In and Around
AN INCOMPLETE SURVEY OF INDEPENDENT PUBLISHING AND AUTHORSHIP IN IDAHO
Based in Sandpoint, Idaho, Lost Horse Press is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, independent press that publishes the works of established as well as emerging poets, and makes available fine contemporary literature through cultural, educational and publishing programs and activities. Christine Holbert, founder and publisher of Lost Horse Press, earned her publishing degree from Eastern Washington University in 1998. At that time, she realized that few independent presses in the region could afford to hire a full-time editor or book designer. She understood that the place to pursue a serious publishing career was New York, but since she didn’t want to live in the City, Holbert decided to found a literary press so she could have a job. And live in the country. So, in June 1998, she established Lost Horse Press in her home south of Spokane, Washington. Holbert and the Press moved to Sandpoint, to a Mennonite-built log cabin in the Sunnyside area, in 1999. There—by the shores of 43-mile-long Lake Pend Oreille—Christine reviews and edits manuscripts, designs covers and text, typesets books, designs catalogs, promotes Lost Horse books, manages marketing, oversees interns and volunteers, and negotiates with distributors, bookstores, printers, authors, and other publishers. Christine Holbert has guided to completion such outstanding titles as Love by Valerie Martin, East & West poems by Piotr Florczyk, Thistle by Melissa Kwasny, Woman on the Cross and Tales of a Dalai Lama by Pierre Delattre, Receipt by Carl Adamshick, The Baseball Field at Night by Patricia Goedicke, and Raising Lilly Ledbetter: Women Poets Occupy the Workspace and This Dream the World: New & Selected Poems by Carolyne Wright, among others. In its 19 years of existence, the Press has published 95 books of poetry and 15 fiction titles, many of which have won national awards.

In A Field of Foundlings, Starovoyt investigates Ukraine’s suppressed generational memory of the 20th century and the new context of its retelling in Eastern Europe. Drawing on the paradoxes of mythology, technology, and tradition, Starovoyt brings the traces of undesirable histories and the minefields of memory into unexpected constellations that interrogate assertions of knowledge and meaning-making in our world today. In a time where the chaos and power of forces beyond our own seem to diminish the potency of the past, Starovoyt’s poems invoke a conscious dialogue with a past that is not severed from the ever-changing present, but echoes in our sense of self, brings some continuity to our daily decisions, and orients us toward the future.

A Field of Foundlings is the first volume in Lost Horse Press’ dual-language series of Contemporary Ukrainian Poetry.
Limberlost Press

Boise, Idaho
www.limberlostpress.com

Limberlost Press is dedicated to publishing finely printed books of poetry, fiction and non-fiction by both established and emerging writers. We feel that fine work deserves to be presented and preserved on fine papers. Our poetry chapbooks are letterpress printed on archival-quality papers and sewn by hand into limited editions for collectors and other discerning readers. We want our readers to collect these books as heirlooms to pass along to the next generation.

Occasionally, however, we publish books of longer length (stories, memoirs, and novels) via offset methods, and in 1999, we issued our first CD.

Limberlost Press began in the spring of 1976 with the publication of The Limberlost Review, No. 1, a magazine of poetry. The first issues of the magazine were quick-printed, collated, folded, and stapled and distributed like many other small press magazines of the 1960s and 1970s. In 1986, we winched a couple of Chandler & Price platen presses into our garage and began to set and print the books on our own.

Over the years, the press has published books and broadsides by such writers as Allen Ginsberg, Sherman Alexie, Anne Waldman, Ed Dorn, Gary Snyder, John Haines, Gary Gildner, Robert Creeley, Keith Wilson, Hayden Carruth, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and others. We’ve made a commitment to writers from the Intermountain West by publishing works by William Studebaker, Sandy Anderson, Margaret Aho, Ray Obermayr, Chris Dempsey, Nancy Stringfellow, John Rember, Gerald Grimmett, David Beasley-Guiootto, Greg Keeler, Joy Passanante, Alex Kuo, Gino Sky, and others.

THE ONLY LIGHT WE READ BY is a collection of poems about growing up Catholic near Los Alamos, New Mexico, during the Cold War 1950s under the omnipresent threat of nuclear uncertainty.

Margaret Aho is the author of Carpal Bones (Limberlost 1993), a collection of poems that Harald Wyndham said “pull us into history and myth, into the collective unconscious of ancient realities.” Margaret’s work has appeared in magazines across the country including Beloit Poetry Journal, Northwest Review, Willow Springs and Quarterly West. She often teaches writing workshops for high school women, as part of Idaho’s “Tumblewords” Writing Project.

