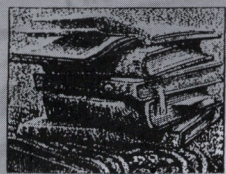


UNITY



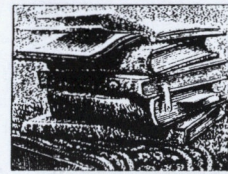
BOOKS

Issue 7

Unity Books

March/ April 2001

UNITY



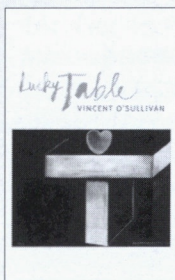
BOOKS

POETRY RULES!

At Unity, poetry is jumping off the shelves – it is definitely hip! Unity Books has always sold a solid backlist of perennial favourites. Poets such as Bukowski, Cummings, Frost, Plath, Rilke, Sexton and Wordsworth. But in the last few years, thanks to the efforts of the big screen, the works of Auden, Rimbaud, Byron, Shelley, Shakespeare, and especially Neruda are enjoying renewed popularity. The literary input from Kim Hill and John Campbell on National Radio is also having an impact, the result for the listener being a feast of all things written and read, including poetry. There's the regular Bill Manhire guest-spot (a delight), readings and recitals (the serialized 'Beowulf' was enthralling) and numerous reviews and interviews. The immediate response to such stimulating radio is enthusiastic requests and the ongoing purchasing of poetry books. Ted Hughes' *The Birthday Letters*, Seamus Heaney's *Beowulf*, Carol Ann Duffy's *The World's Wife*, Billy Collins' *Taking Off Emily Dickinson's Clothes*, Michael Longley's *The Weather in Japan*, J.C. Sturm's *Postscripts*, Cilla McQueen's *Markings*, Lauris Edmonds' *Late Song*, and Hone Tuwhare's *Shape-Shifter* have been long-term sellers for Unity and this interest in and desire for poetry continues to gain momentum.

For our first newsletter of 2001 we thought we'd feature ten new fabulous New Zealand books – and guess what – the local publishers also seem to have poetry on their minds. Consequently 50% of our featured NZ top ten are collections of poems by some of the country's best. It will be rewarding to watch these books disappear from Unity's New Zealand table at speed, and in numbers unimaginable even five years ago. If you haven't yet jumped onto the poetry bandwagon and you're feeling a little adventurous, come in and have a browse. There really is something poetical for everyone.

OUR NEW ZEALAND TOP PICKS



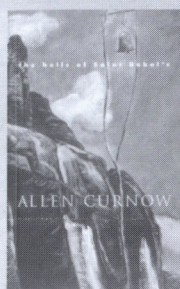
1: *Lucky Table*

Vincent O'Sullivan (VUP) Pb \$24.95

Vincent is both a superb novelist and poet with Montana Awards for both. *Lucky Table* is his new and long awaited collection of poetry and combines the expected O'Sullivan deftness and wry wit with a down-to-earth contemplation. (Don't let his novels pass you by either!)

2: *the bells of Saint Babels* **Allen Curnow (AUP) Pb \$19.95**

This is a small book of just eleven poems, remarkable for their range of subjects and mastery of technique and voice. Curnow (now 89) began publishing poetry in the 1930s and is now regarded as NZ's greatest living poet.



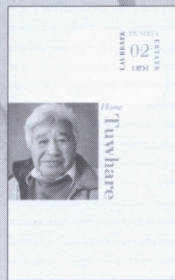
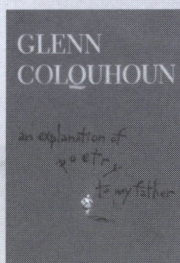
3: *The Commonplace Odes* **Ian Wedde (AUP) Pb \$19.95**

The familiar Wedde voice – easy, warm and contemporary – is a delight. In this ninth collection of poetry he writes on friends, food, art, language, and family with enormous pleasure and thoughtfulness. Accessible and satisfying.



4: *An Explanation of Poetry to my Father* **Glenn Colquhoun (Steele Roberts) Pb \$14.95**

A great title – and to be taken literally. Glenn's new collection of poetry uses hands-on language and humor to explain his craft to his builder father and anyone else not yet captivated by the magic of words. Clever, snappy, and loads of fun.



5: *Hone Tuwhare (Poet Laureate II)* **(Godwit) Hb \$29.95**

The immensely popular Hone was appointed NZ's second Poet Laureate in 1999 and this new book is the collection that resulted from that two year term. This initial print run is a gorgeous limited edition of just 1500 copies, so be quick.

