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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

KIRSTIN ALLIO'S novel, Garner (Coffee House Press), was a finalist for the L.A. Times Book Award for first fiction. She received the National Book Foundation’s “5 Under 35” award in 2007. She lives in Providence, RI with her husband and sons.

Czech writer HANA ANDRONIKOVA received the Magnesia Litera Award in 2002 for her first novel, Zvuk slunečních hodin (The sound of the sundial), which she followed with a collection of short stories, Srdce na udici (Heart on a hook, 2002).

AMANDA AUCHTER is the editor of Pebble Lake Review. Her manuscript, Glossolalia, was a finalist for the 2008 Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets and the 2008 Beatrice Hawley Book Award (Alice James Books). She teaches at Lone Star College in Houston.

ELENA BOSSI has received fellowships from the University of Urbino (Italy) and the National Endowment for the Arts Secretariat of Culture in her own Argentina. She has authored one collection of poetry, Jirones (Rags, 1990), and several volumes of literary criticism.

FLEDA BROWN'S newest collection of poems, Reunion, won the 2007 Felix Pollak Prize and was published by the University of Wisconsin Press. She is the poet laureate of Delaware.

ERIK CAMPBELL’S first poetry collection, Argument for Stillness (Curbstone Press), was named by Book Sense as one of the top ten poetry collections for 2007. He lives with his wife in Papua, Indonesia.

KEVIN CLARK’S book In the Evening of No Warning (New Issues, 2002) was selected for a grant from The Academy of American
Poets. His poetry writing textbook, The Mind's Eye, was published in 2007.

Peter Cooley has published seven books of poetry. A new book, Divine Margins, is forthcoming. He teaches creative writing at Tulane.

Todd Davis teaches creative writing and environmental studies at Penn State University–Altoona. He is the author of two books of poems, Ripe (Bottom Dog Press, 2002) and Some Heaven (Michigan State, 2007).

Natalie Diaz was born and raised on the fort Mojave Indian Reservation in Needles, CA. After playing professional basketball in Europe and Asia, she pursued an MFA degree from Old Dominion University and graduated in 2007. She currently lives in Arizona.

Alex Epstein was born in Leningrad and has been living in Israel since the age of eight. Widely translated, Epstein is the author of three collections of short stories, most recently Blue Has No South (2005), and three novels, most recently Dream Recipes (2002).

Julia Hartwig has published more than a dozen collections of poetry in her native Poland, and her work has been translated into seven languages. In 2008, Knopf published a selection of her poems, In Praise of the Unfinished.

Jimmye Hillman is Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics at the University of Arizona. He was born in Greene County, Mississippi and grew up there during the Great Depression.

Lowell Jaeger, a 1981 graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, has published two collections of poetry. He teaches creative writing at Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell, Montana.

Brandon Krieg grew up in Portland, Oregon and currently lives in Chicago.
STEVE LANGAN is the author of a collection of poems, Freezing (New Issues, 2001), and a chapbook, Notes on Exile and Other Poems (Backwaters, 2005). He lives in Omaha.

JEANNE LEVASSEUR teaches nursing at Quinnipiac University and is the director of their graduate nursing program. Her poetry has been published in Nimrod, Spoon River Poetry Review, and the Journal of the American Medical Association, among others.

Among LYN LIFSHIN’S recent books are The Licorice Daughter: My Year with Ruffian (Texas Review Press) and Another Woman Who Looks Like Me (Black Sparrow at Godine).

Born in Jamaica, KEI MILLER currently teaches creative writing at the University of Glasgow. He is the editor of New Caribbean Poetry (2007) and has recently authored a second poetry collection, There Is an Anger That Moves (2007).

JAMES NORCLIFFE is a New Zealand poet and writer. His sixth poetry collection, Villon in Millerton, was published by Auckland University Press in 2007.

MIA NUSSBAUM is Mary Margaret C. Nussbaum. Most recently she worked at the International Writing Program in Iowa City, where she was a Provost’s Post-Graduate Writing Fellow.

