

[INTRODUCTION]

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For the person who loves poetry, but whose French is not up to the task of reading it in the original, French-Canadian poetry virtually does not exist at all, so few are the available translations.

This situation is not desirable. Canada, one of the few countries which officially recognizes more than one language, has a duty to make each race known to the other. This cannot be accomplished in the home of the private citizen. For this reason it was felt that a sampling of modern French-Canadian verse in translation would help to fill a cultural need.

Possibly a word should be added for those “purists” who are against translations, who say that the reader should make the effort to read in the original, and that the translation loses something of the original. Yet we read the Bible in translation (a very poor translation if we are to believe many scholars), and we read Andersen’s fairy tales in translation, just as we read *Rubaiyat* in translation. Even the story of king Alfred and the burnt cakes comes to us in a form of translation. While no translator can render the author’s thought in precisely the original manner, he should be able to recreate for the foreign reader approximately the sense of what the author originally hoped to show his readers.

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Source : Roy, G. Ross (ed. and transl.), *Twelve Modern French-Canadian Poets*, Toronto, Ryerson Press, 1958.