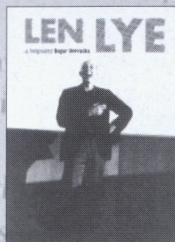
6: *Never Lost for Words* **Amelia Batistich (AUP) Pb \$34.95**

Amelia has written much about the lives of the Dalmatian community in New Zealand. In this latest book she writes about her own life, interspersing the autobiographical narrative with stories she has been told over the years. This portrayal of being 'other' in NZ is an unusual and delightful read.



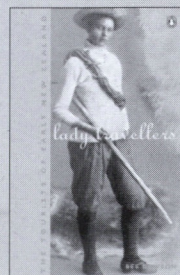
7: *Len Lye: A Biography* **Roger Horrocks (AUP) Hb \$59.95**

A major figure in experimental film-making, a leading kinetic sculpture and an innovative theorist, painter, and writer, Len Lye was an extraordinary New Zealander. Horrocks' exhaustive study recounts this fascinating life and conveys Lye's vitality, charm, and enormous talent.



8: *Lady Travellers: The Explorers of Early NZ* **Bee Dawson (Penguin) Pb \$39.95**

Through the eyes of twelve gutsy, adventurous, Victorian women we view 19th Century NZ – an exotic, colourful, often dangerous travel destination. Drawing on extensive research, Dawson has captured the lives of these extraordinary tourists with lots of quirky anecdotes and photos. Enthralling!





9: *Parihaka: The Art of Passive Resistance* (ed) Te Miringa Hohaia, Gregory O'Brien, and Lara Strongman (City Gallery Wellington, Parihaka Pa Trustees and VUP) Hb \$75.00

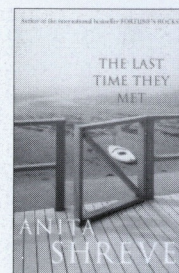
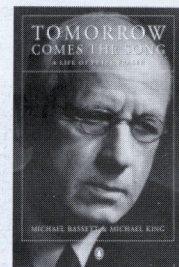
This gorgeously presented book explores the impact and legacy of the invasion of Parihaka Pa by the Crown in 1881.

Alongside the historical and contemporary photographs, *Parihaka* brings together poetry, art, and waiata from McCahon, Hotere, Baxter, Fomison, and many others who have found inspiration in the significance of Parihaka.

There is also a CD of readings and music available at \$34.95.

10: *Tomorrow Comes the Song: A Life of Peter Fraser* Michael Bassett and Michael King (Penguin) Pb \$49.95

This first full biography of Peter Fraser (NZ's wartime Prime Minister) is essential reading for anyone seriously interested in NZ history. Written by Bassett & King (how's that for credentials?) this book confirms the widely held belief that Fraser is the country's greatest-ever PM.



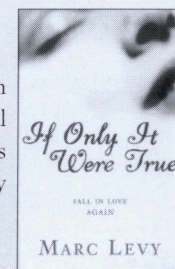
11: *The Last Time They Met* Anita Shreve (Little Brown) Pb \$34.95

The popularity of Anita's novels soars and this, her eighth, will confirm the reputation established with *The Pilot's Wife*. This latest is a double fiction (a novel within a novel) and both are narrated in reverse chronology. The narrative pull in each accelerates backwards with the astonishing last sentences. You're hooked already, aren't you?

12: *If Only It Were True*

Marc Levy (Fourth Estate) Pb \$19.95

What would you do if you found an attractive woman in your closet who tells you that her body lies in a hospital bed in a coma? And then, when she proves it to you? This is a first novel from Marc Levy and already doing very nicely on the international scene.



18: *Sputnik Sweetheart* Haruki Murakami (Harvill) Pb \$45.00

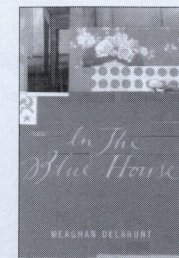
Murakami has a rapidly growing and dedicated following. This leading Japanese author's new novel is a very beautiful, but very strange, story of love and sexuality in a parallel universe. If you love distinctly unusual novels with a strong dose of dark surrealism, then look no further.



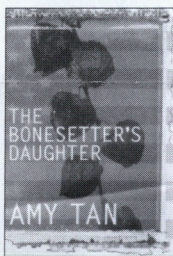
19: *In the Blue House*

Meaghan Delahunt (Bloomsbury) Pb \$35.00

This is the story of the love affair between Frida Kahlo and Leon Trotsky which begins after he finds refuge in Mexico as the guest of Diego Rivera and Frida. The scope of this novel is enormous, presenting a panorama of Russian history whilst unravelling the passions and betrayals of Trotsky's final years. Not to be missed!



