

GERRY CAMBRIDGE
3-A Blantyre Mill Road
Bothwell
South Lanarkshire
G71 8DD
Scotland
Tel: +44 (0)1698 850410
Mob: +44 (0) 7960 716060
E: gerry.cambridge@btinternet.com
Website: www.gerrycambridge.com

I am a poet, essayist, poetry magazine editor and print designer, and have lead and facilitated writing workshops with all ages and at many levels of ability. In addition I have a range of skills and interests complementary to these activities: a good deal of hands-on experience of professional typesetting for book and magazine publication; a background in photography and natural history. Additionally I play harmonica, both blues and traditional, occasionally as part of a duo with singer-songwriter Neil Thomson, often putting poems to music. A more recent collaboration for The Scottish Poetry Library and the organisation Literature Across Frontiers led to the formation of a group called the berserkers consisting of two Icelanders, a Lithuanian, a Shetlander and myself — poets who also happen to be musicians — and the launch of our CD *Under the Evening Sky* in Vilnius, Lithuania, and Riga, Latvia, in September 2010. Consequently I enjoy ‘cross-media’ projects: music/poetry, photography/poetry; and combinations of these. A more detailed account of my activities in some of these areas is appended.

PUBLICATIONS

The Dark Horse: The Making of a Little Magazine (HappenStance Press, 2016).
The Printed Snow: On Typesetting Poetry (pamphlet essay, HappenStance Press, 2015).
Notes for Lighting a Fire (poems, HappenStance Press, January 2012, hbk; 2nd, paperback, edition, 2013).
Aves, prose-poems about wild birds, Essence Press 2007. 64p. ISBN: 978 1 904211 06 8.
Reprinted 2008.
Building a New Path; South Lanarkshire Council, 2006. 48p. ISBN: 978-0-9553127-1-X.
Madame Fi Fi's Farewell and Other Poems; Luath Press, 2003. 126 p. ISBN: 1842820052
Blue Sky, Green Grass; Lawthorn Books, 2003. 32 p. Limited edition of 170 copies
The Praise of Swans; Shoestring Press, 2000. 28 p. ISBN: 1899549498
'Nothing But Heather!': Scottish Nature in Poems, Photographs, and Prose; Luath Press, 1999. 128 p. ISBN: 0946487499. 2nd edition, 2008.
The Shell House; Scottish Cultural Press, 1995. 53 p. ISBN: 189821834X
The Dark Gift and Other Poems; St Inan's Press, 1994. 16 p.

From reviews and comments on the above volumes:

'[Cambridge's] poetry has something of Robert Frost's tone and seriousness, but rings with a deeply personal Scottish resonance all its own.' —The Times Literary Supplement, on *Notes for*

Lighting a Fire

“An honest-to-goodness *makar*” — *Times Literary Supplement*

“What is most apparent is the freshness of the work, executed in a beautifully controlled diction that has no postmodern blips and squibs in it and whose sentiment is blessedly free of irony, postmodern or postlapsarian. There are no histrionics about self and identity; there is no anger, there are no diatribes...” — **N.S. Thompson on *Madame Fi Fi's Farewell and Other Poems*, *Oxford Poetry***

“Cambridge’s verse is the best of Scottish...” **Keith Bruce, *The Herald* (Scotland)**

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY: JOURNALISM, CRITICISM, PHOTOGRAPHY

Articles/Photographs in many publications, including:

Camera, SLR Camera, Practical Photography, Amateur Photographer, The Countryman, Animal Life and Animals (formerly house magazines of the RSPCA) and *Wildlife* (now *BBC Wildlife*) and in dozens of textbooks and natural history volumes.

