

Wilfrid Laurier University Press

Life Writing



Series

CMTS Dialogues

The CMTS Dialogues are short, thought-provoking texts that analyze a specific work related to memory and testimony in the contemporary world. These texts, each accompanied by a set of questions addressed to the author by a respondent, seek to engage a community of readers in a virtual debate about salient aspects of our here and now.

Cultural Studies

Cultural Studies is the multi- and interdisciplinary study of culture, defined anthropologically as a “way of life,” performatively as symbolic practice, and ideologically as the collective product of varied media and cultural industries. Wilfrid Laurier University Press invites submissions of manuscripts concerned with critical discussions on power relations concerning gender, class, sexual preference, ethnicity, and other macro and micro sites of political struggle.

Early Canadian Literature

The Early Canadian Literature series returns to print rare texts deserving of restoration to the canon of Canadian works in English. Comprising novels, periodical pieces, memoirs, and creative non-fiction, the series showcases texts by Indigenous peoples and immigrants from a range of ancestral, language, and religious origins. Each volume includes an afterword by a prominent scholar providing new interpretations for all readers.

Series Editor Benjamin Lefebvre

Laurier Poetry

Laurier Poetry brings the excitement of contemporary Canadian poetry to an audience that might not otherwise have access to it. Selected and introduced by a prominent critic, each volume presents a range of poems from across the poet’s career and an afterword by the poet.

Series editors Neil Besner and Brian Henderson

Life Writing

This series includes autobiographical accounts, diaries, letters, and testimonials by (or told by) individuals whose philosophical or political beliefs have driven their lives. Life Writing also includes theoretical investigations in the field.

Series editor Marlene Kadar

Memory and Testimony Studies

As a catalyst for interdisciplinary research and a space of confluence for scholars, artists, and community agencies working in the field of memory representation, this series undertakes comparative explorations in the contested interpretations of remembering and forgetting in relation to traumatic history.

Series editors Marta Marín-Dòmine and Colman Hogan

Wilfrid Laurier University Press is grateful for the support it receives from Wilfrid Laurier University; the Canada Council for the Arts; the Awards to Scholarly Publications Program (with funds provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada); and the Ontario Arts Council. The Press acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund and Livres Canada Books. The Press acknowledges the assistance of the OMDC Book Fund, an initiative of the Ontario Media Development Corporation.



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

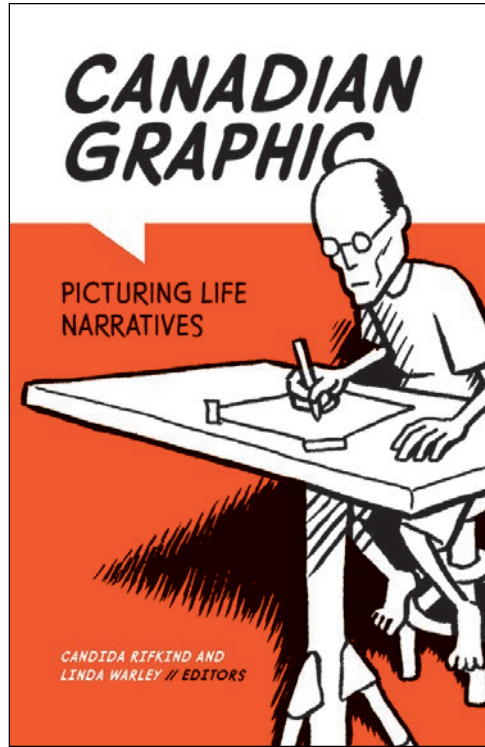
Canadian Graphic Picturing Life Narratives

Candida Rifkind and
Linda Warley, editors

AAUP Book, Jacket, and Journal Show
(Design Excellence)
2017

Winner
ACQL Gabrielle Roy Prize
for Literary Criticism
2016

Print | ebook | 2016
320 pages | 6¼ x 10¼
Life Writing series
978-1-77112-179-8
\$29.99 paper

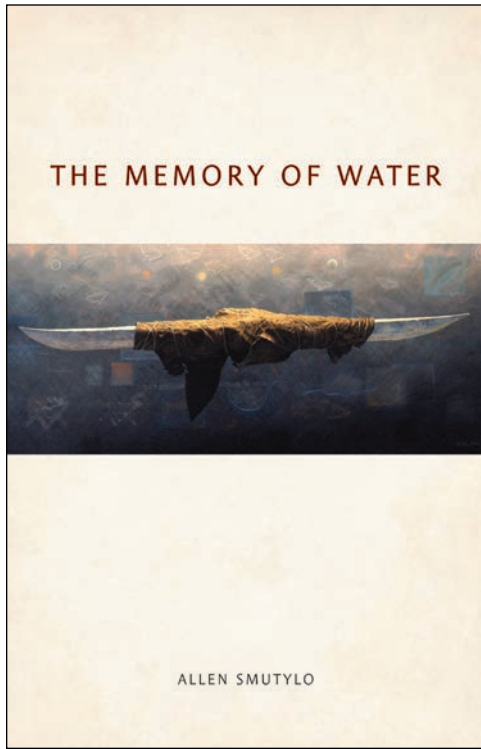


Canadian Graphic: Picturing Life Narratives presents critical essays on contemporary Canadian cartoonists working in graphic life narrative, from confession to memoir to biography. The contributors draw on literary theory, visual studies, and cultural history to show how Canadian cartoonists became prominent in the international market for comic books based on real-life experiences. The essays explore the visual styles and storytelling techniques of Canadian cartoonists, as well as their shared concern with the spectacular vulnerability of the self. *Canadian Graphic* also considers the role of graphic life narratives in reimagining the national past, including Indigenous-settler relations, both world wars, and Quebec's Quiet Revolution.

Contributors use a range of approaches to analyze the political, aesthetic, and narrative tensions in these works between self and other, memory and history, individual and collective. An original contribution to the study of auto/biography, alternative comics, and Canadian print culture, *Canadian Graphic* proposes new ways of reading the intersection of comics and auto/ biography both within and across national boundaries.

Candida Rifkind is an associate professor in the Department of English, University of Winnipeg.

Linda Warley specializes in Canadian life writing, including texts by First Nations and Métis authors.



The Memory of Water

Allen Smutylo

Shortlisted
Governor General's Award
for Non-Fiction 2013

Shortlisted
Edna Staebler Award
for Creative Non-Fiction 2014

Shortlisted
Banff Mountain Book Competition
Adventure/Travel 2013

Print | ebook | 2013

272 pages | 6 x 9

978-1-55458-842-8

hardcover **\$39.99**

Over the last forty years, Canadian adventurer, writer, and artist Allen Smutylo has experienced some of the wildest and most captivating waters imaginable in all corners of the globe. The stories in *The Memory of Water*—all of them accompanied by the author's own stunning artwork—describe his adventures in the Arctic, South Pacific, Great Lakes region, and India.

In the Arctic he is attacked by a polar bear, stalked by a rogue walrus, and nearly drowns in ferocious waters. But his Arctic stories also celebrate human creativity as they recount the life of the pre-Inuit people, who, hunting in a changing environment, endured many hardships and developed new technologies, such as the sea kayak, to cope.

The Memory of Water probes a crucial and contemporary issue—that of our relationship to water and the wildlife and human life that depends upon it. This book will appeal to anyone interested in the natural world, in artistic depictions of it, or in a good story well told.

Allen Smutylo's artwork and writing have been based on extensive travelling to some of the most remote areas in the world, including the Canadian High Arctic, Greenland, Antarctica, Patagonia, the Amazon, the Himalaya, and Rajasthan. The paintings and writings from these experiences have garnered a large following and numerous awards both nationally and internationally.