A LONG LIST OF ENTICING FICTION



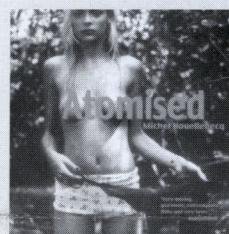
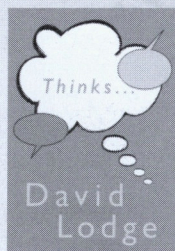
1: *The Bonesetter's Daughter* Amy Tan (Flamingo) Hb \$39.95

Author of the hugely popular *Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan will shortly be in New Zealand promoting her new novel. A mesmerising story of elderly Luling Young and her Americanised daughter Ruth, set alternately in contemporary San Francisco and pre-war China – this big fat read will make Amy's readers very happy.

2: *Thinks*

David Lodge (Secker & Warburg) Pb \$34.95

Lodge fans will be ecstatic. The man is back with another intelligent and witty novel. Ralph Messenger (a successful, affluent, married, womanising, approaching-50, expert on human consciousness) is about to meet Helen Reed (distinguished novelist) – and yes – nothing will ever be the same again.



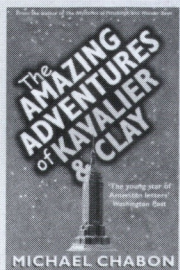
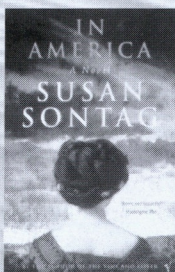
3: *Atomised* Michael Houellebecq (Vintage) Pb \$26.95

Brothers Michel and Bruno are archetypes of an 'atomised' society where religion and love have given way to shallow new age philosophies and meaningless sexual connections. Funny and acidic, this extraordinary novel has had huge success in France and will appeal to readers of contemporary literature.

4: *In America*

Susan Sontag (Vintage) Pb \$24.95

Sontag's latest novel is based on the life of Maryna Zalewska, Poland's greatest actress who, in 1876, travels to a largely empty California to found a utopian community. Unrealistic dreams collide with reality, yet Maryna triumphs. Winner of the US National Book Award 2000.



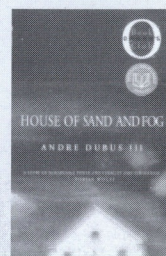
5: *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* Michael Chabon (Fourth Estate) Pb \$36.95

After the huge success of *Wonder Boys* Chabon has written this brick of a novel inspired by the lives of Siegel and Schuster, the creators of Superman. Set in the 1940s the story alternates between high comedy and bitter tragedy and will further Chabon's reputation as an inventive, contemporary author.

6: *House of Sand and Fog*

Andre Dubus III (Sceptre) Pb \$24.95

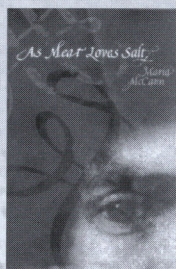
A new and shining talent has emerged! Dubus has had reviewers, authors and Unity staff in raptures. This novel of 'terrible truths' unfolds relentlessly as the traditional immigrant success story is turned upside down with a heart-rending outcome. Prepare to be thoroughly absorbed.



7: *As Meat Loves Salt*

Maria McCann (Flamingo) Pb \$34.95

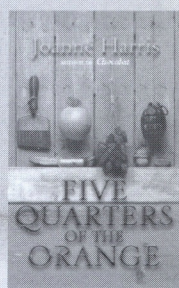
Set in 17th century England during the Civil War, this novel is the portrait of one maddened man, Jacob Cullen, whose violent obsessions and internal conflicts parallel those of the country in which he lives. For historical fiction fans – this is a must!



8: *Five Quarters of the Orange*

Joanne Harris (Black Swan) Pb \$26.95

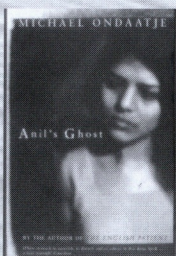
Another author who will be visiting Auckland for the Writer's Festival, Joanne is already enjoying enormous popularity with her best-selling *Chocolat*. This latest novel, also set in France and featuring culinary pleasures, is sure to please.



