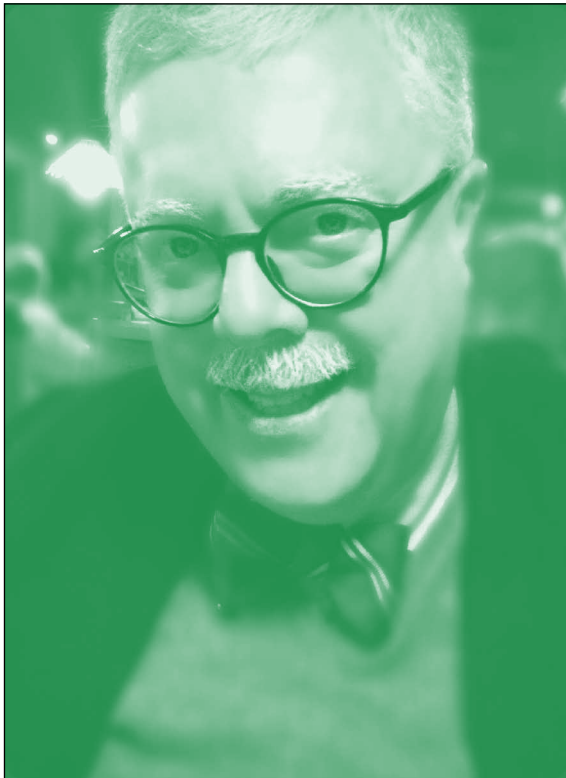


The Poetry of Bruce Meyer

The Inaugural Poet Laureate
of the city of Barrie



Juan de Dios Torralbo Caballero

EDITORIAL COMARES



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Foreword

Canada, 30th November 1998. Bruce Meyer has sent me some of his poems. I receive two published collections and one still in manuscript. I start to read them. For a long time they will remain my favourite anthologies. Through them I begin to delve deeper into the poetry of the country. The two books were *The Open Room* and *Radio Silence* and the manuscript was *The Presence*, which was published the following year.

There is a Spanish version of Meyer's book *Heroes: The Champions of Our Literary Imagination* (2007), translated by Ernesto Junquera (Madrid, Siruela, 2008). The Journal *Espéculo* also published an extensive and well-informed overview of his work by Jorge Martínez-Lucena (2010).

This series of essays investigates some of the poetry of Bruce Meyer, delving deeper into certain aspects. Two of the articles collected here have previously been accepted to be published in the journals *American College Journal of English Language and Literature* and in *Canadaria*. *The rest of the papers are published in this book for the first time.*

The first chapter, entitled «I want to walk inside the language»: Visiting Bruce Meyer, Inaugural Poet Laureate for the City of Barrie, explores certain biographical details regarding Meyer's role as a reader, a professor and a writer. The article focuses on the subject matter tackled in his books. The second chapter focuses on an interview granted by the author some time ago. Entitled «*Beauty in Tradition*»: *The poetical beginnings of Bruce Meyer*, it investigates his earlier books, covering the period from 1989 to the end of the twentieth century.

The third chapter deals with a 2013 anthology entitled «*I speak of Africa and golden joys*»: *The search for the fabled city of gold in The Obsession Book of Timbuktu*. In this section, the morphology of the book is analysed along with the search for the fabled city of gold—the golden dream—set in the modern-day location of the city of Barrie.

The object of investigation in chapter four is the collection of one hundred sonnets published in 2014, entitled «*Beauty is when we entertain the cosmos*»: *English classical overtones in Bruce Meyer's The Seasons*. This study reveals the literary sources evident in the poems, by illustrating elements of intertextuality and certain literary influences.

The final two chapters focus on another book of poems from 2014. The fifth chapter is «*The road was a monologue repeating itself*»: *Searching for the earthy ἀρχή in Meyer's Testing the Elements*. It analyses the structure of the collection, based around the four classical elements and arguably the poet's first step in his search for the source of all things. The sixth and final chapter is «*And became poetry*»: *Didactic and dialogic landscapes in Bruce Meyer's Testing the Elements*. In this chapter, each of the four sections of the volume is outlined, along with further investigation of some characteristic aspects. It illustrates the dialogue which the writer engages in with the landscapes he describes, emphasising the places, objects and events as aspects of a superior, universal and perpetual mechanism.

Following this, a selection of poems will allow the reader to experience the basis of this book first hand. This is the moment of truth, when the esteemed reader can delight in reading the texts which are, ultimately, the sole reason for the existence of this current volume. I would like to take this moment to thank the poet for allowing me to publish his poems here. I am grateful also to Editorial Comares for agreeing to publish this volume. Lastly, I wish to express my gratitude to my Investigation Group «*Writs of Empire: Poetics in Modern and Contemporary Literatures in English*» and the Department of English and German Studies of the University of Cordoba, who financed the publication.

This study is intended to be a critical presentation of Bruce Meyer's poetry. I would like to conclude these preliminary lines by saying that, sixteen years after having received the aforementioned package, Bruce's Meyer's literary publications are now approaching fifty volumes. His work has been prolific and he has had significant success in the literary world. At the time of writing, three new manuscripts entitled *The Arrow of Time*, *The Madness of Planets*, and *Striking Distance* are currently in production. A few days before sending this text to the publisher, the writer has informed me that his time as Poet Laureate of the City of Barrie, a position that he has held since 2010, has come to an end as of November 2014.

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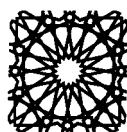
Dirigida por:
Emilio Ortega Arjonilla y Pedro San Ginés Aguilar

BREVE SINOPSIS

“This collection of essays, analysis and reflection creates a fascinating intellectual profile of one of Canada’s most productive, most prolific poets/teachers/writers. In addition to delving deep and dwelling affectionately with the themes, styles and perspectives that animate Bruce Meyer’s writing, the collection also situates Meyer within the Canadian Poetical Universe with acuity and authority.

While serving as a welcome introduction to Bruce Meyer, in-depth analyses of particular works adds gravitas to this thoroughly readable work. For the ordinary reader, for the student and for the scholar, this volume will quickly become essential reading for anyone interested in Meyer, and everyone should be, and as well for anyone trying to wrestle with the nature and expanse of Canadian Poetry.”

(Peter Kavanagh, author of *The Man Who Learned to Walk Three Times*)



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