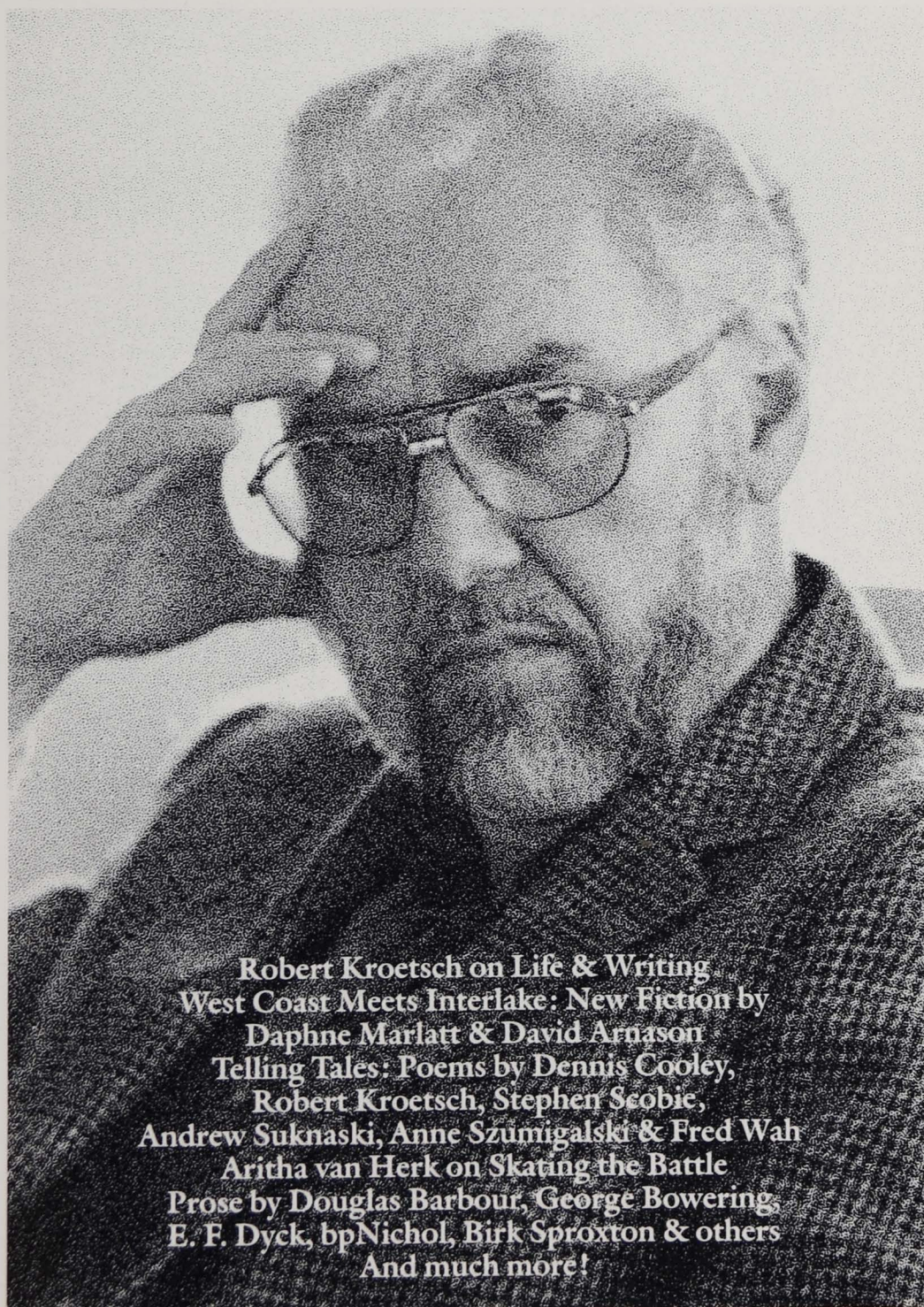


A Special Tribute to
Robert Kroetsch

AFTER
PARADISE

PRAIRIE FIRE

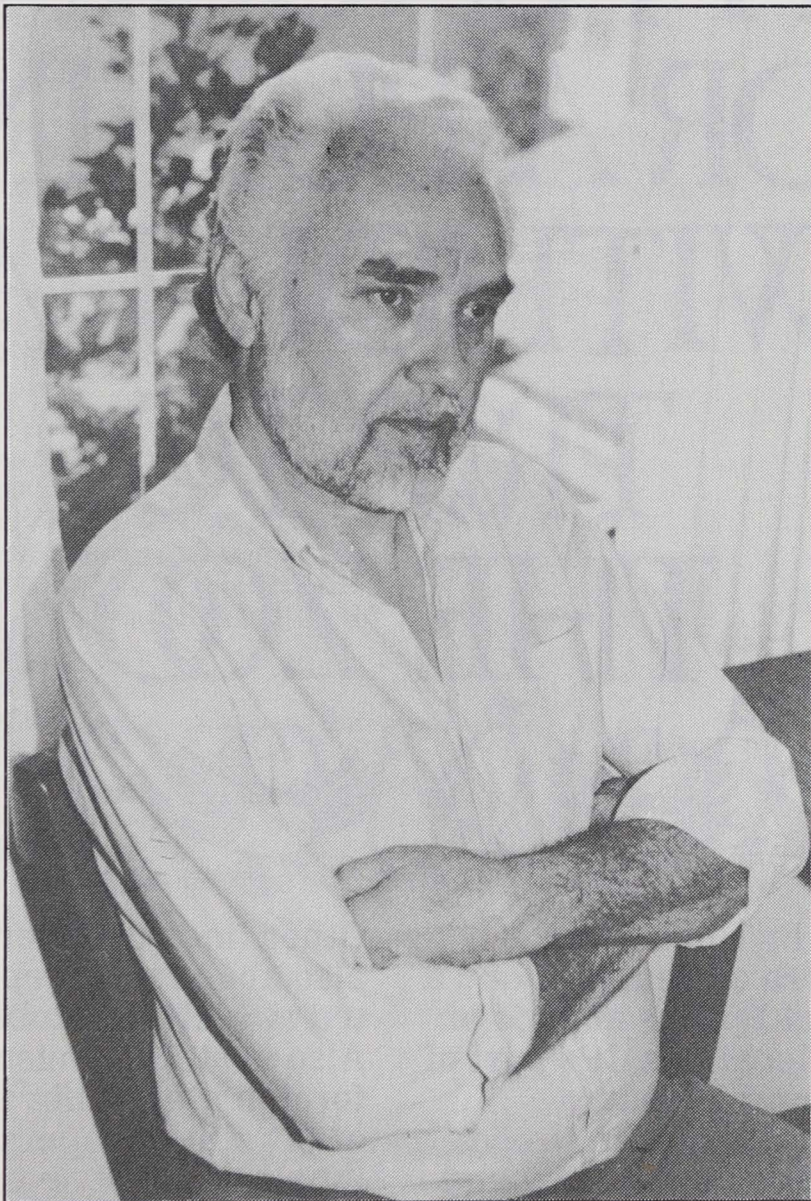
A MAGAZINE OF CANADIAN WRITING



Robert Kroetsch on Life & Writing
West Coast Meets Interlake: New Fiction by
Daphne Marlatt & David Arnason
Telling Tales: Poems by Dennis Cooley,
Robert Kroetsch, Stephen Scobie,
Andrew Suknaski, Anne Szumigalski & Fred Wah
Aritha van Herk on Skating the Battle
Prose by Douglas Barbour, George Bowering,
E. F. Dyck, bpNichol, Birk Sproxton & others
And much more!

PRAIRIE FIRE

A MAGAZINE OF CANADIAN WRITING



I thought I had a story you were going to tell.