9: *Anil's Ghost*

Michael Ondaatje (Picador) Pb \$27.95

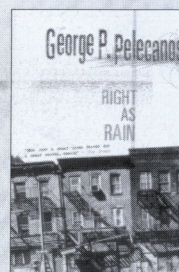
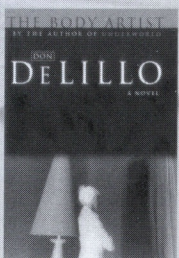
At last in paperback! Ondaatje's first novel since *The English Patient* lives up to all expectations. Unfolding against the ravishing background of Sri Lanka, *Anil's Ghost* deals with the abuse of human rights and the political background of the country involved. Tough issues handled by the pen of a poet.



10: *The Body Artist*

Don DeLillo (Picador) Hb \$49.95

DeLillo is back and this one, 700 pages shorter than his previous *Underworld* is positively enticing in its friendly, bed-reading format. It is also positively 'spare' in its style seeming strangely uncluttered and leaving issues unresolved and questions unanswered. DeLillo fans will be fascinated.



13: *Right as Rain*

George P. Pelecanos (Orion) Pb \$36.95

'Not just a great crime writer, but a great writer, period.' – *The Times*. '... a fresh, new, utterly hard-boiled voice' – *The Washington Post*. If you like your crime dark, ruthless, and savage – here's your man.

14: *English Passengers*

Matthew Kneale (Penguin) Pb \$24.95

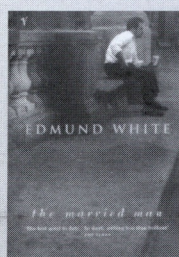
This year's winner of the Whitbread and also shortlisted for the Booker, this novel has huge appeal. Based on an expedition in 1857 to find the Garden of Eden in Tasmania (true!) this extraordinary tale is narrated by over twenty different characters – each hugely entertaining.



15: *The Married Man*

Edmund White (Vintage) Pb \$26.95

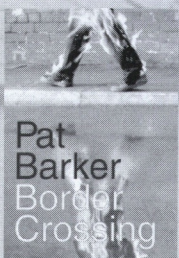
White's latest tale is of a witty, sexual, haunting love affair between middle-aged, American Austin and young, French Julien. White's recent writing has a relaxed confidence and a gentle humour that gives this novel a wider appeal than his earlier fiction.



16: *Bee Season*

Myla Goldberg (Flamingo) Pb \$19.95

Eliza the 'unremarkable' eleven year old has a quirky passion for spelling bees, a passion that will ultimately have the most unexpected and explosive consequences. This debut novel is a riveting coming-of-age tale examining the unravelling of a gifted and ambitious family. Reviews have been glowing.



17: *Border Crossing*

Pat Barker (Penguin) Pb \$34.95

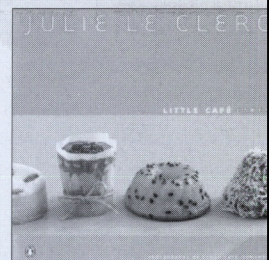
Following her huge successes, *The Ghost Road*, which won the Booker, and *Another World*, Pat returns with a superb psychological thriller. This gripping tale, intricately plotted and written in masterful style, will keep you glued.

A SMALL TASTE OF COOKBOOKS

1: *Little Café Cakes*

Julie Le Clerc (Penguin) Pb \$34.95

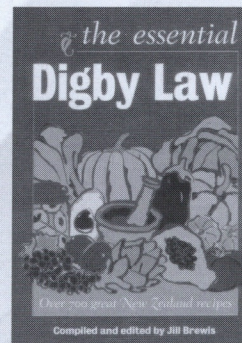
Following on from the amazing success of *Simple Café Food* and *More Simple Café Food*, Le Clerc has produced a beautiful recipe book on the new trend in café eating – little cakes. Scrumptiously photographed, you'll be inspired to whip up a batch of passionfruit yoghurt syrup cakes immediately.



2: *The Essential Digby Law*

Compiled by Jill Brewis (Hodder Moa Beckett) Pb \$39.95

At last we have the best of Digby's recipes available again! His cookbooks were continuous bestsellers when available, *The Soup Cookbook* and *A Pickle and a Chutney Cookbook* especially popular. This edition is an illustrated compilation and will doubtless make many of Digby's followers very happy.

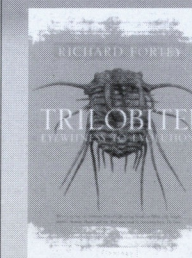
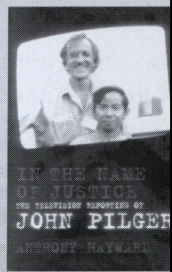


AN ECLECTIC SELECTION OF NON-FICTION

1: *In the Name of Justice: The Television Reporting of John Pilger*

Anthony Hayward (Bloomsbury) Pb \$39.95

This book examines Pilger's thirty years of making television documentaries in which justice and human struggle around the world have been recurring themes. Hayward details the effects and controversies of these programmes and focuses on Pilger's success in continuing to analyse world events by 'looking behind the authorised version'.