The Only Light We Read By is letterpressed in an edition of 500 copies and sewn by hand into Magnani Pescia wrappers.
At Caxton Press, we are proud of our history as one of the oldest independent publishers west of the Rockies. Started in 1925 with the publication of our first Caxton title The Idaho Citizen by Fred Lukens, Caxton Press continues to publish fine books about the American West, its history, its culture, its geography and its people. Caxton Press also serves as the distributor to the book trade of other fine small presses such as the University of Idaho Press, Historic Idaho Press, Snake Country Publishing, Photosmith Books and Hambleton Publishing.

The Caxton Printers Ltd began in 1907 when founder J.H. Gipson began the company as a printing and office services company serving the business community of Idaho. As the company matured Gipson decided to launch a book publishing division (which became Caxton Press) to provide access to publishing for the authors and book lovers west of the Rockies. At that time there were no such companies in Idaho and almost no publishing houses in the West - period. Since that time we’ve published thousands of titles about the West with a special emphasis on Native American history and Western Americana.

We have a passion for what we do, and we want to pass that along to you. Fine books, from fine authors, focusing on the West. To our company the ongoing publication of content, in both print and digital formats, represents an important responsibility that we take seriously.

"Books to us never can or will be primarily articles of merchandise to be produced as cheaply as possible and to be sold like slabs of bacon or packages of cereal over the counter: If there is anything that is worthwhile in this mad jumble we call the twentieth century; it should be books."

—Caxton founder J.H. Gipson, 1937

MOUNTAIN MAN by Vardis Fisher is one of the books upon which the Robert Redford film Jeremiah Johnson was based, this novel tells the story of the rugged individuals that chose to live their own life in the mountains of the unconquered West. With brutal realism author Vardis Fisher captures both the romantic idealism and the harsh realities of life as a mountain man.
Ahsahta Press

Boise, Idaho
www.ahsahtapress.org

Ahsahta Press champions and promotes surprising, relevant, and accessible experimental poetry that more commercially minded small presses avoid; in making it widely available, we aim to increase its readership.

A not-for-profit literary publisher, Ahsahta was founded in 1974 at Boise State University to preserve the best works by early poets of the American West. Its name, ahsahata, is the Mandan word meaning “Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep,” and was first recorded by members of the Lewis and Clark expedition; the founding editors chose the word to honor the press’s original mission to publish Western poetry. Peggy Pond Church, H.L. Davis, Hazel Hall, Gwendolen Haste, Haniel Long, and Norman Macleod are among the early Western writers Ahsahta Press restored to print.

Soon after its inception, the press began publishing contemporary poetry by Western poets along with its reprint titles. Ahsahta editors discovered and initially published a number of widely popular poets from the West—among them David Baker, Katharine Coles, Wyn Cooper, Gretel Ehrlich, Cynthia Hogue, Leo Romero, and Carolyne Wright. With the inception of the MFA Program in Creative Writing at Boise State University, Ahsahta Press expanded its scope, presenting the work of poets from across the nation whose work is selected through our national competitions or by general submission.

WHAT’S HANGING ON THE HUSH by Lauren Russell wrestles with concerns that range from race, gender and sexuality to loneliness, madness and grief, and nothing escapes questioning, least of all the position of the poet herself. With humor and slightly off-kilter introspection, these poems disrupt even their own speaking, frequently singing “I.” Collectively, they demonstrate the underlying restlessness of a subjectivity never quite at ease, like the solitary cats who meander across these pages and disappear only to turn up where they are least expected. Operating in a range of modes, from tight lyrics to sprawling, fragmented texts to language experiments, What’s Hanging on the Hush is a tightly constructed interrogation of construction itself. At its heart is an exploration of solitude and a feminist’s existential reckoning—the struggle of being/making in the world.
In 1997, English Professor Mitch Wieland approached then-Provost Daryl Jones with the idea to start a new literary journal at Boise State University. The journal was envisioned as a precursor to Boise State's upcoming MFA Program in Creative Writing. While a graduate student in the MFA Program at the University of Alabama, Wieland had served as fiction editor of The Black Warrior Review. Provost Jones funded the new journal and chose its name. Over the next fifteen months, the entire first issue was edited and produced by Professor Wieland and Quinn Pritchard, a Master's student in the English Department. The inaugural issue was published in late 1998. Of this first issue, NPR's book commentator Alan Cheuse wrote:

"The first issue is so splendid an inaugural, I don't know that I've seen, in fact, a first issue of a magazine or journal with such a high-quality list of contributors, and such good work by them, since the old early days of some of the best magazines we know, Partisan Review, Paris Review, and such. Congratulations."

Esquire editor Rust Hills wrote a personal letter to Wieland that said, in part:

"...a nice lot of fiction to read. Congratulations on the magazine."

From the six short stories in the first issue, three of them made the top 100 stories of the year list in The Best American Short Stories 1998. These stories were "In Irons" (Ann Beattie), "Voices from the Other Room" (Richard Bausch), and "The Air Above the Ground" (Robert Olmstead). As a result of these Best American citations, the journal received a flood of submissions for its second issue.