Kinds of Winter

Four Solo Journeys by
Dogteam in Canada's
Northwest Territories

Dave Olesen

Winner
NorthWords Prize
2015

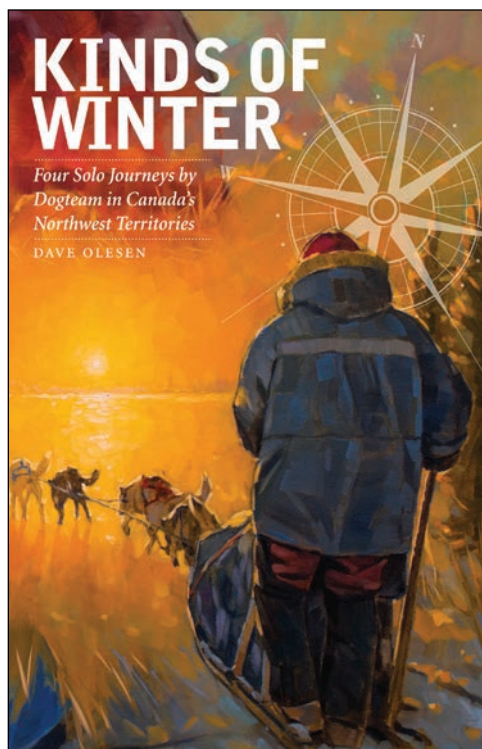
Print | ebook | 2014

268 pages | 6 x 9

Life Writing series

978-1-77112-131-6

\$19.99 paper

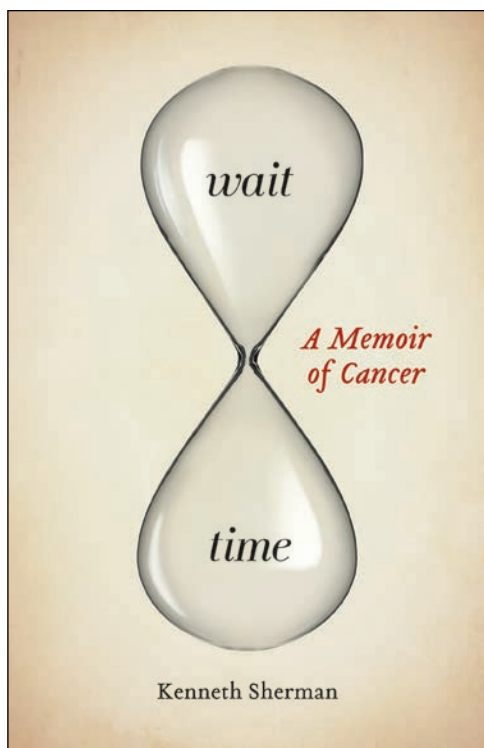


After a fifteen-year career as a sled-dog racer, musher Dave Olesen turned his focus away from competition and set out to fulfill a lifelong dream. Over the course of four successive winters he steered his dogs and sled on long trips away from his remote Northwest Territories homestead, setting out in turn to the four cardinal compass points—south, east, north, and west—and home again to Hoarfrost River. His narrative ranges from the personal and poignant musings of a dogsled driver to loftier planes of introspection and contemplation.

Olesen describes his journeys day by day, but this book is not merely an account of his travels. Neither is it yet another offering in the genre of “wide-eyed southerner meets the Arctic,” because Olesen is a firmly rooted northerner, having lived and travelled in the boreal outback for over thirty years. Olesen’s life story colours his writing: educated immigrant, husband and father, professional dog musher, working bush pilot, and denizen of log cabins far off the grid. He and his dogs feel at home in country lying miles back of beyond.

This book demolishes many of the clichés that imbue writings about bush life, the Far North, and dogsledding. It is a unique blend of armchair adventure, personal memoir, and thoughtful, down-to-earth reflection.

Dave Olesen has a BA in Humanities and Northern Studies. A veteran dog musher, he finished the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race eight times. His 1994 collection *North of Reliance* was republished in a 2016 edition by Raven Productions of Ely Minnesota.



Wait Time A Memoir of Cancer

Kenneth Sherman

Longlisted
RBC Taylor Prize
2017

Print | ebook | 2016
146 pages | 5¼ x 8
Life Writing series
978-1-77112-188-0
paper **\$22.99**

When poet and essayist Kenneth Sherman was diagnosed with cancer, he began keeping a notebook of observations that blossomed into this powerful memoir. With incisive and evocative language, Sherman presents a clear-eyed view of what the cancer patient feels and thinks. His narrative voice is personal but not confessional, practical but not cold, thoughtful and searching but not self-pitying or self-absorbed. The author's wait time for surgery on a malignant tumour was exceptionally long and riddled with bureaucratic bumbling; thus he asks our health-care providers and administrators if our system cannot be made efficient and more humane. While he is honest about what is good and bad in our system, he is not stridently political or given to directing blame. His narrative is interwoven with engaging ruminations on the meaning of illness in society, and is peppered with references to other writers' thoughts on the subject.

A widely published poet, Sherman helps the reader understand the deep connection between disease and creativity—the ways in which we write out of our suffering. *Wait Time* will be of special interest to anyone facing a serious illness as well as to health-care providers, social workers, and psychologists working in the field. Its thoughtful observations on health, life priorities, time, and mortality will make it of interest to all readers.

Kenneth Sherman is the author of ten books of poetry and two collections of essays. His most recent books are the highly acclaimed long poem *Black River* (2007) and the award-winning book of essays *What the Furies Bring* (2009). He lives in Toronto, where he conducts poetry writing workshops.

Bird-Bent Grass

A Memoir, in Pieces

Kathleen Venema

Print | ebook | 2018

300 pages | 5¼ x 8

Life Writing series

978-1-77112-290-0

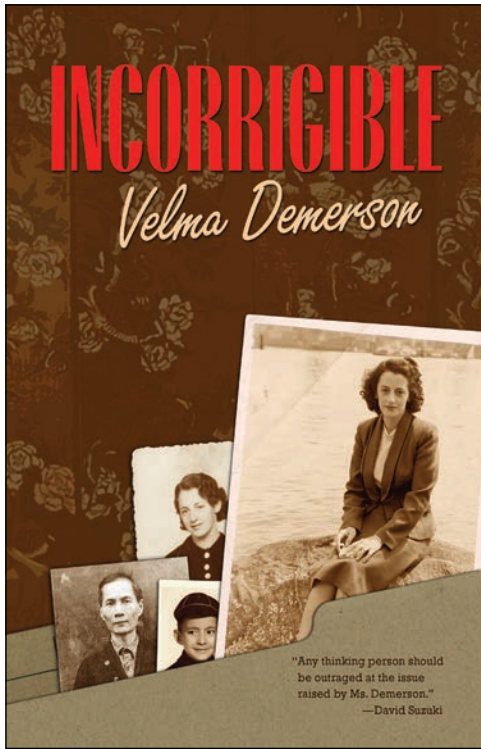
\$24.99 paper



Bird-Bent Grass chronicles an extraordinary mother–daughter relationship that spans distance, time, and, eventually, debilitating illness. Personal, familial, and political narratives unfold through the letters that Geeske Venema-de Jong and her daughter Kathleen exchanged during the late 1980s and through their weekly conversations, which started after Geeske was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease twenty years later.

In 1986, Kathleen accepted a three-year teaching assignment in Uganda, after a devastating civil war, and Geeske promised to be her daughter’s most faithful correspondent. The two women exchanged more than two hundred letters that reflected their lively interest in literature, theology, and politics, and explored ideas about identity, belonging, and home in the context of cross-cultural challenges. Two decades later, with Geeske increasingly beset by Alzheimer’s disease, Kathleen returned to the letters, where she rediscovered the evocative image of a tiny, bright meadow bird perched precariously on a blade of elephant grass. That image – of simultaneous tension, fragility, power, and resilience – sustained her over the years that she used the letters as memory prompts in a larger strategy to keep her intellectually gifted mother alive.

Kathleen Venema spent several years as a junior-high teacher in northern Manitoba before joining a teacher-training college in post-civil-war Uganda. Now an associate professor in the Department of English at the University of Winnipeg, she publishes on early Canadian exploration texts and imperial women’s letters, and researches narratives of conflict, aging, disability, and care.



Incorrigible

Velma Demerson

Print | ebook | 2004
172 pages | 6 x 9
Life Writing series
978-0-88920-444-7
paper **\$32.99**

On a May morning in 1939, eighteen-year-old Velma Demerson and her lover were having breakfast when two police officers arrived to take her away. Her crime was loving a Chinese man, a “crime” that was compounded by her pregnancy and subsequent mixed-race child. Sentenced to a home for wayward girls, Demerson was then transferred (along with forty-six other girls) to Toronto’s Mercer Reformatory for Females. The girls were locked in their cells for twelve hours a day and required to work in the on-site laundry and factory. They also endured suspect medical examinations. When Demerson was finally released after ten months’ incarceration, weeks of solitary confinement, abusive medical treatments, and the state’s apprehension of her child, her marriage to her lover resulted in the loss of her citizenship status.

