



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

Newsletter – 3 June 2005

This is the 70th in a series of occasional newsletters from the Victoria University centre of the International Institute of Modern Letters. For more information about any of the items, please email modernletters@vuw.ac.nz.

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1. Challenging times

Readers of the *Sunday Star-Times* and *Dominion Post* may have caught up with the interesting challenge (or rather, opportunity) facing the IIML at present. Not content with funding the \$65,000 Prize in Modern Letters, US patron Glenn Schaeffer has also pledged to donate US\$1m to the Institute – but only if the IIML can match it by raising an equivalent NZ\$1m. This generous offer will not remain on the table indefinitely, however: the challenge gift has a deadline of December 2005. The Institute is half way towards the target already, but still needs help to reach the million dollar mark by year's end. Funds raised will be used for scholarships to help the emerging writers of the future. Bill Manhire says, 'Writers often finish the MA with a full-length piece of writing which maybe still needs a few months' work before being ready for submission to a publisher or production house. We want these scholarships to be the bridge between course-end and that moment when our most talented graduates cross their fingers and put their manuscript in the post.'

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/0,2106,3290049a1860,00.html>

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/sundaystartimes/0,2106,3295843a6619,00.html>

2. Still time for young poets...

... but the deadline is fast approaching. Entries for the third Bell Gully National Schools Poetry Award, open to year 12 and 13 secondary school students, close on 10 June. The winner will receive \$500 for themselves and \$500 to be spent on books for their school library, with the prize presented at a function in Wellington on 19 August, the night before the Bell Gully National Schools Writing Festival. In addition, five runners-up will receive \$50 of Booksellers Tokens from Book Tokens (NZ) Ltd, a year's membership of the New Zealand Book Council, and a year's subscription to two of New Zealand's leading literary journals, *Landfall* and *Sport*. For full details and conditions of entry see the IIML website:

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters/activities/schools-poetry.aspx>

3. Poetry, writing the landscape, young adult writing workshops

The application deadline for second trimester workshops in Poetry and Writing the Landscape and Kate De Goldi's Writing for Young Adults masterclass has just passed, but last-minute applicants take heart: we'll be accepting applications for a few days more, so if you've been thinking about getting some input for your writing, there's still time to apply – just. Workshops start in the first week of July (see the website for details).

4. Rejection can be hard to take

Writers can get very tetchy when they feel they're not getting the attention they deserve. Just last week an IIML administrator was labelled a 'talentless bore' for simply letting an aspiring writer know that staff aren't able to comment on unsolicited manuscripts. High-profile writers are no more immune to setbacks, however, as the current editor of America's long-running *Poetry* magazine discovered when he rejected work by 2004 Pulitzer Prize winner Franz Wright. The name-calling started with 'vengeful, petty, reactionary & aesthetically moridbund [sic] freaks' and went on through a series of emails that were eventually published in the magazine.

<http://www.newcriterion.com/weblog/2005/05/battle-royale-of-poetry-world-round.html>

5. The expanding bookshelf

Hot off the press is *Cover Stories* (Victoria University Press), the third volume of poetry from this year's Victoria University/Creative New Zealand Writer-in-Residence, Stephanie de Montalk. Later in the year de Montalk will be reading from *Cover Stories* (Victoria University Press) and presenting a preview of her novel-in-progress in the Writers on Mondays series, which kicks off at City Gallery Wellington with an international guest on 11 July (watch this space for details).

Two best-selling graduates also have new books out in recent weeks. Elizabeth Knox's first young adult novel *Dreamhunter* (HarperCollins) was launched at the Auckland Writers and Readers Festival on 21 May, and it has also appeared from Faber & Faber in the UK, where it goes by the title *The Rainbow Opera*. 2006 will see it released in America by Farrar, Straus & Giroux, as well as by Penguin Canada and the Japanese Broadcasting Corporation. Jenny Patrick's third historical novel *Catching the Current* (Black Swan) is on the shelves already, but will be officially launched in Wellington next week. Jenny Patrick speaks about the book, which travels beyond New Zealand to Denmark and the Faroe Islands, at the Auckland City Library on Tuesday 7 June, 12 noon.

<http://www.listener.co.nz/default,4060.sm>

www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/0,2106,3297217a4501,00.html

www.aucklandlibrary.co.nz/general.aspx?ct=527&id=3647

6. Calling new New Zealand writers

The publishers of a collection of new New Zealand writers are looking for submissions. The book aims to attract attention to the new literature emerging here, and the editor says she is looking for writing that is 'fresh, smart and daring. It is less nostalgic than past New Zealand writing, more urban, it takes risks, and comes from a more diverse range of voices.' Short fiction, prose-poetry, poetry and creative non-fiction including the lyric essay will be considered; the word limit is 3000 words for a single piece, but multiple shorter pieces that work together to showcase a writer's work will be considered. Send submissions with a stamped, self-addressed envelope and a short blurb about your writing history and any publication record to: **The Editor, 10 Devon St, Kelburn, Wellington, by July 1.**