After Boise State's MFA Program started in 2000, Wieland began producing the issue with the help of an annual MFA Graduate Assistant and Wieland's graduate class in publishing and editing, which he teaches each fall. Boise State MFA faculty member Brady Udall joined the journal in 2008 as fiction editor. In the 2009 issue, Professor Udall put together a moving tribute to his late editor Carol Houck Smith.

Over the years, the journal has published emerging writers alongside of established writers. The Idaho Review featured some of the early stories from Jennifer Haigh (2001) and Ben Percy (2004). In 2002, two Boise State MFA students (Bill Pettitt and Wil Miller) championed a manuscript from an unpublished writer in the Idaho Review slush pile. The story, "Bleed Blue in Indonesia" by Adam Desnoyers, appeared in that year's issue and was reprinted in the 2003 edition of Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards. In that edition, two of the twenty stories reprinted in the O. Henry Awards were from The Idaho Review.

In 2009, the Idaho Review published a special tenth anniversary issue. From its first ten issues, the journal has had ten stories selected for reprint in the following national prize anthologies: The Best American Short Stories, Prize Stories: The O. Henry Award, The Pushcart Prize, New Stories from the South, and Best of the West. The journal has had another nineteen stories short-listed for these same prize anthologies.
Begun in 1990 by the faculty in the Department of English at University of Idaho, Fugue has continuously published poetry, plays, fiction, essays, visual-text hybrids, and interviews from established and emerging writers biannually. We take pride in the work we print, writers we publish, and the presentation of each and every issue. Working in collaboration with local and national artists, our covers display some of the finest art from photography and digital art to ink drawings and oil paintings. We believe that each issue is a print and digital artifact of a deep engagement with our culture, and we make it our personal goal that the writing we select and presentation of each issue reflect the reverence we have for art and letters.

Fugue is managed and edited by graduate students in the English and Creative Writing Programs at University of Idaho in Northern Idaho, one of the nation's most beautiful regions covered with wilderness areas, mountains, rivers, and lakes.

Every year, Fugue hosts our Annual Writing Contest, publishing winners in both prose and poetry and awarding them $1,000 each. Past judges include Pam Houston, Dorianne Laux, Rodney Jones, Mark Doty, Rick Moody, Ellen Bryant Voigt, Jo Ann Beard, Rebecca McClanahan, Patricia Hampl, Traci Brimhall, Edan Lepucki, and Tony Hoagland.

Like many journals and magazines in recent years, Fugue has entered the world of digital print. While our Summer/Fall issues are still printed hard copy and distributed to contributors and subscribers, we now publish Winter/Spring issues digitally. Digital publication allows us to host our digital content here, on our website, completely free to the public.

Additionally, we host a digital archive of all back issues for free. This archive, managed by the Digital Initiatives Department in the University of Idaho Library, provides Fugue's readers access to over two decades of content.

Fugue boasts a remarkable list of past contributors, including Steve Almond, Charles Baxter, Stephen Dobyns, Denise Duhamel, Stephen Dunn, B.H. Fairchild, Nick Flynn, Terrance Hayes, Michael Martone, Campbell McGrath, W.S. Merwin, Sharon Olds, Jim Shepard, RT Smith, Virgil Suarez, Melanie Rae Thon, Natasha Trethewey, Anthony Varallo, Robert Wrigley and Dean Young among many, many others.
Not a press or journal, but Idaho's independent literary scene wouldn't be the same without...

The Cabin

Boise, Idaho
www.thecabinidaho.org

The Cabin, a Boise, Idaho literary arts organization, forges community through the voices of all readers, writers, and learners. In 1995, a deteriorating log cabin in Boise, Idaho, (built in 1940 for the Forest Service as part of the WPA), was on the verge of being too broken to fix. At the same time, a new literary organization was just getting started. It was perfect timing.

The City of Boise agreed to provide the cabin as a home for Idaho literary arts, if the organization would renovate the structure and make it fully accessible. 22 years later, The Cabin remains Idaho's anchor for literary programs. The Cabin is the only nonprofit organization in Idaho devoted entirely to engaging the region in arts and educational activities that celebrate reading and writing. Located by the Boise River, The Cabin is in the center of Boise's cultural district between Boise State University and downtown. The Cabin serves children and adults with programs through Writers in the Schools residencies, summer camps, adult writing workshops, book discussions, writing contests, published anthologies, readings by local writers, and our annual Readings & Conversations series, which brings world-renowned authors to our city. National Book Award-winner Colum McCann said of his recent visit: "I felt entirely at home at The Cabin. It is indeed a cabin — with a literary kitchen, and a friendly living room, and a fireplace that burns with social intent. I was captivated by the school programs and the seriousness with which the whole organization, from the staff to the audience, treat the written word."

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