Excerpts
NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON PRESS

Press Launches
The Pacific Northwest Poetry Series

On October 19, at the home of Rick and Valerie Rapport, poets and poetry enthusiasts gathered to celebrate the launch of the University of Washington Press's Pacific Northwest Poetry Series and the publication of its first volume, *For the Century's End: Poems 1990-1999*, by John Haines. Series editor Linda Bierds was joined by Haines, Press editor Gretchen Van Meter, lifelong arts supporter Cynthia Sears, Press staff, and advisory board members to inaugurate this exciting new venture.

The Pacific Northwest Poetry Series is dedicated to publishing the finest work of contemporary Northwest poets. While their themes may or may not be regional, participating poets will have a longstanding relationship with the Pacific Northwest and must have been residents of Washington, Oregon, Alaska, British Columbia, Idaho, or western Montana for a minimum of five years. Manuscripts are considered at the invitation of series editor Linda Bierds, professor of English at the University of Washington, author of six books of poetry, and a recipient of a fellowship from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

The first poet in the series, John Haines, is the author of fourteen books of poetry and five books of essays. His honors include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and the Academy of American Poets; the Alaska Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts; the Western States Arts Federation Lifetime Achievement Award; the Lenore Marshall/Nation Award; the Poet's Prize; and the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature. He lives in Missoula, Montana, and in addition to attending our reception, he traveled to Seattle to read his work at Northwest Bookfest and Open Books: A Poem Emporium.
In 1998, the University of Washington Press received $90,000 from the Getty Grant Program to help us publish four book-length studies on North American Native Art. This fall, the Press completed publication of the last of these distinguished scholarly books.

The Yuquot Whaler’s Shrine (September, 1999) by Aldona Jonaitis, director of the University of Alaska Museum and professor of Anthropology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, describes a remarkable collection of materials from the Mowachut band of the Nuu-chah-nulth (Nootka) on Vancouver Island, after which it was represented in anthropological and historical writings, film, television, and newspapers. In Privileging the Past: Reconstructing History in Northwest Coast Art (October, 1999), art historian and sculptor Judith Ostrowitz approaches questions of authenticity and tradition in Northwest Coast art through a careful consideration of replicas, reproductions, and creative translations of past forms of Northwest Coast dances, ceremonies, masks, painted screens, and houses. In 1001 Curious Things: Ye Olde Curiosity Shop and Native American Art (January, 2001) by Kate Duncan, professor of Art at Arizona State University, recounting the history of one of Seattle’s most famous tourist shops and archives maintained from the time the shop opened, Duncan has provided a fascinating chapter in the history of Seattle and a significant contribution to the literature on tourist arts and collecting.

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While Haida art has long been recognized as central to the development of the highly formalized northern Northwest Coast style of design, it has often been viewed as somewhat static and anonymous. Northern Haida Master Carvers (September, 2001) by Robin Wright, curator of Native American Art at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, highlights for the first time the distinctive achievements of several of the most important Northern Haida artists and analyzes the art, historical developments, and stylistic changes in pole carving. The book traces the making of the monumental poles from the days of first contact to the present, illuminating the variations in style that resulted from historical, cultural, and individual circumstances. In this fascinating study, Wright masterfully interweaves the historical and artistic developments of a great sculptural tradition.

The Getty Grant program is part of the J. Paul Getty Trust, an international cultural and philanthropic organization focused on the visual arts, its funding priorities reflect its interest in projects that promote learning and scholarship about the history of the visual arts and the conservation of cultural heritage.

From The Director

On the front page of this issue of Excerpts we announce the first volume in the Pacific Northwest Poetry Series, edited by the distinguished poet and MacArthur Fellow, Professor Linda Bierds. A dream of mine since I became director of the Press, this series has been made possible because of the collaboration of three people I would like to use this opportunity to tell you a little about these good friends and about the blossoming of the series through the publication of its first volume, For the Century’s End: Poems 1990-1999, by John Haines.

Publishing poetry is not new for the University of Washington Press. In the 1970s and 1980s, we published several volumes by fine regional poets, and in 1997 we published a volume of poetry in our Asian American program. However, the market for poetry has always been modest at best, and we felt we did not have the editorial and financial resources to publish poetry well.

In 1999, we approached Linda Bierds to see if she would be interested in editing an invited series of regional poetry for us. We kept our fingers crossed, because at that time she was not only managing her career as an award-winning, nationally recognized poet and distinguished teacher on our English faculty, but she was also the director of the University’s Creative Writing Program. We were afraid that this assignment might be the straw that broke her back! After our meeting with her, we breathed a sigh of relief, because her eyes lit up and she began proposing the ideas that have shaped the direction of the series.

For the Century’s End: Poems 1990-1999 (January, 2000) by Kate Duncan, professor of Art at Arizona State University, recounts the history of one of Seattle’s legendary commercial institutions, Ye Olde Curiosity Shop on the Seattle waterfront. Although Native American material was used for space with exhibits from all corners of the globe, it soon grew to be the mainstay of the shop, which became identified with the whalebones displayed outside and the “piles of old Eskimo raincoats” within. Also to be found were baskets, moccasins, ivory carving from Alaska, Tillamook/Columbia River Indian spoons, and baskets. Haida ("jacks") totem poles, masks, paddles, and other curiosities from the Northwest Coast. Granted full access by its current owners to the remarkably complete archives maintained from the time the shop opened, Duncan has provided a fascinating chapter in the history of Seattle and a significant contribution to the literature on tourist arts and collecting.