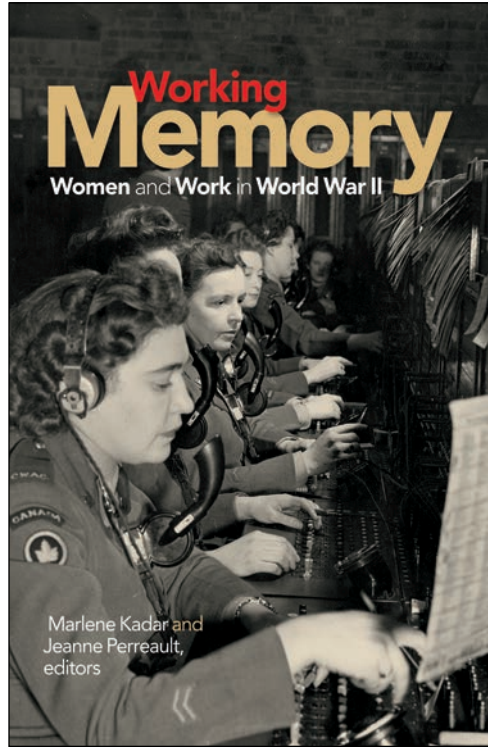
This is the story of how Demerson, and so many other girls, were treated as criminals or mentally defective individuals, even though their worst crime might have been only their choice of lover. *Incorrigible* is a survivor’s narrative and a history of some of those who fell through the cracks of the criminal code, told in a powerful first-person voice.

Velma Demerson is a widow, and mother of three children—the first child, the son of her interracial marriage, died at age twenty-six. She has worked throughout her life in a variety of positions, mostly as a secretary for governments (provincial and federal) and lawyers.

Working Memory

Women and Work in World War II

Marlene Kadar and
Jeanne Perreault, editors

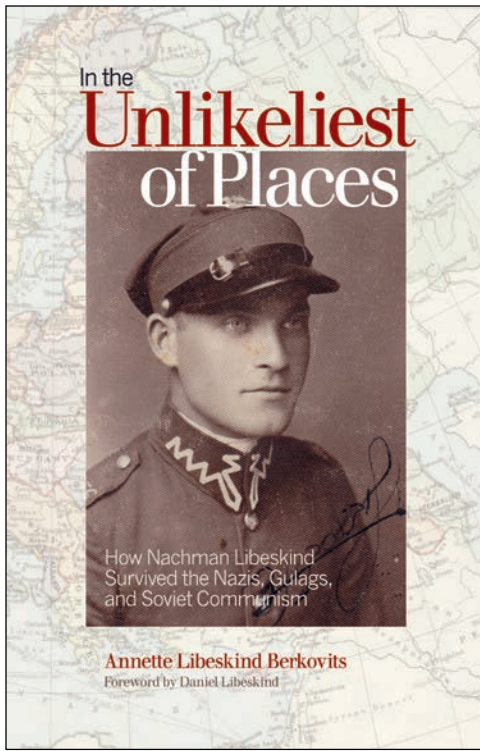


Print | ebook | 2015
251 pages | 6 x 9
Life Writing series
978-1-77112-035-7
\$38.99 paper

Working Memory: Women and Work in World War II speaks to the work women did during the war: the labour of survival, resistance, and collaboration, and the labour of recording, representing, and memorializing these wartime experiences. The contributors follow their subjects' tracks and deepen our understanding of the experiences from the imprints left behind. The implication here is that memory is intimate, and that the layering of narrative fragments that recovery involves brings us in touching distance to ourselves. These are not the stories of the brave little woman at home; they are stories of the woman who calculated the main chance and took up with the Nazi soldier, or who eagerly dropped the apron at the door and picked up a paintbrush, or who brazenly bargained for her life and her mother's with the most feared of tyrants. These are stories of courage and sometimes of compromise—not the courage of bravado and hype and big guns, but rather the courage of hard choices and sacrifices that make sense of the life given, even when that life seems only madness. *Working Memory* brings scholarly attention to the roles of women in World War II that have been hidden, masked, undervalued, or forgotten.

Marlene Kadar is a professor at York University, and the former director of the graduate program in interdisciplinary studies.

Jeanne Perreault is a professor in the Department of English at the University of Calgary and is the author of *Writing Selves: Contemporary Feminist Autography*.



In the Unlikeliest of Places

How Nachman Libeskind
Survived the Nazis, Gulags,
and Soviet Communism

Annette Libeskind Berkovits

Foreword by Daniel Libeskind

Print | ebook | 2016

296 pages | 5¼ x 8

Life Writing series

978-1-77112-248-1

paper **\$22.99**

Nachman Libeskind's remarkable story is an odyssey through crucial events of the twentieth century. With an unshakable will and a few drops of luck, he survives a pre-war Polish prison; witnesses the 1939 Nazi invasion of Lodz and narrowly escapes; is imprisoned in a brutal Soviet gulag, where he helps his fellow inmates survive, and upon regaining his freedom treks to the foothills of the Himalayas, where he finds and nearly loses the love of his life. Later, the crushing communist regime and a lingering postwar anti-Semitism in Poland drive Nachman and his young family to Israel. Then, defiantly, Nachman turns a pocketful of change into a new life in New York City, where a heartbreaking promise leads to his unlikely success as a modernist painter that inspires others to pursue their dreams.

Annette Libeskind Berkovits was born in Kyrgyzstan and grew up in postwar Poland and the fledgling state of Israel before coming to America at age sixteen. In her three-decade career with the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York, she spearheaded the institution's nationwide and worldwide science education programs.

Daniel Libeskind is an internationally renowned architect, known for the Jewish Museum in Berlin, the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, and the Dublin Performing Arts Centre in Dublin, Ireland.

The Unwritten Diary of Israel

Unger

Revised Edition

Carolyn Gammon and Israel Unger

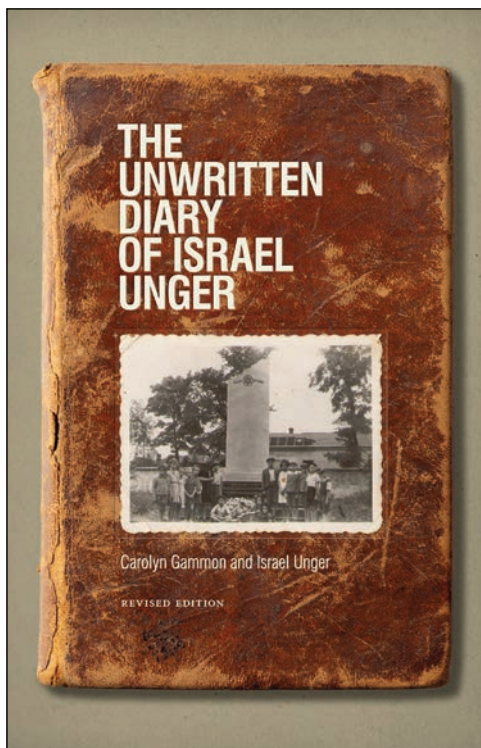
Print | ebook | 2014

240 pages | 6 x 9

Life Writing series

978-1-77112-011-1

\$24.99 paper

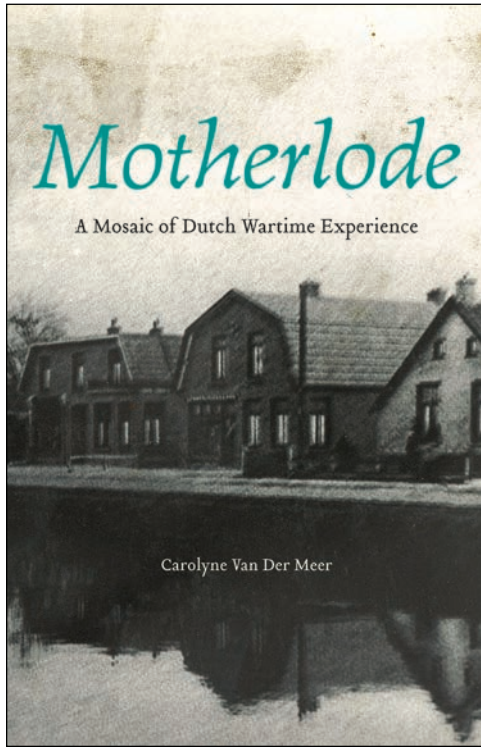


At the beginning of the Nazi period, 25,000 Jewish people lived in Tarnow, Poland. By the end of the Second World War, nine remained. Like Anne Frank, Israel Unger and his family hid for two years in an attic crawl space above the Dagnan flour mill in Tarnow. Their stove was the chimney that went up through the attic; their windows were cracks in the wall. Survival depended on the food the adults were able to forage outside at night. Against all odds, they emerged alive. Now, decades later, here is Unger's "unwritten diary."

At the end of the war, following a time as people *sans pays*, the Unger family immigrated to Canada. After discovering a love of chemistry, Israel Unger had a stellar academic career, married, and raised a family in Fredericton, New Brunswick. *The Unwritten Diary of Israel Unger* is as much a Holocaust story as it is a story of a young immigrant making every possible use of the opportunities Canada had to offer.