Prose:

Ten essays to a total of 34,000 words in the 4-volume *Oxford Encyclopaedia of American Literature* (2004), on Anthony Hecht, Richard Wilbur, James Wright, Theodore Roethke, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Derek Walcott, Jones Very, John Crowe Ransom, Robinson Jeffers, and The [American] New Formalism. Nine 12,000-word essays totalling 108,000 words written between 2000 and 2006 on Les Murray, Anthony Hecht, Ted Hughes, Wendy Cope, Iain Crichton Smith, Douglas Dunn, X. J. Kennedy, G.F. Dutton and Stewart Conn published in the *British Writers* and *American Writers* series by Charles Scribners’ Sons as well as numerous essays, interviews and reviews for *The Dark Horse*.

13 articles assigned and published by the British edition of *Reader's Digest*, 1983-88, covering a range of natural history and general topics: owls, weasels, amateur astronomy, travelogues, and so on. To the best of my knowledge I was the youngest ever regular freelancer for this mass market periodical, which at the time had a monthly UK circulation of 1.5 million readers.

Poetry in:

The Spectator; The Hudson Review; The Independent; Dream State: The New Scottish Poets (2nd edition, 2003), ed. by Donny O'Rourke; *The Faber Book of Twentieth Century Scottish Poems*, ed. by Douglas Dunn (2000); *A Book of Scottish Verse*, ed. by Maurice Lindsay (2001), *The Edinburgh Book of Twentieth Century Scottish Poetry* ed. by Maurice Lindsay and Lesley Duncan (2005).

AWARDS and RESIDENCIES

Scottish Arts Council Writer’s Bursary, 2009.

Writing Residency at Au Diable Vauvert, Vauvert, France, April-May 2004 as part of *Entente Cordiale*.

Calum Macdonald Memorial Award 2004, administered by the National Library of Scotland, for "*Blue Sky, Green Grass*": a day at Lawthorn Primary.
Scottish Arts Council Writer's Bursary, 2003.
Brownsbank Fellow based at Hugh MacDiarmid's cottage, 1997-1999.

EXPERIENCE AS EDITOR/TYPESETTER

Founder, Editor, typesetter and Publisher since 1994 of *The Dark Horse*, a poetry magazine edited from Scotland but with an international outlook, and links with America. Connecting with (though not being overly influenced by) contemporary literary developments in the U.S., this 'little' magazine differs from many other poetry journals in its emphasis on poetry as craft, reflected in its broad-minded interest in poetry in metre and rhyme, and in its desire for accessibility without compromising of artistic standards. The magazine has a considerable reputation and has specialized in highlighting lesser known, unfairly neglected figures. It is also admired for the almost unparalleled range and depth of its interviews, reviews and essays, and numbers among its admirers (and sometime contributors) figures such as Douglas Dunn and Seamus Heaney. It belongs among the 'high literary' range of my activities, and I think of it as complementary to the ground roots approach of my work in schools and with adult writers groups. In summer 2010 it was featured in *The [London] Times* and the cover of issue 26 was featured in the 'NB' column of the *Times Literary Supplement* in March, 2011. In the January/February 2012 issue of the American magazine *Poets & Writers*, *The Dark Horse* was one of four magazines featured by Travis Kurowski for their international reach.

Typesetter/designer for:

The Royal Literary Fund;
Mariscat Press from 2002 to present. Mariscat Press won both the Callum Macdonald Memorial Award and the Michael Marks Pamphlet publisher of the Year Award in 2015;
Red Squirrel Press, from January 2014 onwards;
The Scottish Poetry Library.
Cambridge also undertakes numerous freelance typesetting & design projects for private individuals.

TEACHING AND SCHOOLS EXPERIENCE

September 2010–May 2012: Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellow, School of Engineering and the Built Environment, Glasgow Caledonian University.

September 2006-May 2009: Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellow, based at Schools of Biological Sciences and of Physics, Edinburgh University, working one-to-one with students and staff on improvement of writing skills.