2: *Trilobite*

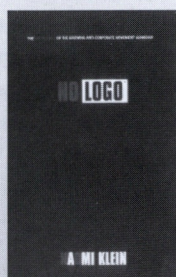
Richard Fortey (Flamingo) Pb \$19.95

'*Trilobite* will do for paleontology what *Longitude* did for navigation' – that's what the blurb on the cover promises. So if you'd like to put evolution and extinction in perspective in an enjoyable manner, check this title out. Fortey writes with wit, charm, style and passion.

3: No Logo

Naomi Klein (Flamingo) Pb \$29.95

'If the world really is just one big global village, then the logo is its common language understood by – if not accessible to – everyone.' Klein's riveting examination of the history of marketing and her intelligent resistance to the multinational mindset has been hailed as the *Das Kapital* of the anti-corporate movement.



4: Saddam Hussein: The Politics of Revenge

Said K Aburish (Bloomsbury) Pb \$29.95

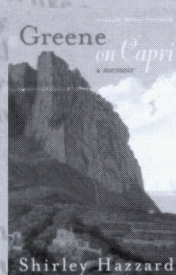
The author's extensive contacts in the Middle East enable him to provide a rare glimpse into the secret world of the powerful and unpredictable Saddam. The hypocrisy and amorality of Western policy surrounding Saddam's reign of terror makes for uncomfortable reading. Chilling.



5: Greene on Capri: A Memoir

Shirley Hazzard (Virago) Pb \$24.95

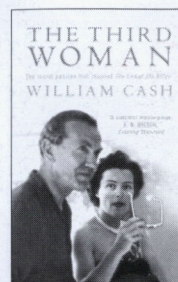
In the 1960s Graham Greene became friends with Shirley Hazzard and her husband. In this small gem Hazzard seeks to illuminate Greene's mercurial character, their frequently volatile relationship and to describe the extraordinary literary culture that thrived on the legendary island of Capri.



6: The Third Woman

William Cash (Abacus) Pb \$29.95

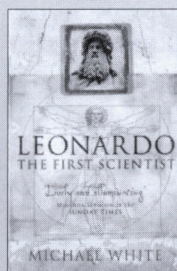
More Graham Greene – this time the tale of Greene's illicit romance with married, beautiful Catherine Walston (who also happened to be Greene's catholic goddaughter). Oh, what guilt, despair, tortured religiosity, obsession, and sexual betrayal followed! (It makes you wonder why they bothered.) This affair did however provide the inspiration for Greene's *The End of the Affair*.



7: Leonardo: The First Scientist

Michael White (Abacus) Pb \$29.95

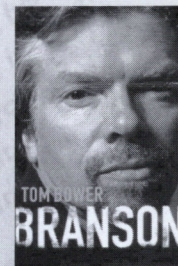
White's biography argues that da Vinci was, through the scope of his investigation, his experimental method, and his desire to push back the boundaries of knowledge, nothing less than the 'first scientist'. This is the first biography on the genius to concentrate on this aspect of his work and life.



8: Branson

Tom Bower (Fourth Estate) Hb \$59.95

This new biography on Richard Branson was partially serialised in *The Herald* last year and thus created much interest. Unfortunately we were unable to discover much about this book's content (whether 'for' or 'against' the man). Marketing and publicity material seems mysteriously unavailable. *Could this be a Branson plot?*



PLEASE SEND ME —

QTY	TITLE	RRP	TOTAL

+ POSTAGE \$ 3.00
TOTAL

☐ I ENCLOSE A CHEQUE (PAYABLE TO UNITY BOOKS) FOR \$ _____

☐ I WISH TO PAY BY ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ BANKCARD ☐ VISA ☐ AMEX ☐ DINERS

ACCOUNT NUMBER

EXPIRY DATE _____

CARD NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

MY POSTAL ADDRESS IS —

MY PHONE NUMBER IS — _____

PLEASE NOTE: PRICES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
WITHOUT NOTICE

Send orders to:

UNITY BOOKS AUCKLAND

19 High Street, Auckland

• Ph (09) 307 0731

• Fax (09) 373 4883

• unitybooks@xtra.co.nz

UNITY BOOKS WELLINGTON

57 Willis St, Wellington

• Ph (04) 499 4245

• Fax (04) 499 4246

• unity.books@clear.net.nz

0800 4 UNITY

0800 486 489