Carolyn Gammon was born and raised in New Brunswick and moved to Berlin in 1992. Her poetry, prose, and essays have appeared in anthologies in North America and Great Britain, and in translation.

Israel Unger was born in 1938 in Tarnow, Poland, and immigrated to Canada in 1951. He is Dean Emeritus of Science at the University of New Brunswick. Israel Unger was one of fifty Holocaust survivors to be honoured by the Government of Canada in 1998 in connection with the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



Motherlode A Mosaic of Dutch Wartime Experience

Carolyne Van Der Meer

Print | ebook | 2013

110 pages | 6 x 9

Life Writing series

978-1-77112-005-0

paper **\$19.99**

Motherlode: A Mosaic of Dutch Wartime Experience is Carolyne Van Der Meer's creative reinterpretation through short stories, poems, and essays of the experiences of her mother and other individuals who either spent their childhoods in Nazi-occupied Holland or were deeply affected by wartime in Holland. The book documents the author's personal journey as she uncovers her mother's past through their correspondence and discussion and through research in the Netherlands. *Motherlode* also considers mother–daughter relationships and the effect of wartime on motherhood.

Motherlode is not about recording precise historical data; rather, it attempts to recover and interpret the complex emotions of the individuals growing up in wartime. The book is based on interviews with the author's mother and other Dutch Canadians, interviews with and letters from Canadian Jewish war veterans, and information provided by individuals with direct or indirect experience of the Dutch Resistance. The creative pieces explore *onderduik* (going into/being in hiding), life in an occupied country, the work of the Dutch Resistance, liberation, collective and individual cultural memory, and the way in which wartime childhoods shaped adulthood for these individuals.

Carolyne Van Der Meer is a journalist, public relations professional, and university lecturer. She has undergraduate and graduate degrees in English Literature from the University of Ottawa and Concordia University, respectively, and has a Graduate Certificate in Creative Writing from the Humber School for Writers.

163256**A Memoir of Resistance**

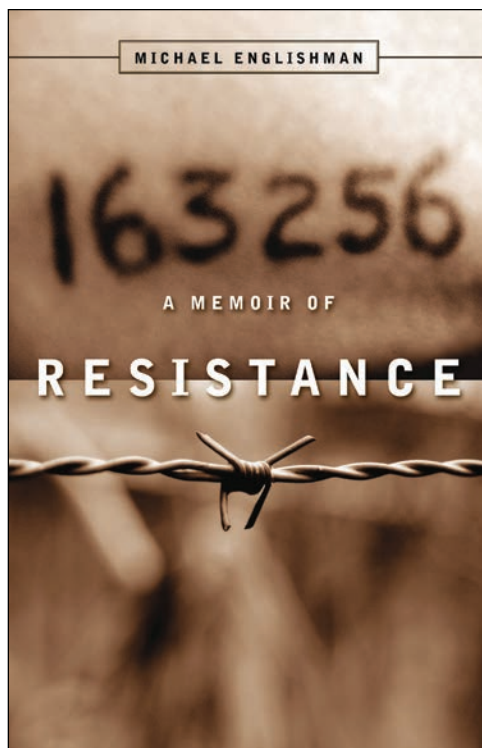
Michael Englishman

Print | ebook | 2007

128 pages | 6 x 9

Life Writing series

978-1-55458-009-5

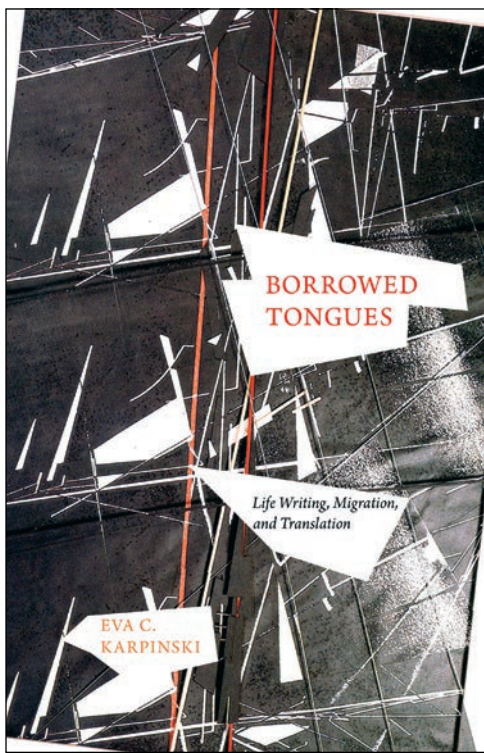
\$24.99 paper

163256: A Memoir of Resistance is Michael Englishman's astonishing story of courage, resourcefulness, and moral fibre as a Dutch Jew during World War II and its aftermath, from the Nazi occupation of Holland in 1940, through his incarceration in numerous death and labour camps, to his eventual liberation by Allied soldiers in 1945 and his emigration to Canada. Surviving by his wits, Englishman escaped death time and again, committing daring acts of bravery to do what he thought was right—helping other prisoners escape and actively participating in the underground resistance.

A man who refused to surrender his spirit despite the loss of his wife and his entire family to the Nazis, Englishman kept a promise he had made to a friend, and sought his friend's children after the war. With the children's mother, he made a new life in Canada, where he continued his resistance, tracking neo-Nazi cells and infiltrating their headquarters to destroy their files.

Until his death in August 2007, Englishman remained active, speaking out against racism and hatred in seminars for young people. His gripping story should be widely read and will be of interest to scholars of auto/biography, World War II history, and the Holocaust.

Michael Englishman was born in Amsterdam and immigrated to Canada after the war. He was an advisor at the Holocaust Centre of Toronto and lectured to students in elementary and high schools as well as at the Ontario Institute of Secondary Education.



Borrowed Tongues

Life Writing, Migration,
and Translation

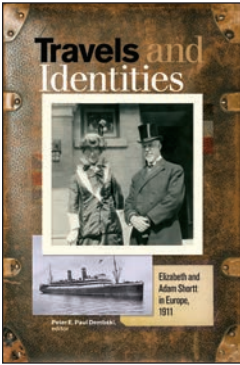
Eva C. Karpinski

Print | ebook | 2012
282 pages | 6 x 9
Life Writing series
978-1-55458-357-7
paper **\$39.99**

Borrowed Tongues is the first consistent attempt to apply the theoretical framework of translation studies in the analysis of self-representation in life writing by women in transnational, diasporic, and immigrant communities. It focuses on linguistic and philosophical dimensions of translation, showing how the dominant language serves to articulate and reinforce social, cultural, political, and gender hierarchies.

Drawing on feminist, poststructuralist, and postcolonial scholarship, this study examines Canadian and American examples of traditional autobiography, autoethnography, and experimental narrative. As a prolific and contradictory site of linguistic performance and cultural production, such texts challenge dominant assumptions about identity, difference, and agency. Using the writing of authors such as Marlene NourbeSe Philip, Jamaica Kincaid, Laura Goodman Salverson, and Akemi Kikumura, and focusing on discourses through which subject positions and identities are produced, the study argues that different concepts of language and translation correspond with particular constructions of subjectivity and attitudes to otherness. A nuanced analysis of intersectional differences reveals gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, and diaspora as unstable categories of representation.

Eva C. Karpinski teaches feminist theory and autobiography in the School of Women's Studies at York University. She has published articles in *Literature Compass*, *Men and Masculinities*, *Studies in Canadian Literature*, *Canadian Woman Studies*, and *Resources for Feminist Research*, among others.



Travels and Identities

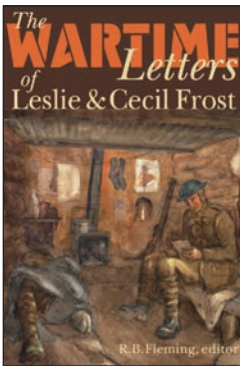
Elizabeth and Adam Shortt in Europe, 1911

Peter E. Paul Dembski, editor

Print | ebook | 2017
306 pages | 6 x 9
Life Writing series
978-1-77112-225-2
paper **\$24.99**

Peter E. Paul Dembski is an historian with BA and MA degrees from the University of Toronto and a PhD from the University of Guelph. His articles have appeared in journals such as *Ontario History* and scholarly collections such as the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*.

Elizabeth Smith Shortt was one of the first three women to obtain a medical degree in Canada, and her husband, Adam Shortt, enjoyed a successful career as a professor of politics and economics at Queen's University in Kingston. In 1908 Adam Shortt relocated his family to Ottawa to take up a commission to oversee civil service reform under Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier. There he convinced his superiors that an onsite investigation of four European countries would expedite his effort to improve Canada's bureaucracy, and in June 1911 he and Elizabeth embarked on their trip. This book chronicles their Atlantic crossing and extended visit to England, as well as trips to Switzerland, Austria, Germany, and the Netherlands.