2000-2010: hundreds of school visits to many parts of Scotland, especially in the Central Belt, including three series of "Back to Nature" workshops in twelve primary schools in North Ayrshire, comprising 84 school visits in total; a three month poet's residency in Lawthorn Primary, North Ayrshire, working with one P6 class, the end result being a full colour pamphlet professionally printed (typeset and designed by me) which featured a long poem I wrote which incorporated lines from every child in the P6 class written during the workshops. The artwork

was provided by the children.

“River of Words Project”: outdoor workshops with upper primary children at Dunkeld Primary, all around the theme of water. I took workshops under the Birnam Oak, with an introduction on how a poet looks at water, compared to, say, a scientist (and using a pint glass of water as a prop); we then sat on the banks of the Tay and wrote poems about water, later gathered as part of the “Book of the week” by the school itself. Other projects have been based at venues such as the Scottish Parliament, or focused on particular themes: for example, the “Dynamite Project”: a series of site visits and workshops with teenagers (15/16 year olds) with learning or other difficulties, based upon Alfred Nobel's connection with the Ayrshire coast via his Ardeer dynamite factory, which at one time employed 13,000 people. The project made the connection between the disciplines involved in the Nobel Prizes, Nobel, Ardeer, and the teenagers. I was brought in as general writing advisor and workshop leader for the literature side of things. One outcome of this was a 200 copy publication, *The Dynamite Project*, which included a long poem written by me about Nobel and the project in general, and an exchange of letters between the project artist, Rachel Mimiec, and Alfred Nobel via his amanuensis (ie, me).

Out of School Learning tutor for Renfrewshire Council March 2003-2006, working with P6/7 and S1/2 pupils of all abilities and levels of enthusiasm. I am also resident annual tutor for the Pushkin Prizes in Scotland, a writing prize for S1 and S2 pupils, and with another writer have tutored their week-long course at the writing centre Moniack Mhor every May since 2003.

1997-1999: dozens of visits to schools throughout South Lanarkshire, including Biggar High, Lanark Grammar, St. Andrews High, Coulter Primary, Walston Primary, Biggar Primary, Symington Primary, Tinto Primary, and Chatelherault Primary where I was resident writer for their lottery-funded Environmental Sculpture Project, one of the first of its kind in Scotland, during which I worked intensively from all years from P1 to P7.

EXPERIENCE WITH WRITERS GROUPS

Lengthy involvement with Ayrshire Writers’ & Artists’ Society (also judge of Scottish International Poetry Competition), and sometime organiser of poetry readings/music in connection with the competition’s award ceremony. Kilmarnock North-west Writers’ Group: sometime chairperson, secretary, and tutor, 1991-1994. Resident Tutor, ‘Write Out of the Ordinary’ Writers Group, Harbour Arts Centre, Irvine, Ayrshire, Autumn 1996-Summer 1997; Tutor to Lanark Writer’s Circle, Lanark, 1997-99; Tutor to Carlisle Writers Group, Autumn 1997-Spring 1998; Founder and resident tutor of Hieton Writer’s Group, Hamilton, 1998-2002; Tutor to Aberdeen over-50s writers group, April-December 2005; plus numerous readings and workshops with groups throughout Scotland.

EVENTS-ORGANISING EXPERIENCE

At least a dozen literary events/readings (complete with music which I organized and, sometimes, performed) arranged over a two year period as Brownsbank Fellow for Brownsbank Committee, in conjunction with Live Literature Scotland’s Writers in Public Scheme and the then Scottish Arts Council’s literary events fund. These involved a total of 26 writers, including Edwin Morgan, Iain Crichton Smith, Tom Leonard, Ajay Close, Des Dillon, Donny O’Rourke and Colorado-based poet and critic David Mason.

CURRENT REFEREES:

Professor Douglas Dunn
8 Main Street
Dairsie
Fife
KY15 4SS
e: ded@st-andrews.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1334 870635

Anne Stevenson
38 Western Hill
Durham City
DH1 4RJ
England
e: annestevenson38@gmail.com