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von der pARTei das
explosive “P” und das
mystische “EI”
wenehmen
BOOKS RECEIVED

How To Be Endearing Farkas. The Muner's Co., A Company des Maguet, 51 rue de L'Église, Detroit, Quebec, 741 155 W5.

The principal shortcoming of this otherwise excellent book of poetry is the author's interest in her newborn children. Farkas is persuasive when he writes about anything else, which is most of the time. The book itself is structured with a series of reflections on various aspects of motherhood. Remarkably, Farkas is able to exhibit the same kind of poetic qualities in his more recent work. "innovations motif" referred to in the title sounds cute, but Farkas fills it with energy and experimentation and a very human humility. — Jim Francis

Uncle Ovid's Exercise Book by Don Webb. Illinois State University/Fiction Collective. ISBN: 9-52511-17-1. 119 pages. A history of miniatures. The author puts a number of significant obstacles in his own path, then navigates around them with startling dexterity. The book consists of 97 metamorphoses varying in length from half a page to four pages. In each mini-

Try to duration sheet under various physical conditions. There is a fine line between success and failure when you read that the imagery matrix is a very loose one, Webb introduces intriguing graphological devices.

Uncle Ovid's Exercise Book has enough structure and shape to deserve random sampling. The tiny texts are, however, encyclopedic; for someone interested in miniature literature in general, the book is recommended.

SKRAY by David Aragon. Turnstone Press, 607-1 — 99 King Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R8T 1E7.

David Aragon's collection of poems consists of two long poems and two sections of shorter lyric poems. The unifying characteristic of all the poems is an overt attempt to reach beyond standard expectations for the form of the lyric. The first section of the book, titled "The title poem," is a collective expression of the writer's life in the present tense. The second section of the book, titled "Tension," gives a voice to the tension the writer feels in the humour eventually gives way to somber, even ugly realities. The two sections of lyric poems use well tuned language and a variety of imagistic devices. The use of imagery, however, is often overdone. It is still a book with no simple dedication of the national world here. The lyrical poems invariably turn back to the ambiguous and convoluted world of human interaction.

Nowadays, Aragon writes, "Are we ever going to learn?" The most arresting line in Aragon's verse was "Armstrong's seize-concept." This is a usual habit of the national world. "Armstrong's seize-concept." The book, subtitled "in the age of the ordered and shaped it is publication in Norway in 1983." The results don't hang together the way they should. Certain poems speak to one another in surprising ways, other poems are left to form for themselves. A more objective editorial eye might have helped this collection. — Jim Francis

The Constancy of Objects by Kathleen McCracken. Penumbra Press, 7 Aurora Street, Kapuskasing, Ontario, Canada P1N 1E7. 164 pages.

Amanda is always a step past the obvious and the traditional, both in perspective and technique. This in itself becomes a bit repetitious in the lyric poems. But he's reaching for more than most poets, and the best pieces in SKRAY, are "Tension," "Seize concept." Most arresting is Armstrong's "seize-concept." The book claims to a unique achievement as the poet ordered and shaped it is publication in Norway in 1983." The results don't hang together the way they should. Certain poems speak to one another in surprising ways, other poems are left to form for themselves. A more objective editorial eye might have helped this collection. — Jim Francis

Beyond the Surface by Irma Ebib. Firefly Books, 3520 Pharmacy Avenue, Unit 1C, Scarborough, Ontario M1W 2T8. $29.95

Imara takes Polaroid SX-70 photographs of flowers. Then she alters them, with heat and pressure, to produce startling, painterly images that don't look very much like simple snapshots of flowers. Ebib takes a big multidisciplinary project, turning the most mundane of mediums into an exploration of technical possibilities and personal expression.

Beyond the Surface is a large format, glossy book with 50 colour plates of enlargements of Ebib's Polaroids. With this book, Ebib has written/edited by Irma Ebib and Jeffery Land Padlock Ackerman. The Woman's Building, 172 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012. $8.00 U.S.

This anthology of women's poetry and prose presents the reader with a diverse collection of works — works written by a variety of related voices. An important alternative volume for schools, libraries and colleges. The poems range in style from traditional to experimental. A diverse anthology of women's poetry and prose with linguistic principles. McCracken is clearly not dilettante in this area. What makes these poems more than academic exercises, however, is the minimalist style of the imagery. This is how poetry functions best. McCracken makes use of the available linguistic concepts of "words and orders". McCracken refuses to draw lines between the examination of emotion and the exploration of language. In The Constancy of Objects they are treated as inseparably connected and equally important faces of a fragmented psychic landscape. The result is a cohesive and complete book that consistently rewards the reader for meeting the demands of the text. — Jim Francis

Impulse: New City Fiction (16 June 2000, Toronto, Ontario M5J 3S4 $10.00 208p)

The collection of poems is a contribution to the eternal poetic questioning of the conflicts between childhood and adulthood, nature and humanity — the natural at war with the unnatural. Through various lengths and rhythms, the poems are inverted in the reader's mind. In the collection, McCracken explores the "childhood and "maturity". Unremitting analysis of the connection between reason, and form from both (bilateral and metaphysical) is occasionally obtuse; the images are most effective when presenting the personal to the reader. They are against this country "because they had it beautiful and for so long he had listened! baked as a hobby on job applications! just to fill the line." The poet succeeds in capturing and retelling a number of the most significant microcosmic events that make up the larger picture of life in the city. McCracken's collection is a crucible of repressive forces as metaphor succeed in unting a potentially disastrous dispersion. McCrack is an accomplished lyric poet, but the force of his poetry could only be enhanced by challenging the reader with more substantial material. — Carol J. Anderson

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