

CV: Steven Heighton

Heighton is the author of seventeen books, including *Reaching Mithymna: Among the Volunteers & Refugees on Lesvos* (2020); the poetry collections *The Waking Comes Late*, *The Address Book*, and *The Ecstasy of Skeptics*; the short story collections *The Dead Are More Visible* and *Flight Paths of the Emperor*; and the novels *The Shadow Boxer*—which was a bestseller in Canada and also appeared with Granta Books in Britain and Australia, as well as in Italy and the USA (where it was named a *Publishers' Weekly* Book of the Year for 2002)—and *Afterlands*, which has appeared in six countries, was a *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice, and a “best of year” choice in ten publications in Canada, the US, and Britain. Both novels have been optioned for film. His work has been translated into ten languages, has appeared in such magazines and anthologies as *Granta*, *London Review of Books*, *Poetry*, *Zoetrope*, *Tin House*, *Best American Poetry*, *Brick*, *Agni*, *The Walrus*, *TLR*, *Best American Mystery Stories* and *Best English Stories*, and has been nominated for the Governor General's Award, the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction, the Trillium Award, the Journey Prize, a Pushcart Prize, the W.H. Smith Award in the UK, the Moth Prize in Ireland, and the Banff Mountain Book Prize. He has received a number of awards, including the Governor General's Award (poetry, 2016), the Gerald Lampert Award (best first book of poetry); four gold National Magazine Awards (three for fiction, one for poetry); the Air Canada Award; the Petra Kenney Prize; and the 2011 P.K Page Award. In addition, *Flight Paths of the Emperor* has been listed at Amazon.ca as one of the ten best Canadian short story collections. He has also been active as a fiction reviewer, most recently for *The New York Times Book Review*, as well as a translator and teacher, and from 1988-1994 was editor of the literary journal *Quarry Magazine*. He was a fellow at the Cambridge Literary Seminars in 1997, the 2002-2003 writer-in-residence at Concordia University in Montreal, the Jack McClelland Writer-in-Residence at Massey College, University of Toronto (2004), a participating author in the American Movements II course for the University of New Orleans (2006), an instructor at the Summer Literary Seminars in St Petersburg, Russia (2007) and Tbilisi, Georgia (2019), the Mordecai Richler Writer-in-residence at McGill University in 2013, and the 2019-2020 Athabasca University Writer-in-residence. He lives in Kingston, Ontario, and has a website: www.stevenheighton.com

BOOKS

The Stray & the Strangers (children's, Groundwood/Anansi, 2020)

The Virtues of Disillusionment (essay, AU Press, 2020)

Reaching Mithymna (memoir, Biblioasis, 2020)

The Nightingale Won't Let You Sleep (novel, Hamish Hamilton, 2017, Memoires d'Encrier, 2019, Nora Druk, Ukraine, 2019)

The Waking Comes Late (poetry, House of Anansi, 2016)

The Dead Are More Visible (stories: Knopf Canada, 2012)

Workbook: memos & dispatches on writing (ECW, 2011)

Every Lost Country (novel: Knopf Canada, 2010; Vintage, 2011; Ambo Anthos, 2011)
Patient Frame (poetry, House of Anansi, 2010)
Paper Lanterns (chapbook, Palimpsest Press, 2009)
Afterlands (novel: Knopf Canada, 2005; Houghton Mifflin, 2006; Hamish Hamilton/Penguin, 2006; Ambo Anthos, 2006; Rowholt Verlag, 2007)
The Address Book (poetry: House of Anansi, 2004)
The Shadow Boxer (novel: Knopf, 2000; Granta Books, 2000; HMCO, 2002; Edizioni e/o, 2003)
The Admen Move on Lhasa: Writing & Culture in a Virtual World (essays: Anansi, 1997)
On earth as it is (a novella and ten stories: Porcupine's Quill, 1992; L'Instant meme, 1997; Granta Books, 1997; Vintage Canada, 2001)
The Ecstasy of Skeptics (poetry: House of Anansi, 1994)
Flight Paths of the Emperor (short stories: Porcupine's Quill, 1992; L'Instant meme, 1995; Granta Books, 1997, 2000; Vintage Books, 2001)
Foreign Ghosts (an utaniki, or "song-diary": travelogue in poetry and prose: Oberon, 1990)
Stalin's Carnival (poetry: Quarry Press, 1989; re-issue, Palimpsest Press, 2013)

