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PREFACE

Valediction

It cannot be easy for any editor to announce the closing of a journal, but in this instance it is especially difficult. I have edited *Canadian Poetry: Studies, Documents, Reviews* since it was founded in 1976, and it has become an important part of my life – indeed, an important part of my family’s life: from the beginning my wife Susan Bentley has served as the journal’s Circulation Manager, handled its packaging and distribution, and endured what by now must be months of conversation about it. I owe Susan an immense and heartfelt debt of gratitude. Together we have shared the uncertainties and successes that come with publishing of any kind, and both of us will miss the joy of opening the boxes containing each number of the journal, and revelling in the sensory pleasure unique to freshly printed books.

Of course there are a great many others to whom much gratitude is due. Without the publishing experience of Michael Gnarowski of Carleton University, *Canadian Poetry* would not have come into existence, and without the financial savvy of Thomas J. Collins, the Chair of The University of Western Ontario’s Department of English at that time, it would not have cleared the hurdles required to secure assistance from the Ontario Arts Council and the Social Sciences Research Council, both of which generously supported it for many years. No less generous has been Western’s support of the journal through a series of wonderful Circulation Managers, most notably Beth McIntosh, Anne McFarland, and, most recently, Vivian Foglton. Thanks are also owing to Tracy Ware of Queen’s University, who for the last ten years has given *Canadian Poetry* the benefit of his vast knowledge of academia and book reviewing in the role of Reviews Editor.

Over the years the membership of the journal’s Editorial Advisory Board has inevitably changed, but the Board has always been blessed with scholars who have devoted great swatches of their valuable time to reading submissions and giving authors and the editor alike the benefit of their scholarly expertise. To them, and to the countless scholars who entrusted their work to *Canadian Poetry*, my profound thanks. Over the years changes have also taken place in the ways and means of publishing books and journals, and in this regard *Canadian Poetry* has benefitted very greatly from the computing and printing expertise of Gerard Stafleu,

Richard J. Shroyer, Don Ekdall, and Patricia Killough, and the typographical and formatting skills of numerous Editorial Assistants, most recently David Giesbrecht and most notably Suzanne J. Clark, who voluntarily formatted no fewer than 28 numbers of the journal while working full-time and raising a family.

Not least because of the help of the people that I have mentioned and many others, *Canadian Poetry* has been able to publish most of the best scholarship on Canadian poetry over the last four decades (and more), and, in doing so, to introduce a number of innovations in scholarly publishing in the field of Canadian literature. *Canadian Poetry* was the first journal in the field to adopt a system of peer review; it was the first to provide open access to its content; and it was the first to offer free subscriptions in electronic form to interested individuals, while continuing to print hard copies for institutional subscribers. *Canadian Poetry* would have continued to publish and make widely available the best scholarship in its field for the foreseeable future, but, for reasons that I will leave others to ponder and discuss, there no longer seems to be a need for a scholarly journal devoted to Canadian poetry.

Many who are reading this Preface have been subscribing to *Canadian Poetry: Studies, Documents, Reviews* for several years, some from quite recently, and a few from the outset. My final thanks go to you all for your interest and support. I am proud to have edited and published a journal that you made part of your academic life.

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