ROBERT KROETSCH

Volume VIII, Number 4

Winter 1987

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Table of Contents

Interview

Kristjana Gunnars/Robert Kroetsch	54
-----------------------------------	----

Fiction

David Arnason, "Artesian"	21
Daphne Marlatt, "An Excerpt from <i>Ana Historic</i> "	36
Birk Sproxton, "Making Mickey"	78

Travelogue

Douglas Barbour, "Antipodean Travels with Robert Kroetsch"	24
--	----

Cross-genre

George Bowering, "Selections from <i>Errata</i> "	6
Aritha van Herk, "(no parrot/no crow/no parrot)"	12
bpNichol, "The Lungs: A Draft"	47

Poems

Anne Szumigalski, "A Poem and a Story"	9
Dennis Cooley, "Three Poems"	33
Fred Wah, "Five Poems from <i>Music at the Heart of Thinking</i> "	43
Andrew Suknaski, "Divining West"	50
Robert Kroetsch, "After Paradise"	68
Stephen Scobie, "Felix Paul Greve"	82

Drawings & Photographs

Marilyn Morton (courtesy of Turnstone Press)	1
Les Brandt	7, 13, 25, 87
Bob Haverluck	35, 93, IBC
Michael Ondaatje	42, 45, 46
Kristjana Gunnars	55
Doug Melnyk, from "Heart Not at Rest"	63
Jack Lewis-Smith	69-76

Criticism

Alessandro Gebbia, "Reading Robert Kroetsch in Italy"	83
---	----

Review-essay, Reviews

Robert Kroetsch, <i>Advice to My Friends</i> (E. F. Dyck)	86
Robert Kroetsch, <i>Excerpts from the Real World</i> & "Spending the Morning on the Beach," <i>Seed Catalogue</i> (Thomas Friedman)	95
Robert Kroetsch & Reingard M. Nischik, eds., <i>Gaining Ground: European Critics on Canadian Literature</i> (Bruce Whiteman)	99
Robert Lecker, <i>Robert Kroetsch</i> (Martin Kuester)	101

Notes on Contributors	106
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Front Cover photo of Robert Kroetsch by Dennis Cooley

Back Cover photo of Phyllis Webb by Jan Koot

PRAIRIE FIRE

A Magazine of Canadian Writing

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Five Poems from *Music at the Heart of Thinking*

FRED WAH

Music At The Heart of Thinking #70

"E" not quite there in Delphi's mind slope except for the eggplant but on the périphérique the traffic is something else not unlike the quick movement of the small bug attracted to the light at the edges of the papers under the desk lamp. Now it's raining, finally, after three weeks of heat. Moths and what we call cedar bugs get in their last licks. Hermes comes into the room as a stunned silence in the middle of the yak-yak din, a borderline coyote too excited by the lushness of the minutiae to pee on the post. This means time and space don't really matter. viz. Canada, Cambodia, Canaan, et al.

Music At The Heart of Thinking #71

It's called "fat bits" on the graphics programs and it breaks up size into the labyrinth. It goes inside the larger to really show the invisibility of the city as only absolutely particular streets and buildings. According to Homer this change in the condition of experience corresponds to, I guess we could later say, Blake's beach. Heaven. Sand. Etc. The specific seems to operate in this, as you say, abandoned way but to have daughters makes me wish, naturally, for the right kind of jar, carefully, like the sack of winds Aeolus gave to Odysseus. Very carefully.

Music At The Heart Of Thinking #72

Pausanias is the traveller but yr the journeyer and maybe that's why you cry at night for love. Compadres of the open road. Purest nakedness. Purest silence. Kerenyi says "The gorges over which [you might pass] can be the abysses of unbelievable love affairs—Circe and Calypso islands and holes..." Not to mention the deep valleys carved out by the rapids of the Selemnus river which these days is avoided by even the tourists. And are your sandals tied with a double knot?

