

The Bookish Frog

The Newsletter of Texas Christian University Press

VOLUME 5 / NUMBER 2 • FALL 2002

NEWS NOTES

Press Welcomes New Editor

TCU Press is pleased to welcome Susan Petty as the new editor. Susan comes to us from three years as a freelance writer, editor, and project manager. Her clients ranged from college textbook publishers to trade book authors and publishers, from restaurants to business associations. Prior to freelance work, Susan developed college textbooks in a variety of disciplines during her five years as a developmental editor for Harcourt College Publishers, Inc. Her accomplishments include *Gardner's Art through the Ages*, 10th and 11th editions, *In Search of the Human Mind*, 1st and 2nd editions, by Robert Sternberg, an introductory psychology text, and *A Brief History of the Western World*, 8th edition, by Greer and Lewis. She also developed books in other disciplines: religion, philosophy, English, political science, sociology, and history.

Susan holds degrees in French from Florida State University and psychology from University of North Texas. She occasionally dabbles in graduate studies in art history. She has worked for museums, art management consultants, art galleries, and has even served a brief stint in the real estate industry.

Travel is one of her main interests – she has visited Egypt, Africa, Japan, and many countries in Europe. India and Tibet are next on her list. She is a voracious reader, which is a quality desirable in the publishing industry.

She is an efficient editor and an outgoing person. It's a real pleasure to have her in the office.

You may reach her at 817.257.5074 or s.petty@tcu.edu



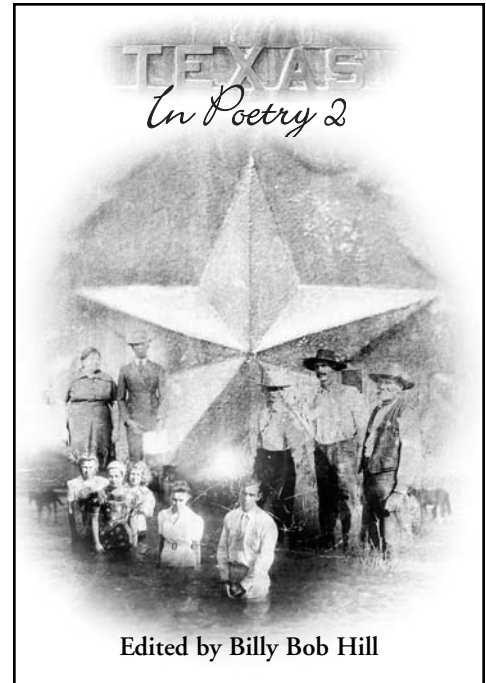
A Tribute to Texas and Its Diverse Voices

Texas in Poetry 2, edited by Billy Bob Hill, is the lead title of our Fall 2002 list. This amazing and lengthy (498 pages) book represents a mammoth editing and selection job by Billy Hill. His aim was not to choose the “best” poetry about our state but rather to give a full and

representative selection of poetry from the earliest times to the present. No one is better qualified. As James Ward Lee says in his foreword to the book, Billy is the most comprehensive and knowledgeable observer of poetry in Texas today.

This volume is not the first in which Hill has dedicated himself to showcasing the talents of Texas writers. The holder of a BA from Southern Methodist University and the MA and PhD from the University of North Texas, he published his first collection of poems, *Texas in Poetry: A 150-Year Anthology*, in 1994 under the auspices of the Center for Texas Studies at UNT. Jim Lee was then director of that center.

After co-editing a couple of short story collections in the early nineties, Hill established Browder Springs Publishing in Dallas in 1996. The first book from his new company was *Circling* by Paul Ruffin. It won an award from the Mississippi Institute of Letters. Then in 1997 came *Texas Short Stories*. Selections from that anthology won first and second place in the Western Writers of America Spur competition in the short fiction category. *Texas*



Short Stories 2 followed in 2000. In his anthologies, Hill shows a remarkable ability to ferret out new talents and move beyond what Texas literature experts call “the usual suspects.” Thus his works really do reflect the diversity of Texas writing.

In the twenty-first century, Hill has published *Islands, Women, and God* by Paul Ruffin, *Cowtown Chronicle*, a collection of poems by the late William Barney, and *Memory of a Snow: Poems* by the late A. C. Greene. He also edits *iTex!* a literary magazine published by the Writers Garret of Dallas. *iTex!* has been included in two issues of the *Dallas Morning News* and is widely used in schools.

In *Texas in Poetry 2* Hill includes such poets as Mirabeau B. Lamar, a Texas president and poet-aster from the days of the Republic; Berta Harte Nance, author of the centennial poem that begins “Other states were carved or born/But Texas grew from hide and horn”—lines that furnished at least one book title and occasioned a number of parodies. And of course one poem about Texas is magnificent in its awfulness—“Lasca,” with memorable lines like “Scratches don’t count/In Texas down by the Rio Grande.”

Most of the poems in *Texas in Poetry 2* are comparable to the best work being done in poetry today. The well-known poets of the state are included—Walt McDonald, Betsy Colquitt, Vassar Miller—along with newer writers and a generous sampling of minority voices—Carmen Tafolla, Rolando Hinojosa, Lorenzo Thomas, Jas. Mardis, Ray González, and Teresa Paloma Acosta.