LITERARY AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

Awards

Governor General's Award, poetry, 2016
K.M. Hunter Award (literature), 2010
National Magazine awards, silver medal for poetry, 2010
National Magazine Awards gold medal for fiction, 2009
National Magazine Awards gold medal for fiction, 2007
National Magazine Awards gold medal for poetry, 2004
Award for Excellence in the Arts (Kingston Arts Council), 2004
Petra Kenney Prize (U.K., for poetry), 2002
National Magazine awards gold medal for fiction, 1992
Stand (U.K.) short story competition, prize-winner, 1991
PRISM international short story competition, first prize, 1991

Gerald Lampert Award (for *Stalin's Carnival*), 1990
Air Canada Award ("most promising writer under thirty"), 1989

Nominations

Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction, 2020
National Magazine Awards, finalist for non-fiction, 2019
The Moth Prize, finalist, for "Christmas Work Detail, Samos", May 2019
Trillium Award, finalist, for *The Dead Are More Visible*, 2013
Banff Mountain Book Award, finalist, for *Every Lost Country*, 2011
Evergreen Award, finalist, for *Afterlands*, 2008
W.H. Smith Award (U.K.: for "best book of the year"), nominated, *Flight Paths of the Emperor*, 1998
Pushcart Prize, nominated by *The Laurel Review*, 1995
Governor General's Award for Poetry, finalist (for *The Ecstasy of Skeptics*), 1995
National Magazine Awards, finalist for fiction, 1994, '95
Trillium Award, finalist (for *Flight Paths of the Emperor*), 1993
The Journey Prize, finalist, 1992

SELECTED MAGAZINE & ANTHOLOGY CREDITS

Granta, *London Review of Books*, *Zoetrope: All-Story*, *Poetry (Chicago)*, *Tin House*, *TLR*, *The Independent on Sunday*, *Brick*, *Revue Europe*, *Agni*, *The New England Review*, *Malahat Review*, *Descant*, *Stand*, *London Magazine*, *Critical Quarterly*, *The Rialto*, *Nimrod*, *Chelsea Hotel*, *Irish Examiner*, *Threepenny Review*

Best American Mystery Stories (ed. James Patterson, Houghton Mifflin, 2015)
Another English: Anglophone Poems from Around the World (Poetry Foundation, 2014)
The New Brick Reader (ed. Tara Quinn, Anansi, 2013)
70 Canadian Poets (ed. Gary Geddes, Oxford U. Press, 2013)
Best American Poetry 2012 (ed. Mark Doty, Scribner, 2012)
Modern Canadian Poets (Carcanet, UK, 2011)
Best Canadian Poetry (2009, 2010, 2011, 2016)
Finding the Words (ed. Jared Bland, M & S, 2011)
Jailbreaks (ed. Zach Wells, Biblioasis, 2008)
Literature (Thomson/Nelson, 2007)
The Anansi Reader (ed. Lynn Coady, 2007)
In Fine Form (ed. Kate Braid & Sandy Shreve, Polestar, 2005)
The New Canon (ed. Carmine Starnino, Vehicule, 2005)

