

## Editors' Note

This special issue of *TCR*—our largest yet—pays tribute to the mercurial and inestimable genius of George Bowering.

George summons big numbers. In fifty years of publishing he has seen over a hundred books into print by over sixty different publishers. The print and online editions of “Bowering’s Books” assemble forty-six writers with a wide variety of pieces, some of them critical discussions of George’s books, some of them memoirs and biographies, some of them tributes that adopt language-stratagems that rival his own. We include reflections by his publishers, by his former students, and of course by his irrepressible friends. Other pieces refer to his meticulously amassed book collections, another examines his long history of public readings, and a recent interview asks George to create yet another collection, a library of the fifty books most important to him. Accordingly, we include an architect’s vision for a “George Bowering Library.”

It’s a major challenge for even a committed reader and writer to keep pace with George, let alone capture the extraordinary subtlety of his work: we offer instances, we describe, and we swap anecdotes. But his genius is a spirited and elusive entity. There’s a tease waiting for the critic at every turn and a goading to keep at it and see if we’re equal to his wit and invention. Meanwhile his eye’s on the tangent, on a new experiment, on another hybrid, on disruption of his and our paths of thinking.

This issue is for George, with awe and with gratitude for the laughter and the joy in language!

For their help, thanks to Tony Power at the Contemporary Literature Collection, SFU Special Collections; to Monroe Lawrence; to Jean Baird; and to Roy Miki and his extraordinary tribute to Bowering’s books—*A Record of Writing* (Vancouver: Talonbooks, 1989)—invaluable to the process of editing this issue.

—Jenny Penberthy & Aurelea Mahood