Hill chose to organize *Texas in Poetry 2* in thematic sections rather than chronologically. Section titles are suggested by well-known books by Texas authors—“I’ll Take Texas” or “This Stubborn Soil” or “A Personal Country.” The volume can be read straight through as a commentary on life in the Lone Star State, or it can be read a poem or an author at a time. But if read straight through from “I’ll Take Texas” to “No Quittin’ Sense” the whole Texas experience as seen by more than a hundred poets has a strong impact on the reader. The book is a true tribute to Texas and an important contribution to the state’s literature.

And what’s next for Billy? Well, he’s thinking of another short story anthology, and he wants to publish the work of this poet and that . . . He too is an important contribution to Texas literature, and Texas writers value him and his work. ■

Two Accept Board Responsibilities

Joyce Pate Capper of Fort Worth and Joyce Gibson Roach of Keller have both accepted invitations to join the TCU Press Editorial Board.

Active in civic affairs, Joyce Capper is a past president of the Fort Worth Garden Club, the Tarrant County Historical Society, the Jewel Charity Ball, and the Friends of the TCU Library. An avid reader and historian, she is honorary consul from Dallas/Fort Worth to Luxembourg and has hosted the royal family of that country in her home. With her late husband, A. M. Pate, Jr., she established the Pate Presidential Collection at the TCU Library. Joyce is married to Robert Capper, a retired physician who now serves as president of the Tarrant County Historical Society.

Author, historian, and folklorist Joyce Gibson Roach is a longtime friend of the press and author of one of our best selling backlist titles, *Eats: A Folk History of Texas Foods*. The author of several books, including the classic *The Cowgirls*, Joyce retired as an adjunct member of the English faculty at TCU and presently spends her time reviewing books, contributing to anthologies, and editing the Westlake Historical Preservation Board’s journal. She also runs her family ranch, Crosswinds Bar, near Bridgeport. And she writes every day.

2002 Annual Autograph Extraganza

Author and *Texas Monthly* columnist Prudence Mackintosh will highlight the TCU Press Annual Autograph Extraganza this year. The event, free and open to the public, will be Friday, December 6, from 4:00 to 7:00 P.M. at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens auditorium. Cosponsoring the extravaganza with the press are the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, the Friends of the TCU Library, and the Barnes & Noble TCU Bookstore.

Guests are encouraged to buy autographed books for Christmas gifts and visit informally with the authors, whose books range from juvenile fiction to cookbooks. Mackintosh is scheduled to speak at 5:00 P.M. Refreshments will be served.

Born in Texarkana, Texas, Prudence Mackintosh grew up in a newspaper office where her father was the editor and her mother a reporter/editor/proofreader. Her brother became a television journalist. Prudence attended Texarkana public schools and graduated from the University of Texas-Austin in 1966.

Texas Monthly named her a contributing editor shortly after the magazine began in 1973. As a regular contributor, she gained a loyal following with her observations on social rites of passage for Texas women and her domestic essays on the rearing of three boys. She won the J.C. Penney-University of Missouri Award for an article called "Tube or Not Tube." Her work has appeared in several national magazines and is frequently anthologized in college writing texts.

She is the author of *Thundering Sneakers*, *Retreads* and, published this fall, *Sneaking Out*, her observations on the gradual departure of her three sons, her parents, and a few expectations. In 1996 the University of Texas Press published a collection of her essays on being a woman in Texas called *Just As We Were/A Narrow Slice of Texas Womanhood*. In addition to publishing *Sneaking Out*, the University of Texas Press will also reissue the earlier books about her sons.

When the writing life becomes too solitary, Prudence accepts a few speaking events. In the past five years, she has addressed corporate gatherings and commencement crowds as large as the University of Texas College of Liberal Arts. She was a part of the 2002 Arts and Letters Live series in Dallas.

She lives in Dallas with her attorney husband, who is also her favorite editor. Their sons—Jack, Drew, and William—are now residents of New York City, Denver, and Houston, respectively.

Other authors will include Judy Alter, Ann Arnold, Jane Bruckner, Barbara Chessner, John Mark Dempsey, Carole Nelson Douglas, John Graves, Art Greenhaw, Rich Haddaway, Billy Bob Hill, Elmer Kelton, Dan Jenkins, James Ward Lee, Elizabeth Lewis, Dave Lieber, Robert Maberry, Jr., Jane Pattie, Terry Thompson-Anderson, and Bryan Woolley.

SOME FACTS ABOUT TCU PRESS

Year established: 1966

Books in print: 199

Books published annually: 12–15

Distribution: TCU Press belongs to a publishing consortium headquartered at Texas A&M University Press.

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Over the past year, TCU Press has embarked on an electronic journey—posting a number of our titles to e-book vendors and electronic library resources. The technical world of electronic publishing has grown exponentially to the point where it now provides a real service to readers and libraries alike.

One of our vendors, netLibrary (<http://www.netlibrary.com/>), allows users to browse passages or entire books in a library catalog. Many of our titles can now be seen online through the auspices of Mary Coats Burnett Library and netLibrary – look for *Another Place*, a critical look at western American poetry, one of our recent books, by the late Andrew Elkins.

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