Music At The Heart Of Thinking #73

Maybe the reverse is just the reflective ritualing of the prop, old twin-twisted kerykeion to be leaned on. Anyway think of the Chinese dog days and how hot health can get under this hound of heaven. Also, you'd get that mirror effect walking up the hill straight from Pausanias' as you say "scattered Greece under Roman rule" simply because they, the Romans, omitted that letter or diluted it. Thus the Socrates ticket as a lasting embrace of those pine thickets on that shaped walk up the hillside meaning the sacred fork or dish used to lift the lonely bull and later fish.

Music At The Heart Of Thinking #74

But Hermes really didn't give a shit as the patron of lottery looted the Apolline bank and simply rattled the mantic dice not very apropos that lump of marble lint plopped there on that hillside to convince us of the right answers to our questions yet I've noticed how the wrong ones hang around to stress the absolute equality of real unknowledge the air and the dust settled onto Delphi's trees and cafes was still for me and the spring really was cool and refreshing to the tongue thoughts seemed silent feathered and those birds overhead looked harmless in the light of such hillsides now who can fall or get flung over the cliff for

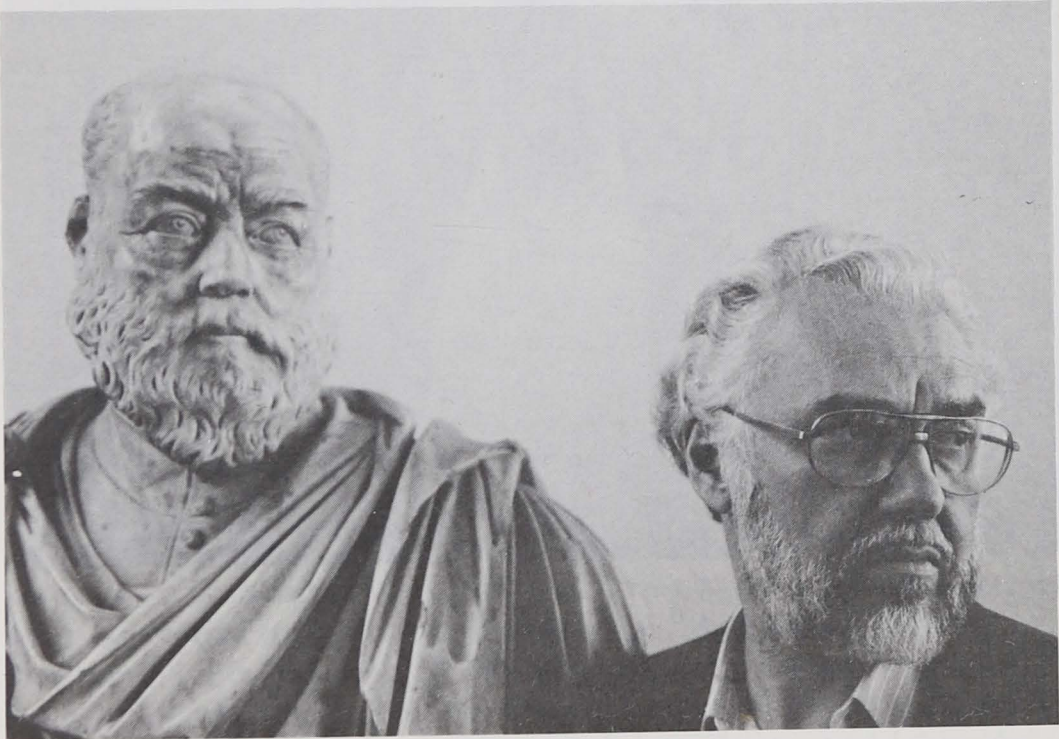


Photo: Michael Ondaatje

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

David Arnason's most recent book is *The Circus Performer's Bar* (Talonbooks).

Douglas Barbour teaches English at the University of Alberta. His selected poems, *visible visions*, was published in 1984 by NeWest Press.

George Bowering received the Governor General's Award in poetry for *The Gang of Cosmos* (1969) and in fiction for *Burning Water* (1980). Sections 1 and 30 of *Errata* have been published in *Brick* where *Errata* is being serialized. *Errata* the book will be published by RDC Press.

