Spring 2007

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA PRESS

CONTENTS
 DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE 2
 NATURAL HISTORY 3
 HISTORY 5
 NON-FICTION 6
 NATIVE STUDIES & DISTRIBUTED TITLES 7
 RECENTLY RELEASED 8
 SALES REPRESENTATION/DISTRIBUTION 11
 ORDERING INFORMATION 12

HAVE YOU READ US LATELY?
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Dear Friends and Colleagues

It is with pleasure that I invite you to peruse our Spring 2007 catalogue and select those “must-have” volumes for your library.

You might want to grab a fishing rod, don a pith hat or pick up an insect net and other collecting paraphernalia as you consider the natural science offerings.

We are delighted to announce publication of the highly anticipated Ladybugs of Alberta: Finding the Spots and Connecting the Dots by everybody’s favourite entomologist, John Acorn. These popular creatures figure prominently in science and literature and with John’s usual keen eye and constant quest for knowledge we are pleased to announce that he has identified a new species that is described in the book. As usual, besides making the science accessible, John entertains us with his prose. A second book by John—Deep Alberta: Fossil Facts and Dinosaur Digs—will cast light upon bones and other artifacts buried deep beneath Alberta topsoil. Rounding off our natural history publications is the seminal volume by J.D. McPhail, The Freshwater Fishes of British Columbia, with illustrations by D.L. McPhail.

Moving from science to history, Arthur Kroeger takes us on a journey from Russia to Canada as he shares with us a Mennonite family’s struggle to survive and make a new life in Hard Passage. Returning author William Barr [Red Serge and Polar Bear Pants: The Biography of Harry Stallworthy, RCMP (2004)] continues his exploration of the North with Arctic Hell-Ship: The Voyage of HMS Enterprise 1850-1855. Paul DePasquale joins our history lineup with Natives and Settlers Now and Then.

We are happy to welcome back George Melnyk [Literary History of Alberta, Volumes I and II (1998 & 1999) and Poetics of Naming (2003)] with a major study of Canadian film directors, Great Canadian Film Directors.

Rounding off a fine spring list and not to be missed is A.S. Woudstra’s The Green Heart of the Tree: Essays and Notes on a Time in Africa.

We thank our major sponsors: the Canadian Heritage Book Publishing Development Program, The Canada Council for the Arts, the Association for the Export of Canadian Books, and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. These organizations and programs are critical to the continued publication of worthy books and knowledge transfer to a Canadian audience and beyond.

Sincerely

Linda D. Cameron
Director
Everybody loves a ladybug, and no one is more passionate about these dotted creatures than John Acorn, who has produced the first regional ladybug field guide anywhere in North America. With colour photographs and illustrations on 75 different species, Acorn guides readers in their discovery of the diversity of ladybugs in Alberta. He also explores the effects that introduced species have had on the ladybugs of Alberta, and offers an optimistic interpretation. Whether a bug-loving kid, nature-walk enthusiast, or a professional entomologist, readers will find ladybug identification both easy and fun.

“John Acorn knows his beetles.”
Dr. John Obrycki, Professor and Chair, Department of Entomology, University of Kentucky

“...a delightfully readable style...”
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John Acorn is a writer, broadcaster, and biologist. He lives in Edmonton with his wife Dena and sons Jesse and Ben.

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March 2007

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Dr. Gene Kritsky, Curator of Entomology, Cincinnati Museum Center

“The book treats the 22 species of zygopterans in Alberta in great detail and is without question a scholarly treatise. But it’s worth having a copy just because it’s a good read...How many books have you seen in which some of the species are introduced by limericks? Enough said.”
Dr. Dennis Paulson, University of Puget Sound. Faculty of Biology/Slater Museum of Natural History
Deep Alberta
Fossil Facts and Dinosaur Digs

JOHN ACORN

Alberta is well known for its fossil treasures, and author John Acorn is as keen on the long-dead creatures of Alberta as he is on the living. Here, John features 80 of the most noteworthy fossils, fossil locations, and fossil hunters from this most palaeontological of provinces. There’s more to the story of “deep Alberta” than dinosaurs, but dinosaur fans will find all of their favourite beasts here as well—from Edmontosaurus to Tyrannosaurus rex, and everything in-between. Then there are the surprises, such as the world’s oldest pike, the discovery of a venomous mammal, and the fossils found in such unlikely places as Edmonton and Calgary. Prepared with the collaboration of palaeontologists around Alberta, and the world-renowned Royal Tyrrell Museum, this is a book that is long overdue, and that deserves a place on everyone’s bookshelf.

John Acorn is a writer, broadcaster, and biologist. He lives in Edmonton with his wife Dena and sons Jesse and Ben.

