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person or any one group. There are perhaps three people now doing the most interesting and refreshing work: Alfred Purdy, Milton Acorn and Alden Nowlan (of Saint John).

There is also a new, younger group, all in their twenties, of which John Newlove of Vancouver is perhaps the best.

Brunswickan

Where, then, does Dorothy Livesay fit into all of this?

Livesay

I guess I'm a real old timer. I began writing when I was about fifteen and publishing soon after. I won a poetry prize at Toronto my first year there and I've been publishing right along from about 1928 until my last short group of poems about Africa, in 1964. A volume of collected poems was published in 1957 but there will be a new collection published next Spring called "The Unquiet Bed". This title comes from an old English ballad, and I am very interested in the return to this form. I am very interested in Bob Dylan and in experiments Joan Baez has been making with the ballad.

I feel that my poetry has gone through many phases. I sometimes write with an idea in mind. I have always been a pacifist. The poem "The Colour of God's Face" deals with the whole racial problem. So I've had this kind of public poetry I've been writing, but I've also written a lot of private poetry — love poems, poems about children and married life, and so on. My newest book is very largely of love poems. It's an extremely personal book.

Brunswickan

How did your marriage affect your work?

Livesay

I was married during the depression to a Scot named McNare and we had two children, a boy and a girl. I am not a home-body and I found it a difficult experience physically, with cooking and washing dishes and the rest of it. I love children though and I think it was a very rewarding experience. I learned a lot about life and about myself.



Dorothy Livesay is the new resident writer for the University. She is here because of financial assistance from the Canada Council.

Brunswickan

What do you try to do in your poetry?

Livesay

I guess I have a lot in common with the modern school, who consider the poem a thing in itself, or something spontaneous.

A poem is a happening. It just takes place somehow. If you're in a receptive mood you begin by just noticing a very small detail, the way a man walks down the street, the way a leaf falls and then a kind of rhythm takes hold of you, words sort of cluster around this image and the rhythm then takes over and begins to dictate what you're going to say. I hardly ever know how a poem is going to end when it starts.

In other words, I experience something I'm living through.

When I write a poem, I'm learning something about myself.

Brunswickan

Can interested students get in touch with you?

Livesay

At the moment this term I am here in my office in Carleton Hall Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons.

If a student isn't free to see me at these times he can always make an appointment for another time. It's probably better for the student to submit some work first and then ask for an appointment to discuss it.

I have just had things slipped under the door anonymously which I think indicates that students are very hesitant about making use of me. I hope this will change.

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