Les Brandt regularly illustrates covers for Turnstone Press.

Dennis Cooley has two new books out this winter, *Soul Searching* (RDC) and *Vernacular Muse* (Turnstone).

E. F. Dyck frequently writes about writing for *Prairie Fire*.

Thomas Friedman was born in Vancouver and moved to Toronto in 1986 in order to work on a Ph.D. at the University of Toronto. His thesis topic is on the idea of history in contemporary Canadian fiction.

Alessandro Gebbia is an Italian graduate student specializing in Canadian literature.

Kristjana Gunnars, this issue's guest editor, regularly chooses poems for *Prairie Fire*.

Bob Haverluck's "Leda and the Jackrabbitt" was inadequately presented in *Prairie Fire* VIII, 2 and is reprinted here.

Robert Kroetsch has planted a garden at his new home in Victoria.

Martin Kuester is a student of Canadian Literature living in Augsburg, F.R.G.

Jack Lewis-Smith says that his drawings in this issue were inspired by reading the works of Robert Kroetsch. We regret that the quality of the reproductions does not do justice to the original drawings, which are in colour and are many times larger.

Daphne Marlatt's novel, *Ana Historic*, will be published by Coach House Press in Spring 1988.

Doug Melnyk's drawings from his series "Heart Not at Rest" were featured in *Prairie Fire* VII, 4.

bpNichol's preliminary gathering of Organ Music pieces entitled *Selected Organs: parts of an autobiography* is forthcoming from Black Moss Press in Spring 1988.

Michael Ondaatje's recent novel, *In the Skin of a Lion*, has been lionized by most critics.

Stephen Scobie teaches English at the University of Victoria. He received the Governor General's Award in poetry for *McAlmon's Chinese Opera*.

Birk Spraxton lives in Central Alberta, not far from Heisler. "Making Mickey" is excerpted from a novel in progress tentatively called *Mickey*. His most recent books are *Headframe* and *Trace: Prairie Writers on Writing*, both by Turnstone.

Andrew Suknaski lives in Moose Jaw where he is creating visual art and working on a book of poems entitled *Divining West*.

Anne Szumigalski, is this year's Writer-in-Residence at the Winnipeg Public Library. Her most recent book is *Dogstones: selected and new poems* (Fifth House).

Aritha van Herk teaches English at the University of Calgary. Her third novel, *No Fixed Address*, was nominated for a Governor General's Award in 1987.

Fred Wah won the 1986 Governor General's Award in poetry for *Waiting for Saskatchewan* (Turnstone). The five poems printed here respond to Robert Kroetsch's "Delphi: Commentary" in *Advice to My Friends*. *Music at the Heart of Thinking* will be published by RDC Press.

Bruce Whiteman is a poet, critic and librarian in Hamilton. ♡

Errata & End Notes

We apologize for the layout of some recent issues. Steps are being taken to insure that the magazine continues to look as good as it reads.

Typos unfortunately occur despite our best efforts. We particularly regret those errors that crept into J. R. Léveillé's essay, "De La Littérature-Franco Manitoabaine," in our last issue.

With this issue, our period of erratic publishing ends. We are back on schedule and, with your support, we'll stay there.

Here are some last minute donor listings: *Friend* Dolores M. Hofley; *Supporter* Heather and Glen Carruthers, Walfried Jansen; *Sustainer* Martin Kuester, Anne Szumigalski; *Benefactor* Robert Kroetsch. Thank you all. ♡

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Next Issue:

An in-depth interview with Phyllis Webb, Lorna Crozier's Montreal Journal, art by Michael Olito, poetry by Erin Mouré, as well as prose & poetry by Brenda Austin-Smith, Fred Cogswell, Ray Filip, Patrick Friesen, Kristjana Gunnars, Kathie Kolybaba, Allen Mills, Robin Potter & others.



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