

## PREFACE

### **Canadian Poetry: The First Twenty-five Years**

During the twenty-five years since its inception in 1977, *Canadian Poetry: Studies, Documents, Reviews* has incurred debts to a great many people. At the outset it drew sustenance from the wisdom and enthusiasm of Michael Gnarowski and the generosity and foresight of Thomas J. Collins. Every article and document in each of its fifty issues has benefitted from the constructive criticism of members of its Editorial Advisory Board and, from time to time, other referees in the academic community. Not one of those fifty issues would have found its way into print or into the hands of subscribers without the help of what is now a legion of circulation managers and editorial assistants. None would have been possible without the generations of scholars and subscribers who provide the journal's *raison d'être* and none would have been possible without the financial support at different times and in different ways of the Ontario Arts Council, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and the Department of English and Faculty of Arts of the University of Western Ontario. *Canadian Poetry* and all those who value it owe a special and continuing debt, however, to Susan Bentley, the journal's General Manager, for her selfless and unfailing work on its and their behalf. Speaking personally, I can say with absolute certainty that *Canadian Poetry* would not exist today without Suzie's loving and dedicated support. If that sounds like hyperbole, rest assured that it is not.

In A.M. Klein's great poem "Portrait of the Poet as Landscape" the poet ascends in his imagination to "another planet, the better to look / with single camera view upon the earth— / its total scope, and each afflated tick, / its talk, its trick, its tracklessness." I am not much of a poet, but for twenty-five years being editor of *Canadian Poetry* has permitted me to gain a unique perspective on the world of Canadian literature, and for this I am deeply grateful to all those who in one way or another have sustained the journal. To be in such company, occasional ticks and all, has been an honour and a pleasure. Thank you all.

**D.M.R. Bentley**