STEVEN PATTERSON attended the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, where he has since returned to teach. His story “Aground and Aloft” in The Iowa Review (Spring 2004) was included in the anthology Best Stories of the American West.

KIKI PETROSINO lives in Iowa City. Her collection, Fort Red Border, will be published in 2009 by Sarabande Books.

RANDALL POTTS lives in Richmond, California. His poems have appeared in American Poetry Review, Antioch Review, Denver Quarterly, and other periodicals.
RA HEEDUK, of Korea, has authored five books of poetry, one collection of essays, and a volume of literary criticism. Among Ms. Ra's awards is an I-San Prize for Literature.

DAVID RAY has written many books of poetry, most recently Music of Time: Selected and New Poems; When; and After Tagore. He lives in Tucson with poet and essayist Judy Ray and a dog called Levi, who gives him a walk twice a day.

TOMAŽ ŠALAMUN has published twenty-five volumes of poetry in Slovenian and is widely translated. His most recent volume in English translation is Woods and Chalices (Harcourt, 2008).

DENNIS SCHMITZ’S most recent books are The Truth Squad (Copper Canyon) and About Night: Selected New Poems (Field/Oberlin College Press).

FLOYD SKLOOT’S memoir about the forces that shaped him as a writer, The Wink of the Zenith, will appear in fall 2008 from the University of Nebraska Press.

LINDSAY SIMPSON is the Head of Journalism and coordinator of the Postgraduate Writing program at James Cook University. In 2006 she published her first novel, The Curer of Souls.


Recent books by KEITH TAYLOR include Guilty at the Rapture, a collection of poems and stories, and Battered Guitars: Poems and Prose of Kostas Karyotakis, co-translated with William W. Reader.

PENELOPE TODD writes fiction for youth and adults. She lives in New Zealand’s southernmost city of Dunedin, where she works as an editor. Zillah, the final installment of her young adult Watermark trilogy, was published in 2007. A memoir, Digging for Spain, is forthcoming.
MARY JANE WHITE’s translation of Marina Tsvetaeva’s elegy for Rainer Maria Rilke, New Year’s, was published in 2007 by Adastra Press. She practices law in Waukon, Iowa.

CAROLYNE WRIGHT’s most recent collection, A Change of Maps (Lost Horse Press, 2006), was nominated for the L.A. Times Book Awards and was a finalist for the Idaho Prize and the Alice Fay di Castagnola Award from the Poetry Society of America.

RAY YOUNG BEAR is a tribal member of the Meskwaki (Red Earth People) of Tama, Iowa. In addition to composing songs for the Black Eagle Child Dance Group, he self-publishes a newsletter called the Goddess of Democracy for tribal members.
failbetter.com
LIT, NOW
The MacGuffin

Originating in Victorian England, the moving force and sometimes the solution of a work of mystery fiction was referred to as a MacGuffin. Alfred Hitchcock used the term and stated that "No film is complete without a MacGuffin" because that's what "... everybody is after."
Contributors include Marvin Bell
John Beer
Arda Collins
Gabriel Gudding
Lindsay Hunter
Amy Leach
Joyelle McSweeney
Tennessee Williams
and many more.

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- Enclose a #10 SASE for final word on your work. Enclose a SASE postcard if you wish confirmation of our receipt of your entry.
- No electronic submissions.
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Tomaž Šalamun, Penelope Todd, John Taylor

Jimmye Hillman, Mary Jane White, Julia Hartwig
Steven Patterson, Alex Epstein, Brandon Krieg

Ra Heeduk, Kevin Clark, Peter Cooley
Lyn Lifshin, Mia Nussbaum, Elena Bossi

Natalie Diaz, Steve Langan, Lowell Jaeger
David Ray, Randall Potts, Ray A. Young Bear

Fleda Brown, Floyd Skloot, Carolyne Wright
Keith Taylor, Amanda Auchter, Maggie McKnight