The Wartime Letters of Leslie and Cecil Frost, 1915–1919

R.B. Fleming

Print | ebook | 2007
420 pages | 6 1/3 x 9 1/3
Life Writing series
978-1-55458-000-2
hardcover **\$45.99**

R.B. Fleming is a lecturer and research associate at the Frost Centre, Trent University. His previous publications include *Eldon Connections*, an illustrated local history of Eldon Township, Ontario; *General Stores of Canada*; and *The Railway King of Canada*, a biography of Sir William Mackenzie.

The Wartime Letters of Leslie and Cecil Frost, 1915–1919 brings to light the correspondence between two officer brothers and their family at home from 1915 to 1919. Despite wartime censorship, Leslie and Cecil wrote frank and forthright letters that show how the young men viewed the war, as well as what they observed both during training and from the trenches in some of the war's bloodiest battles. The letters also deal with the war's political context, including conscription and the Union government, as well as social issues such as the emerging role of women, the role of the growing middle class, nativism, and the use of liquor overseas.



Basements and Attics, Closets and Cyberspace

Explorations in Canadian Women's Archives

Linda M. Morra and Jessica Schagerl, editors

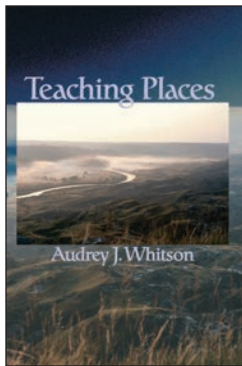
Print | ebook | 2018
348 pages | 6 x 9
Life Writing series
978-1-77112-328-0
paper \$39.99

Linda M. Morra is a full professor in the Department of English at Bishop's University.

Jessica Schagerl is the alumni and development officer for the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Western Ontario.

Women's letters and memoirs were until recently considered to have little historical significance. Many of these materials have disappeared or remain unarchived, often dismissed as ephemera and relegated to basements, attics, closets, and, increasingly, cyberspace rather than public institutions. This collection showcases the range of critical debates that animate thinking about women's archives in Canada.

The essays in *Basements and Attics, Closets and Cyberspace* considers the challenges that affect archival work about women in Canada today and other important questions. The contributors focus on how a supple research process might allow for greater engagement with unique archival forms and critical absences in narratives of past and present.



Teaching Places

Audrey J. Whitson

Print | ebook | 2003
200 pages | 6 x 9
Life Writing series
978-0-88920-425-6
paper \$29.99

Shortlisted
Grant MacEwan Author's Award 2004

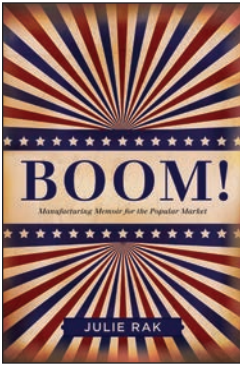
Shortlisted
ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year
in Body, Mind and Spirit 2003

Shortlisted
Wilfred Eggleston Award for Non-Fiction, Alberta Book Awards 2004

Audrey J. Whitson received her MA from the Franciscan School-Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley. Her writing and photography have appeared in *Other Voices*, *Pottersfield Portfolio*, the *Edmonton Journal*, *Catholic New Times*, and *Canadian Woman Studies*.

Teaching Places is a tale about a woman's spiritual search, how that search calls her to the land, and how the land teaches. The telling spirals, exploring loss of faith, loss of voice, and the finding of a different, broader faith and a deeper, stronger voice. Her journey takes her to many special wilderness areas across Alberta—from the edge of the Canadian Shield to mountains, prairies, boreal forest, and parkland. In the telling of her journey, she interweaves migration, evolution, family, landscape, noise, silence, and song.

Remarkable for the breadth of its treatment of the spiritual journey, combining prose and poetry, the book delves into old traditions (Aboriginal, Old European, mystical Christian) and new.



Boom!

Manufacturing Memoir for the Popular Market

Julie Rak

Print | ebook | 2013

258 pages | 6 x 9

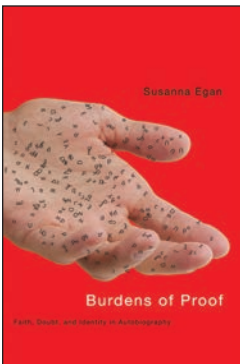
Life Writing series

978-1-55458-939-5

paper **\$29.99**

Julie Rak is a professor in the Department of English and Film Studies at the University of Alberta. She is the author of *Negotiated Memory: Doukhobor Autobiographical Discourse* (2004), the editor of *Auto/biography in Canada* (WLU Press, 2005), and co-editor, with Anna Poletti, of *Identity Technologies: Producing Online Selves*.

Since the early 1990s, tens of thousands of memoirs by celebrities and unknown people have been published, sold, and read by millions of American readers. The memoir boom, as the explosion of memoirs on the market has come to be called, has been welcomed, vilified, and dismissed in the popular press. But is there really a boom in memoir production in the United States? If so, what is causing it? Are memoirs all written by narcissistic hacks for an unthinking public, or do they indicate a growing need to understand world events through personal experiences? This study seeks to answer these questions by examining memoir as an industrial product like other products, something that publishers and booksellers help to create. The memoir boom is one of the ways that citizenship as a category of belonging between private and public spheres is now articulated.



Burdens of Proof

Faith, Doubt, and Identity in Autobiography

Susanna Egan

Print | ebook | 2011

210 pages | 6 x 9

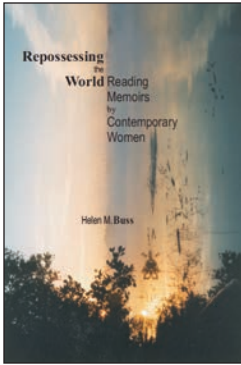
Life Writing series

978-1-55458-333-1

paper **\$38.99**

Susanna Egan is recently retired from the Department of English at the University of British Columbia. Her publications include *Patterns of Experience in Autobiography* (1980) and *Mirror Talk: Genres of Crisis in Contemporary Autobiography* (2000).

Autobiographical impostures, once they come to light, appear to us as outrageous, scandalous. They confuse lived and textual identity (the person in the world and the character in the text) and call into question what we believe, what we doubt, and how we receive information. In the process, they tell us a lot about cultural norms and anxieties. *Burdens of Proof: Faith, Doubt, and Identity in Autobiography* examines a broad range of impostures in the United States, Canada, and Europe, and asks about each one: Why this particular imposture? Why here and now?



Repossessing the World

Reading Memoirs by Contemporary Women

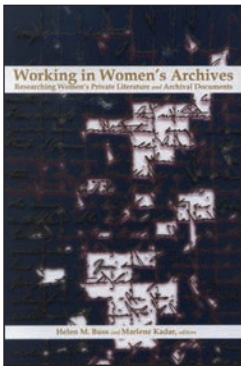
Helen M. Buss

Print | ebook | 2002
231 pages | 6 x 9
Life Writing series
978-0-88920-409-6
paper **\$38.99**

Helen M. Buss is a professor in the Department of English at the University of Calgary. Her book on Canadian women's life writing, *Mapping Our Selves*, won the Gabrielle Roy Prize. As Margaret Clarke, she has published novels, short stories and poetry.

The current popularity of memoir verifies the common belief that we each have a story to tell. And we do . . . especially women. Memoirs are not only representations of women's personal lives but also of their desire to repossess important parts of our culture, in which women's stories have not mattered.

Beginning with her own motivations for writing memoirs, Helen M. Buss examines the many kinds of memoir written by contemporary women: memoirs about growing up, memoirs about traumatic events, about relationships, about work. *Repossessing the World* is the first book-length critical inquiry into women's use of a form that has often been dismissed as less important than autobiography, less professional than the novel, and less intellectual than the formal essay.



Working in Women's Archives

Researching Women's Private Literature and Archival Documents

Marlene Kadar and
Helen M. Buss, editors

Print | ebook | 2001
125 pages | 6 x 9
Life Writing series
978-0-88920-341-9
paper **\$36.99**

Marlene Kadar is a professor at York University, and the former director of the graduate program in interdisciplinary studies.

Helen M. Buss is a professor in the Department of English at the University of Calgary.

What comes to mind when we hear that a friend or colleague is studying unpublished documents in a celebrated author's archive? We might assume that they are reading factual documents or, at the very least, straightforward accounts of the truth about someone or some event. But are they?