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Michael Burnap is currently the Manager for Customer Support at Fiscus Corporation. Prior to joining Fiscus, Burnap was a Vice President and Manager at Bank of America. He received his BA in Oriental Languages and Literature at the University of Colorado and his MBA in Corporate and International Finance at the University of Southern California. He has served as the Development Advisory Board Chair for two years.

How did you become interested in scholarly publishing and the University of Washington Press?

I have been a lifelong lover of books and the knowledge that they pass on from generation to generation. My introduction to the Press resulted from my good fortune in knowing Liz Cryder, a member. I am very grateful to Liz for making it possible for me to indulge my love of books and learning in such a positive fashion.

Have your notions about the Press reflect your own personal and professional interests?

I am fascinated by the breadth and depth of the Press's publishing efforts. Part of the explanation for the diverse number of subjects covered by the Press lies in its ability to choose subjects not because of their potential for profitability, but rather because they contribute to the general advancement of knowledge and learning. As a non-profit institution with a stated mission of disseminating knowledge, the Press has the freedom to consider more than just the sales potential of a book or author. Society benefits, as do current and future students at the University and other institutions.

As you know, the Press needs strong community support to meet its mission. What do you see as the Press's most immediate need?

The production of books in today's world requires more than just paying the costs of printing, editing, and writing. It requires a sophisticated computer system that allows the editor to coordinate with all of the other people who work to produce a book. In addition, information needs to be available electronically so that book reviewers can find and order our books. In order to keep up with the demands of the business in the future, the Press is going to need support to invest in the computer systems, databases, and technical assistance needed to bring publishing into the 21st century. It may not be as tangible as having ones name on an individual book title or sponsored series, but investing in our infrastructure will allow us to continue to be the preeminent University Press that we have become.

If you could stand in Westlake Center in downtown Seattle or in Red Square on the University of Washington campus and speak to the passersby about the Press, what would your message be?

If you want to learn more about the Press and its role within the University and community, you should join the Press Advisory Board! When I first accepted the invitation to join the Press, I, like many others, assumed that it was wholly funded and supported by the University. The relationship between the Press and the University is complex one. The Press helps to aid the University in its quest to make learning and knowledge available to our community. However, the Press differs from the rest of the University community in that it has the ability to be largely self-funding. The proceeds of book sales go to offset many of the costs of producing our books, and the Press has made strong efforts to seek outside support and funding to cover the total costs of a book's publication.

Do you have a favorite book recently published by the Press?

Yes, a favorite is "Days of Defeat and Victory: Gaidar and Russia's Making of a New State Failure, Regional Politics, and the Failed Tailian", sold out the week it was published. The Press reprinted 35,000 copies to meet the demand. Author Larry Goodson was invited to speak as an expert on Afghanistan and the Taliban on CSPAN's Book-TV, several NPR affiliates, FOX-TV news, and other media outlets. He also appeared at Powell's City of Books in Portland as well as Northwest Bookfest and the University of Washington's Kane Hall.

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Are there particular books that the Press has recently published that you have enjoyed and would recommend?

One of the more important and interesting books that the Press has published in the past couple of years was the biography of Yegor Gaidar, Daydreams and Dilemmas. Gaidar was the Russian Premier during Boris Yeltsin's first year in office. Even now, almost ten years later, his biography is worth reading because of the disparity with which he expresses himself and because actions taken by his government still reverberate through Russia's political and economic landscape. Anyone who is interested in our state's recent history should read Shifty Scats biography of Warren G. Magnuson. Magnuson was involved in many of the actions that shaped the state of Washington that we live in today. One of the unique strengths of the Press is its ability to publish a series of related books (Jun and Jack Wright, the Wayzahusser Family and Foundation, sponsor a series of books covering diverse aspects of the environment and our effects on it as well as its effects on us; Scott and Laurie OW are sponsoring a series that, for the first time, I am aware, addresses the impact Asian Americans have had on our society.

Have your notions about the Press reflect your own personal and professional interests?

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How does your involvement in the Press reflect your own personal and professional interests?

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If you could stand in Westlake Center in downtown Seattle or in Red Square on the University of Washington campus and speak to the passersby about the Press, what would your message be?

If you want to learn more about the state and its people, its history, its present, and its relationship with the rest of the world, start with the UW Press. The Press, with its wide ranging and in-depth books, is an important component of the University of Washington's efforts to spread knowledge throughout our community. By its efforts, the University of Washington Press has facilitated the original expectations set out for it. It has become one of the University's crown jewels, and I wish that more people were aware of what a wonderful addition to our community we have in the Press.

A Conversation with Development Advisory Board Chair, Michael Burnap
In Memoriam: Samuel J. Stroum

On Friday, March 9, renowned Seattle philanthropist Samuel J. Stroum passed away. Stroum played an integral role in the University of Washington Press's development for more than twenty years, beginning in 1976 when the first book in The Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectures in Jewish Studies series was published. In 1990, in response to the Press's first National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant, Samuel and Althea Stroum created another series, Samuel and Althea Stroum Books, to support the publication of works of lasting significance concerned with all aspects of the humanities. As a result of their patronage, the University of Washington Press has published many significant works in these fields. We are honored to be a part of Samuel Stroum's generous legacy.

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The Press gratefully acknowledges the following gifts:

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of:

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