Labour/Le Travailleur

Work Poetry / Poésie de Travail

K. B. Emmott

Volume 14, 1984

URI: https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/llt14wp01

Citer cet article

WORK POETRY/
POÉSIE DE TRAVAIL

Keep Going

"the old shear man speaks:
during the war a power outrage wouldn’t stop them
they worked on by candlelight
riveting ships bound for atlantic convoys"

— David Conn

the booking office late at night
between surgeries I have time
to type out David’s poems for the publisher

the guy on the phone is rounding up relief nurses
Anne it’s me. Would you like to work evening on 3 North?
Bill, can you work double shift tomorrow? Thanks,
I knew you’d be overjoyed.

Hospitals always have emergency generators
when the power went off at the General, the lights flicked on again
within two or three seconds
somehow we are really afraid of hospitals without electricity
the show must go on.
it isn’t a bit romantic to operate by candlelight
the swinging kerosene lantern shining into the wound? No sir

The continuous crews of wartime factories
have nothing on us: the OR runs all night
blocked grafts, pacemakers, incomplete miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy
fractured legs and skulls, Caesarean section, 2 a.m. knife wounds
one after the other carried in past silently mopping cleanup crews

On my shift too I drive hundreds of fine silk rivets
into tubby hulls
bound only for the battles
of lower Granville Street

K.B. Emmott
If you're interested in
'crisp, intelligent, argumentative writing' on a wide variety of subjects
you can't afford to miss

Queen's Quarterly

A Canadian Review

In 1984 you can look forward to these high-quality essays:
- George Grant and Canadian Nationalism
- Tehran Diary (two parts)
- The Canadian Constitution
- Canadian Oil Exploration: History, Politics and Economics (two articles)
- Prediction Dilemmas in the Social Sciences
- Escott Meredith Reid: The Making of a Radical Diplomat
- Does Anyone Ever Deserve to Suffer?
- Quebec and Maritime Historiography (two articles)
- Computers and Language
- Understanding Suicide
- Karl Popper
- George Orwell
- Michel Foucault
- Beethoven's Biographers
- Sylvia Plath
- C.K. Chesterton
- The Manhattan Project
- The Source and Extent of a Patient's Right to the Truth

Plus poetry, fiction, regular music and science columns, and the most comprehensive book review section found anywhere.

Since 1949, Canada's leading general-interest intellectual journal.

Subscribe now and receive four 1984 issues of Queen's Quarterly for only $3.94—saving over new rates which have gone into effect.

Treat yourself to the best bargain in serious reading today. Just use the convenient subscription form below. As a bonus for acting quickly, we'll send you a copy of our beautiful 80th Anniversary poster.

A Canadian Review

In 1984 you can look forward to these high-quality essays:
- Sex, Intelligence and the Brain
- Origins of the Blues
- Society and Mental Illness
- African Literature
- Marx, Werewolves and Ancient Greece
- Nuclear Proliferation
- Canadian Historical Geography
- International Gastronomy
- The Political Control of Security Services in Canada
- The New Monasticism
- The Chemistry of Violence
- Plus poetry, fiction, regular music and science columns, and the most comprehensive book review section found anywhere.

[Subscription form with options and fields for name, address, etc.]

Mail to: Queen's Quarterly, Dept. L, John Weldon Hall, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 3N6.

*Reader's comments from a recent survey.

Compassionately produced.

For and about the best university quarterly in Canada.