Working in Women's Archives is a collection of essays that poses this question and offers a variety of answers. It persuades us that our research methods must be revised and refined in order to create a scholarly place for a greater variety of archival subjects and to accurately represent them in current feminist and post-structuralist theories.



Street Angel

Magie Dominic

Print | ebook | 2014

162 pages | 6 x 9

Life Writing series

978-1-77112-026-5

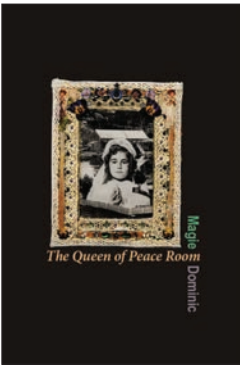
paper **\$24.99**

Silver Medal
Independent Publisher Book Awards
Memoir Category
2014

Magie Dominic is a Newfoundland writer and artist, and has long been active in the peace movement. Her essays and poetry have been published in over fifty anthologies and journals in Canada, the United States, Italy, and India.

Street Angel opens to the voice of an eleven-year-old Dominic. She's growing up in Newfoundland. Her mother suffers from terrifying nighttime hallucinations. Her father's business is about to collapse. She layers the world she hears on radio and television onto her family, speaking in paratactic prose with a point-blank delivery. She finds relief only in the glamour of Hollywood films and the majesty of Newfoundland's wilderness.

Revealing her life through flashbacks, humour, and her signature self-confidence, Dominic takes readers from 1950s Newfoundland to 1960s Pittsburgh, 1970s New York, and the end of the millennium in Toronto. Dominic chronicles sixty years of a complex, secretive family in this story about violence, adolescence, families, and forgiveness.



The Queen of Peace Room

Magie Dominic

Print | ebook | 2002

128 pages | 6 x 9

Life Writing series

978-0-88920-417-1

paper **\$29.99**

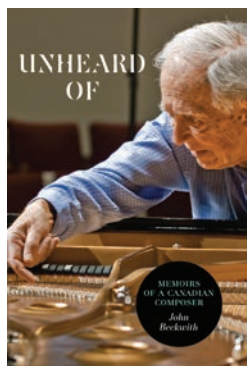
Shortlisted
Judy Grahn Award
for Lesbian Nonfiction
2003

Shortlisted
Canadian Women's Studies Association
Book Award
2002

Magie Dominic is a Newfoundland writer and artist, and has long been active in the peace movement. Her essays and poetry have been published in over fifty anthologies and journals in Canada, the United States, Italy, and India.

Memories are like layers of your skin or layers of paint on a canvas. In *The Queen of Peace Room*, Magie Dominic peels away these layers as she explores her life, that of a Newfoundlander turned New Yorker, an artist and a writer—and frees herself from the memories of her violent past. On an eight-day retreat with Catholic nuns in a remote location safe from the outside world, she exposes, and captures, fifty years of violent memories and weaves them into a tapestry of unforgettable images. The room she inhabits while there is called The Queen of Peace Room; it becomes, for her, a room of sanctuary.

From a very personal perspective, Magie Dominic explores violence against women in the second half of the twentieth century, and in doing so unearths the memory of a generation.



Unheard Of

Memoirs of a
Canadian Composer
John Beckwith

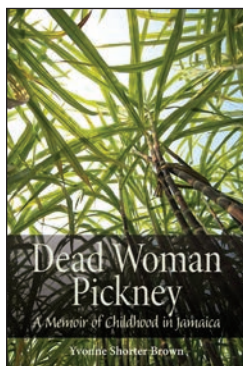
Canadian composer John Beckwith recounts his early days in Victoria, his studies in Toronto with Alberto Guerrero, his first compositions, and his later studies in Paris with the renowned Nadia Boulanger. For over sixty years John Beckwith has participated in national musical initiatives in music education, promotion, and publishing. A former reviewer for the *Toronto Star* and a CBC scriptwriter and programmer in the 1950s and '60s, he later produced many articles and books on musical topics. His life story is a slice of Canadian cultural history.

Print | ebook | 2012

408 pages | 6 x 9 | Life Writing series

978-1-55458-358-4

\$29.99 paper



Dead Woman Pickney

A Memoir of Childhood
in Jamaica

Yvonne Shorter
Brown

Dead Woman Pickney chronicles life stories of growing up in Jamaica from 1943 to 1965 and contains both personal experience and history, told with stridency and humour. The author's coming of age parallels the political stages of Jamaica's moving from the richest Crown colony of Great Britain to an independent nation within the British Commonwealth of Nations.

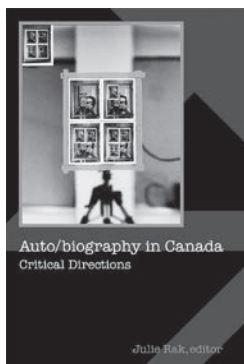
A wonderful resource for teachers of history, social studies, cultural studies, and literature, it is also an engaging read for those interested in memoir and life writing.

Print | ebook | 2010

210 pages | 6 x 9 | Life Writing series

978-1-55458-189-4

\$24.99 paper



Auto/ biography in Canada

Critical Directions

Julie Rak, editor

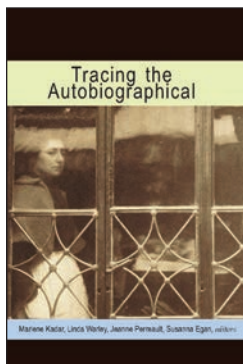
Auto/biography in Canada: Critical Directions widens the field of auto/biography studies with its sophisticated multidisciplinary perspectives on the theory, criticism, and practice of self, community, and representation. Rather than consider autobiography and biography as discrete genres with definable properties, and rather than focus on critical approaches, the essays explore auto/biography as a discourse about identity and representation in the context of numerous disciplinary shifts. *Auto/biography in Canada* looks at how life narratives are made in Canada.

Print | ebook | 2005

264 pages | 6 x 9 | Life Writing series | Cultural Studies series

978-0-88920-478-2

\$48.99 paper



Tracing the Auto- biographical

Marlene Kadar,
Linda Warley,
Jeanne Perreault,
and Susanna
Egan, editors

The essays in *Tracing the Autobiographical* work with the literatures of several nations to reveal the intersections of broad agendas (for example, national ones) with the personal, the private, and the individual. Attending to ethics, exile, tyranny, and hope, the contributors listen for echoes and murmurs as well as authoritative declarations. They also watch for the appearance of auto/biography in unexpected places, tracing patterns from materials that have been left behind.

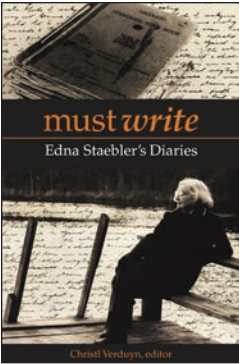
Interdisciplinary in scope and contemporary in outlook, *Tracing the Autobiographical* is a welcome addition to autobiography scholarship, focusing on non-traditional genres and on the importance of location and place in life writing.

Print | ebook | 2005

288 pages | 6 x 9 | Life Writing series

978-0-88920-476-8

\$48.99 paper



Must Write

Edna Staebler's Diaries
Edna Staebler
Christl Verduyn,
editor

Must Write: Edna Staebler's Diaries draws from these diaries selections that map Staebler's construction of herself as a writer and documents her frustrations and struggles, along with her desire to express herself, in writing. She felt she must write—that not to write was a "denial of life"—while at the same time she doubted the value of her scribbles.

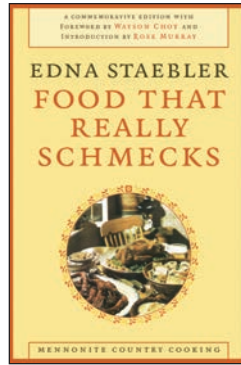
Spanning much of the twentieth century—each decade is introduced by an overview of key events in the author's life during that period—the diaries vividly illuminate both her intensely personal experiences and her broader social world.

Print | ebook | 2005

312 pages | 6 x 9 | Life Writing Series

978-0-88920-481-2

\$24.99 paper



Food That Really Schmecks

Edna Staebler
Introduction by
Wayson Choy
Foreword by
Rose Murray

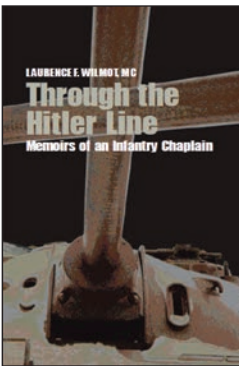
In the 1960s, Edna Staebler moved in with an Old Order Mennonite family to absorb their oral history and learn about Mennonite culture and cooking. From this fieldwork came the cookbook *Food That Really Schmecks*. Originally published in 1968, *Schmecks* instantly became a classic, selling tens of thousands of copies. Interspersed with practical and memorable recipes are Staebler's stories and anecdotes about cooking, Mennonites, her family, and Waterloo Region. Described by Edith Fowke as folklore literature, Staebler's cookbooks have earned her national acclaim.