Viewpoints 12 (Prentice Hall, 2002)
The Notebooks (Michelle Berry & Natalee Caple, eds. Doubleday, 2002)
The Reader (Carolyn Meyer & Bruce Meyer, eds., Prentice Hall, 2001)
Lost Classics (Ondaatje, Redhill, Spalding, and Spalding, eds. Knopf, 2000)
Turn of the Story (Joan Thomas & Heidi Harms, eds., Anansi, 1999)
Writing Home (Constance Rooke, ed., M&S, 1997)
Canadian Short Fiction, second edition (W.H. New, ed., Prentice Hall, 1996)
The Second Gates of Paradise (Alberto Manguel, ed., MW&R, 1995)
The Literature of Work (U. of Phoenix Press, 1993)
The Journey Prize Anthology 4 (M&S, 1992)
Best of Best English Short Stories 1986-1995 (Hughes & Gordon, eds., Minerva, 1996)
The Minerva Book of Short Stories 5 (Hughes & Gordon, eds., Minerva, U.K., 1993)
Best English Short Stories (David Hughes & Giles Gordon, eds., Heinemann, U.K., 1992)
The New Story Writers (John Metcalf, ed., Quarry Press, 1991)
Best Canadian Stories (Oberon, 1989, '92, '95, '04, '07, '11)

MUSICAL COLLABORATIONS

“Europa,” a libretto published in *The Waking Comes Late*, was commissioned by the Toronto Masque Theatre. James Rolfe composed the score. The short opera premiered, as *Europa & the White Bull*, on April 25, 2014 at Trinity-St. Paul’s Centre, Toronto.

“The Wind is My Shepherd,” a poem from *The Ecstasy of Sceptics*, was scored by John Burge for SATB, piano and percussion, has been performed several times in Kingston, and published by Boosey & Hawkes.

“Elegy as a Message Left on an Answering Machine,” a poem from *The Ecstasy of Sceptics*, was scored by John Burge and performed in Kingston in 1999.

TEACHING & MENTORING

University of Guelph/Humber online mentoring, summer 2020
Athabasca University, online writer-in-residence, 2019-2020
Summer Literary Seminars, Tbilisi, Georgia (fiction instructor, July 2019)
Sage Hill Writing Experience (poetry instructor, 2015, 2016, 2017)
Queen’s University (writer-in-residence, fall 2014)
McGill University (Mordecai Richler Writer in Residency, Jan.-April 2013)
RMC/CMR (writer-in-residence, Jan.-April 2010)
University of Ottawa (writer in residence, Jan.-May 2009)
McArthur College, Queen’s University (writer in residence, November 2007)
Summer Literary Seminars, St Petersburg, Russia (poetry instructor, June 2007)

University of New Orleans, American Movements II course (participating author, April 2006)
Booming Ground (Green College, UBC), novel course, with 16 weeks online follow-up (July 2005)
University of Toronto, Massey College (Writer-in-Residence, Jan.-April 2004)
Concordia University, Montreal (writer in residence, September 2002-May 2003)
Berton House, Dawson City (writer in residence, September-October 2001)
Banff Centre, May Studios, 2001, Writing with Style, Sept. 2007 & 2008
Tattle Creek Writers' Workshop, July 2000, July 2001
Maritime Writers' Workshop, Fredericton, July 1995
St Mary's University (writer in residence, Jan. 92)

Also: Various one day workshops, seminars, and lectures in Kingston-area high schools, and at such gatherings as the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild AGM (1994), the Maritime Writers' Festival (1996), the Kootenay School of Writing ('96), and the Writers' Guild of Newfoundland AGM ('96).

EDITING

Co-editor (with Tess Fragoulis & Helen Tsiriotakis) of *Musings: an Anthology of Greek-Canadian Literature* (Vehicule, 2003)
Co-editor (with Victor Coleman) of Duo Duo's *Crossing the River*, tr. Lee Robinson (Anansi, Toronto, 1998)
Author of afterword in New Canadian Library edition of Margaret Atwood's *Murder in the Dark* (NCL: M&S, Toronto, 1997)
Main editor, *Quarry Magazine*, 1988-1994