7. From the whiteboard

'A writer is someone for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people.'
(Thomas Mann)

8. The expanding anthology

121 New Zealand Poems, chosen or perhaps 'curated' by Bill Manhire has just been published by Godwit. This enlarged version of the much-reprinted *100 New Zealand Poems* has abandoned the old Mobil-Guide-inspired, made-for-the-glovebox format that made its predecessor so distinctive for an up-to-date shape more reminiscent of a Lonely Planet or Rough Guide. It has (as the title suggests) taken in another 21 poems that have come along (or been uncovered) since the original was published back in 1993. It still wins the 'most-fun-to-be-had-with-an-anthology' prize for the guessing game to be played over who wrote which poem, as the authors' names are cunningly withheld until the back of the book. Alternatively, if you're a certain

North & South reviewer, it wins the ‘most perverse and irritating anthology’ prize - for the same reason.

9. Recent web reading

Google: publishers’ enemy no. 1?

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/review/story/0,6903,1478948,00.html>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20050508.wgoog0508/BNStory/Entertainment/>

Windows

<http://books.guardian.co.uk/review/story/0,12084,1472586,00.html>

Almost Bill Hammond

<http://www.bornmagazine.org/projects/2blinds/>

The isolated novelist

<http://www.fluxfactory.org/projects/novel.htm>

Sips

http://www.wired.com/news/ebiz/0,1272,67430,00.html?tw=wn_tophead_1

Does length matter (on stage)?

http://www.guardian.co.uk/arts/features/story/0,11710,1471207,00.html#article_continue

Seamus and the Emperor

<http://www.japantoday.com/e/?content=news=1=336605>

<<http://www.japantoday.com/e/?content=news&cat=1&id=336605>>

Surviving Charles Dickens' London

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/multimedia/dickens/>

Dickensworld

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/review/story/0,6903,1489271,00.html>

Jonathan Franzen story

http://www.newyorker.com/fiction/content/articles/050523fi_fiction

More Foetry

<http://chronicle.com/free/v51/i37/37a01201.htm>

Gumshoe foetry

http://www.mobylikes.com/Gumshoe_v_poet.html

Katy Robinson profile

<http://www.salient.org.nz/index.php?a=1304=17>

<<http://www.salient.org.nz/index.php?a=1304&c=17>>

Korean literature and peace festival

http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/SITE/data/html_dir/2005/05/23/200505230012.asp

US book trade

<http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/050524/245122.html?.v=1>

From vanity to entrepreneurship: the 'self-producer'

<http://www.nynewsday.com/features/booksmags/ny-ffcul4265733may22,0,1302827.story>

Beat generation on stage

<http://books.guardian.co.uk/news/articles/0,6109,1488451,00.html>

The IIML and translation

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2005-05-02-voa51.cfm>

Brain poetry

<http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?chanID=sa003&articleID=000BE01D-E7E3-1294-A7E383414B7F0000>

10. Great lists of our time

Some American quilts, compiled (by the indefatigable List Lady) from a large collection at <http://www.josk.net/quilting.asp>

A Bevy of Bags

A Dandy

Aged Amish Schoolhouses

Arkansas Crossroads

Arrow Crown

A Scrap Patch

A Yankee Doodle Trip Around the World

Balkan Puzzle

Best of All

Bridal Path

Broken Dishes

Canadian Gardens

Card Trick

Christmas In Ohio

Churning Stars

Clays Choice

Color Me Red

Columbian Puzzle

Country Checkered Board

Crossed Canoes

Cubed Lattice

Drunkards Path

Dublin Steps

Dutchmans Puzzle
Eccentric Star
Fair and Square
Floating Stars Over Moosehead Lodge
Fresh Apples From the Country
Glow in the Dark Tote
Grandma's Stars in Victorian Roses
Green Mountain Star
Homespun Christmas Stockings
Jack in the Box
Jewels Tossed in a Stormy Sea
Jobs Troubles
Kansas Star
Kings Highway
Log Cabin Stars on Mistletoe Mountain
Miniature Wedding Ring
Monkey Wrench
Ohio Star
Pale Star
Patience Corners
Paws and Pinwheels
Pieced Star
Pinetree
Pinwheel Askew
Pinwheels on Paradise
Road to California
Road to Tennessee
Sarah's Choice
Sawtooth Star
Scrappy Triangles
Secret Garden A Haven for Geese
Seesaw
Shoo Fly
Simple Attic Windows
Snail Trail
Stars in My Garden
Swing in the Center
Texas Treasure
Thirteen Squares
This and That in Redwork
Thrifty
Tied Tic Tac Toe
Treasure Box
Trip Around a Paint Box World
Turkey in the Straw
Tuscany Chickens
Underground Railroad Miniature
Vintage Propellers
With Respect Flag