Print | ebook | 2006

360 pages | 6 x 9 | Life Writing series

978-0-88920-521-5

\$34.99 paper



Through the Hitler Line

Memoirs of an
Infantry Chaplain
Laurence F. Wilmot

Laurence Wilmot's Second World War memoir is a rare thing: a first-hand account of front-line battle by an army officer who is a resolute non-combatant. At the centre of the book is Wilmot's witness of the murderous battle at the Arielli.

In the crucible of battle we see the qualities that attest to Wilmot's character and contribute to his memoir's importance: an indefatigable devotion to his duty to save and comfort the wounded, and a resolve to resist despair in spite of the terrible carnage all around. In short, a singular triumph of the decency of one man in the midst of total war.

Print | ebook | 2003

248 pages | 8 7/8 x 9 | Life Writing series

978-0-88920-448-5

\$24.99 paper



Love and War in London

A Woman's Diary
1939–1942

Olivia Cockett
Robert W.
Malcolmson, editor

Olivia Cockett was twenty-six years old in the summer of 1939 when she responded to an invitation from Mass Observation to "ordinary" individuals to keep a diary of their everyday lives, attitudes, feelings, and social relations. This book is an annotated, unabridged edition of her candid and evocative diary.

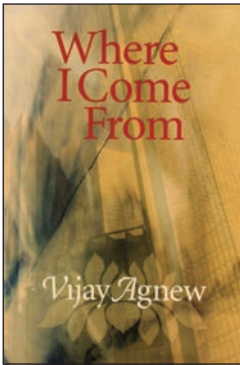
Hers is a diary that brings together the personal and the public. It permits us to understand how one intelligent, imaginative woman struggled to make sense of her life, as the city in which she lived was drawn into the turmoil of a catastrophic war.

Print | ebook | 2005

224 pages | 6 x 8 7/8 | Life Writing series

978-0-88920-458-4

\$24.99 paper



Where I Come From

Vijay Agnew

When Vijay Agnew first immigrated to Canada people would often ask her, "Where do you come from?" She thought it a simple question, and would answer in the same straightforward manner, by telling them where she had been born.

But over the years she learned that many so-called Third World people resent being asked this question, because it implies that having a different skin colour (which is what usually prompts the question) makes a person an outsider and not *really* Canadian. This realization inspired her to look more closely at the question—and the answer. The result is this book.

Print | ebook | 2003

305 pages | 6 x 9 | Life Writing series

978-0-88920-414-0

\$36.99 paper



Memoirs from Away

A New Found Land Girlhood

Helen M. Buss

Daughter, wife, mother, teacher, writer, and feminist academic, Helen M. Buss / Margaret Clarke has lived in many parts of Canada and writes from a life of multiple perspectives full of contradictory loyalties and obligations, of opposing histories and identities. For this woman, whose sense of a unified identity is so tenuous that she even writes under two names, writing memoirs becomes the way to bring together the diverse strands of her life.

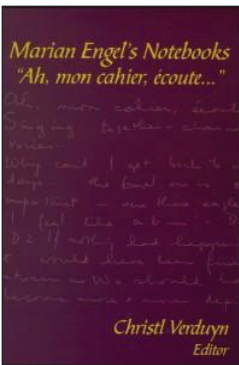
A Newfoundland girl who awakened to the public world just at the moment her homeland joined Canada, she writes of her childhood, of the effects of war, technology, the politics of nation and gender, and of the private world of several generations of her close-knit family.

Print | ebook | 1999

169 pages | 6 x 9 | Life Writing series

978-0-88920-350-1

\$36.99 paper



Marian Engel's Notebooks

"Ah, mon cahier, écoute..."

Christl Verduyn,
editor

Marian Engel emerged as a writer during that period in Canada when nationalism increased and "new feminism" dawned. Carefully chosen extracts from Marian Engel's forty-nine notebooks track Engel's creative development, illustrate her commitment to the craft of writing, and document her growth as a major Canadian writer. Christl Verduyn's illuminating introductory discussions to each of the notebooks unobtrusively guide us in the reading of these sometimes difficult writings. *Marian Engel's Notebooks: Ah, mon cahier, écoute...* provides insight into the literary life of one of Canada's significant woman writers and will be of special interest to scholars working in the field of literature.

Print | ebook | 1999

576 pages | 6 x 9 | Life Writing series

978-0-88920-349-5

\$48.99 paper



Be Good, Sweet Maid

The Trials of Dorothy Joudrie

Audrey Andrews

Shortlisted
Alberta Book Awards
2000

January 21, 1995: Dorothy Joudrie is arrested for attempting to murder her estranged husband. Soon after, Audrey Andrews begins to write her book. Audrey and Dorothy had known each other as children, but the identification of Andrews with Joudrie goes beyond merely the accident of a childhood acquaintance. It has to do with being subjected to the same societal constraints placed on girls and women during the years immediately following World War II, the years in which they had prepared for their adult lives. Expectations, placidly accepted then, are now seen as unrealistic and unreasonable. Did these expectations have some part in causing the tragedy in Dorothy Joudrie's life?

Print | ebook | 1999

280 pages | 6 x 8⁷/₈ | Life Writing series

978-0-88920-334-1

\$36.99 paper



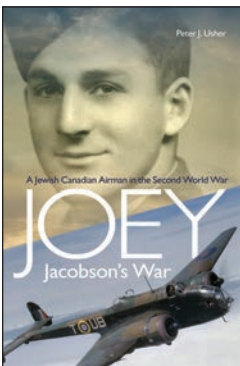
A War Guest in Canada

W.A.B. Douglas

Print | ebook | 2019
200 pages | 5¼ x 9
978-1-77112-368-6
paper **\$24.99**

W. A. B. (Alec) Douglas spent his early childhood years in England. From 1940 to 1943 he lived in Canada as a “war guest,” and returned to attend the University of Toronto. He is the author of numerous books, including official histories of the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Canadian Navy.

During the Second World War, hundreds of children were sent from the UK to stay with family and friends in Canada as “war guests.” This book collects the letters of one such war guest, young Alec Douglas, who wrote from his wartime home in Toronto to his mother back home in London. Alec wrote home every week, although sometimes he forgot to post his letters, and they were delayed, and some letters did not get through. Occasionally his godmother and host, Mavis Fry, would add comments and write her own more detailed letters. Also included are letters from Lillian Kingston, who brought Alec to North America in 1940. These letters detail the excitement of the voyage and his years in Toronto with the Fry family.



Joey Jacobson's War A Jewish-Canadian Airman in the Second World War

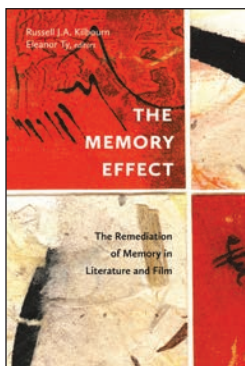
Peter J. Usher

Print | ebook | 2018
409 pages | 6 x 9
978-1-77112-342-6
paper **\$29.99**

Peter J. Usher was born in Montreal in 1941. For many years he studied, wrote about, and advised on the environmental and social effects of resource development. Inspired by his cousin Joey Jacobson's letters and diaries, he began writing about the experience of Canadian airmen in the Second World War.

Joey Jacobson, a young Jewish man from Westmount on the Island of Montreal, trained as a navigator and bomb-aimer in Western Canada. On arriving in England he was assigned to No. 106 Squadron, a British unit tasked with the bombing of Germany. *Joey Jacobson's War* tells, in his own words, why he enlisted, his understanding of strategy, tactics, and the effectiveness of the air war at its lowest point, how he responded to the inevitable battle stress, and how he became both a hopeful idealist and a seasoned airman. Jacobson's written legacy as a serviceman is impressive in scope and depth and provides a lively and intimate account of a Jewish Canadian's life in the air and on the ground, written in the intensity of the moment, unfiltered by the memoirist's reflection, revision, or hindsight.

Related Titles



The Memory Effect

The Remediation of Memory in Literature and Film

Russell J.A. Kilbourn and Eleanor Ty, editors

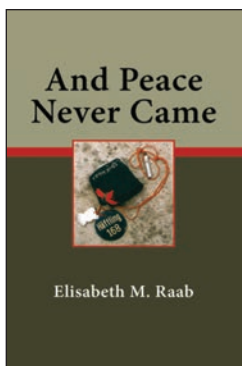
The Memory Effect is a collection of essays on the status of memory—individual and collective, cultural and transcultural—in contemporary literature, film, and other visual media. Contributors look at memory's representation, adaptation, translation, and appropriation, as well as its mediation and remediation. Memory's irreducibly constructed nature is explored, even as its status is reaffirmed as the basis of both individual and collective identity.