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The Freshwater Fishes of British Columbia

J.D. MCPHAIL
JOSEPH S. NELSON, FOREWORD
D.L. MCPHAIL, ILLUSTRATOR

The threat of deteriorating habitats and a loss of biodiversity makes this reference work on the freshwater fishes of British Columbia more necessary than ever before. Eighty-one comprehensive species accounts aid accurate identification and consist of an illustration, the scientific and common names of the fish, its distinguishing characteristics, taxonomic comments, geographic distribution, a life-history summary, a habitat-use summary, and conservation comments. The book is a critical resource for biologists, naturalists, management and conservation officers, anglers, and members of the public who are concerned about our natural heritage.

J.D. McPhail is professor emeritus of the Native Fish Research Group in the Department of Zoology at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

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Hard Passage
A Mennonite Family’s Long Journey from Russia to Canada

ARTHUR KROEGER

In the 1920s, 20,000 Mennonites left the newly formed Soviet Union and emigrated to Canada. Among them were Heinrich and Helena Kroeger and their five children. After living for 120 years in the comfortable surroundings of a Russian Mennonite community, the Kroeger family experienced war, revolution, a typhus epidemic, and hyper-inflation in quick succession. In 1926, they left their homeland to settle in an arid region of Western Canada. Based on Heinrich’s diaries and letters, Hard Passage speaks to the indomitable spirit of Mennonite immigrants to the Canadian West.

Arthur Kroeger had a 34–year career in the federal public service, half spent serving as a deputy minister. After graduating from the University of Alberta, he studied at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. Following his years in government, he taught at several Canadian universities, and served as chancellor at Carleton University. Arthur Kroeger currently resides in Ottawa.

Arctic Hell-Ship
The Voyage of HMS Enterprise 1850–1855

WILLIAM BARR

In 1850, Richard Collinson captained the HMS Enterprise on a voyage to the Arctic via the Bering Strait in search of the missing Franklin expedition. Arctic Hell-Ship describes the daily progress of this little-known Arctic expedition, and examines the steadily worsening relations between Collinson and his officers. William Barr has based his research on a wide range of original archival documents, and the book is illustrated with a selection of vivid paintings by the ship’s assistant surgeon, Edward Adams.

William Barr is professor emeritus of Geography, University of Saskatchewan, and a research associate with the Arctic Institute of North America. He lives in Calgary, Alberta.
Great Canadian Film Directors
GEORGE MELNYK, EDITOR

Great Canadian Film Directors is a major study of the film director’s role in articulating a creative vision that provides insights into national cultures. The 18 essays highlight the diversity, imaginative power, and talents of Canada’s most prominent Anglophone and Francophone filmmakers. Among the distinguishing features of the collection are its contemporary treatment of major figures such as Denys Arcand and Norman Jewison as well as critical discussions of the work of women directors and young filmmakers. Filmographies and selected bibliographies for each director provide film students and the general public with a significant study of a cinema that now garners world attention.

George Melnyk is a cultural historian who has published some twenty books in a distinguished career, including works of philosophy, history, politics, and poetry. He teaches in the Faculty of Communication and Culture at the University of Calgary, where he specializes in Canadian cinema.

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The Green Heart of the Tree
Essays and Notes on a Time in Africa
A.S. WOUDSTRA

Woudstra’s literary essays, rooted in personal experience and travel, are long and loving looks into the mysterious heart of Africa. Her writings explore topics as diverse as volcanic eruptions and wild trees, African art and ritual, life in Rwanda, and turtle eggs in warm sand.

“Like Annie Dillard, Annette Woudstra is a poet of observation. She carefully works experience and reflection to create sentences and scenes of exceptional clarity and grace.”
Greg Hollingshead

“An extremely engaging and intelligent collection... these essays are above all distinguished by a deep and serene vitality.”
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“Quiet and wise, the essays of Annette Schouten Woudstra live, as she says, ‘close to the bone.’ The writing is both lyrical and gritty, her gaze unflinching and tender.”
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A.S. Woudstra returned to Canada after living for several years in the central African country of Gabon. Her essays and poetry have been published in various Canadian literary magazines. She lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

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PAUL DEPASQUALE, EDITOR

This collection reinterprets treaty making, rights, title, and land claims from Aboriginal perspectives. In the spirit of ongoing dialogue, essays by Sharon Venne, Patricia Seed, Harold Cardinal, Frank Tough, and Erin McGregor bring new insights to the interpretations of signed treaties and pre-contact treaty-making processes, examine land claims still under negotiation, and demonstrate the vitality of Aboriginal laws and paradigms in a country new to decolonization and nation building.

Paul DePasquale is Associate Professor of English at the University of Winnipeg where he teaches courses on Aboriginal literature and on early modern European travel and colonialism.

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