Anarchy in Action Around the World* (Between the Lines, 2013). His father Thomas Déri is a former publisher, an editor and translator, co-founder of the Librairie du Québec bookstore in Paris, and former director of the Salon du livre book fair in Montreal.

## Trade Distribution

### Until December 31, 2019:

#### Brunswick Books

brunswickbooks.ca  
20 Maud St., Ste 303  
Toronto, ON M5V 2M5  
tel. 416 703-3598  
fax 416 703-6561  
orders@brunswickbooks.ca

### Effective January 1, 2020:

#### UTP Distribution

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fax 1-800-221-9985  
utpbooks@utpress.utoronto.ca

## Sales Representation

### Until December 31, 2019:

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##### Atlantic, Quebec, Ottawa, Southern Ontario

Cheryl Steel :: cheryl@brunswickbooks.ca

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Kim Goodliffe :: kim@brunswickbooks.ca

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**NEW STAR BOOKS**

The work of New Star and its authors is supported by grants from the Canada Council for the Arts and the BC Arts Council.



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