Print | ebook | 2013

364 pages | 6 x 9

978-1-55458-914-2

\$85.00 hardcover



And Peace Never Came

Elisabeth M. Raab

Winner
Canadian Jewish Book
Award for Best Holocaust
Memoir 1999

Shortlisted
Edna Staebler Award for
Creative Non-Fiction 1998

Raab paints a brief yet moving picture of her idyllic life before her internment and the shock and the horrors of Auschwitz, but it is in the images of life after her liberation that Raab imparts her most poignant story—a story told in a clear, almost sparse, always honest style, a story of the brutal, and, at times, beautiful facts of human nature.

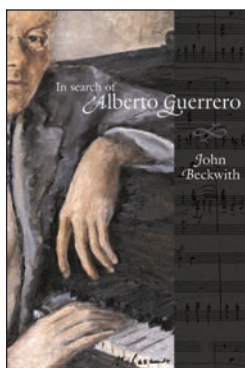
This book will appeal to a number of audiences—to readers interested in human nature under the most trying circumstances, to historians of World War II or Jewish history, and to veterans and their families who lived through World War II.

Print | ebook | 1997

205 pages | 6 x 9

978-0-88920-292-4

\$26.99 paper



In Search of Alberto Guerrero

John Beckwith

In Search of Alberto Guerrero is the first full biography of the influential Chilean-Canadian pianist and teacher (1886–1959), describing Guerrero's long career as virtuoso recitalist, chamber music collaborator, concerto soloist, and teacher. In 1918 Guerrero moved to Toronto, and became one of Canada's most active pianists.

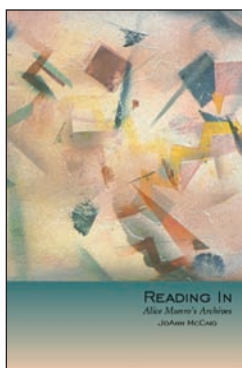
Guerrero left few written records, and documentation of his work by others is incomplete and often erroneous. Aiming for a fuller and more accurate account of this remarkably influential and well-loved man, Beckwith's *In Search of Alberto Guerrero* gives an insider's story of the Canadian classical music scene in mid-twentieth-century Toronto.

Print | ebook | 2015

180 pages | 6 x 9

978-1-55458-442-0

\$28.99 paper



Reading In

Alice Munro's Archives

JoAnn McCaig

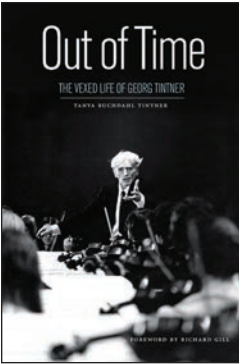
Collections of authors' manuscripts and correspondence have traditionally been used in ways that further illuminate the published text. JoAnn McCaig sets out to show how archival materials can also provide fascinating insights into the business of culture, reveal the individuals, institutions, and ideologies that shape the author and her work, and describe the negotiations that occur between an author and the cultural marketplace. Using a feminist cultural studies approach, JoAnn McCaig "reads in" to the archives of acclaimed Canadian short story writer Alice Munro in order to explore precisely how the terms "Canadian," "woman," "short story," and "writer" are constructed in her writing career.

Print | ebook | 2002

216 pages | 6 x 9

978-0-88920-336-5

\$42.99 paper



Out of Time

The Vexed Life of
Georg Tintner

Tanya Buchdahl
Tintner

Foreword by
Richard Gill

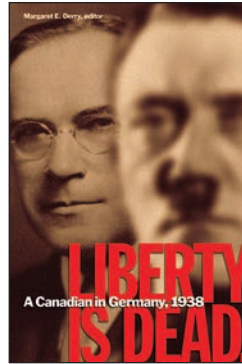
Georg Tintner is best known to music lovers for his stunning interpretations of Bruckner's symphonies recorded by Naxos in the 1990s. He was a man who lived and breathed music. Blessed with perfect pitch, at the age of nine he was the first Jew to join the Vienna Boys' Choir. Later, he became immersed in the concert life of the city, rubbing shoulders with Berg, Schoenberg, and Webern, and observing the great conductors of the age. But by the late 1930s Tintner had to flee and he eventually landed in Auckland, New Zealand. There could have been no greater contrast for this gifted young musician, yet he started a new life there before moving on to Australia and, much later, to Canada.

Print | ebook | 2013

432 pages | 6 x 9 1/4

978-1-55458-938-8

\$39.99 paper



Liberty Is Dead

A Canadian in
Germany, 1938

Margaret E. Derry
and Franklin
Wellington
Wegenast

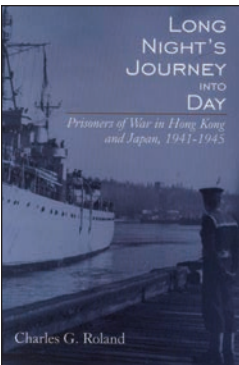
In the spring and summer of 1938, a third-generation German Canadian took an unforgettable road trip through Austria, Italy, France, Luxembourg, and Germany. He stopped to talk to people along the way and offered rides to those requesting them. Wegenast's journal is published here for the first time alongside commentary that puts the entries in the contexts of Wegenast's life experiences, the prevailing attitudes of the day, both in North America and Europe, and modern scholarship on Germany in the 1930s. Wegenast's diaries and letters corroborate modern assessments of German thinking, providing an outsider/insider view on the brewing conflict.

Print | ebook | 2012

170 pages | 6 x 9 | WCGS German Studies series

978-1-55458-053-8

\$24.99 paper



Long Night's Journey into Day

Prisoners of War
in Hong Kong and
Japan, 1941-1945

Charles G. Roland

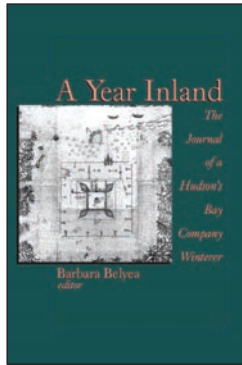
Long Night's Journey into Day centres on the lives of Canadian, British, Indian, and Hong Kong POWs captured at Hong Kong in December 1941 and incarcerated in camps in Hong Kong and the Japanese Home Islands. The experiences of American POWs in the Philippines and British and Australians POWs in Singapore are interwoven throughout the book. Starvation and diseases afflicted all these unfortunate men, affecting their lives not only in the camps during the war but after they returned home. Yet despite the dispiriting circumstances of their captivity, these men found ways to improve their existence, keeping up their morale with such events as musical concerts and entertainments created entirely within the various camps.

Print | ebook | 2001

449 pages | 5 1/2 x 8 1/3

978-0-88920-362-4

\$38.99 paper



A Year Inland

The Journal of
a Hudson's Bay
Company Winterer

Barbara Belyea,
editor

Winner

Margaret McWilliams Medal
Manitoba Historical Society
2002

Anthony Henday, a young Hudson's Bay Company employee, set out from York Factory in June 1754 to winter with "trading Indians" along the Saskatchewan River. He kept a journal in which he described the plains region and took note of rival French traders' success at their inland posts. A copy of Henday's journal was immediately sent to the company directors in London. Since then, uncertainty about Henday's year inland has increased. The original journal disappeared; only four copies, dating from 1755 to about 1782, are extant. *A Year Inland* presents all four copies for the first time, together with contextual notes and a commentary that reassesses the journal's information on plains geography, people, and trade.

Print | ebook | 2001

424 pages | 6 x 9

978-0-88920-357-0

\$42.99 paper

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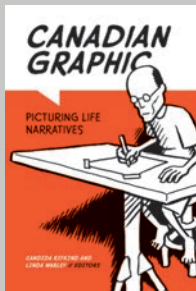
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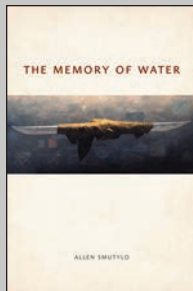
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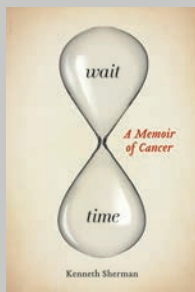
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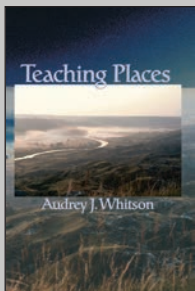
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