

Interview with a publisher: Wingate Press

Wingate Press is a Canadian owned and operated publisher based in Stratford, Ontario. The press publishes editions of both literary and non-fiction works, as well as poetry and short fiction anthologies. Wingate Press produces first-edition paperbacks aimed at a diverse market, and also literary short & long fiction, short story anthologies and novels.

The following is the transcript of an interview with Wingate Press Contributing Editor-in-Chief Ms. Stacey Lynn Newman, and Dalhousie University SLIS student Danielle MacKinlay, March 23, 2005.

Danielle MacKinlay: We have developed an interest in one of your authors, Caeli Hampton Doherty-Wayne, who has recently published *The Book of Broken Hours*. After listening to an interview with Doherty-Wayne, and browsing Wingate's website, we became curious about how her book came to be published - had you heard of her novel first or were you approached?

Stacey Lynn Newman: Caeli's mother submitted her book to us. She asked if we would simply edit

the book. We loved it and thought it would make a wonderful trilogy for young adult readers, therefore, we sent an offer for publication.

DM: Did Caeli send her manuscript in the mail? How was it submitted?

SLN: Her mother mailed it to us.

DM: Did you know Caeli's age when you decided to publish?

SLN: Yes.

DM: Was her age a factor in your decision to publish the trilogy?

SLN: Her age was only a factor in determining the audience for her book. It did not affect our decision to publish. Because Caeli is young, her perspective is also young; therefore, we would not have attempted to aim her book at an adult audience.

DM: Were you actively recruiting young adult authors at the time?

SLN: No, we rarely actively recruit any type of authors, with the

exception of aboriginal authors, whom we do actively recruit.

DM: Is *Caeli's* the first young adult novel you've published?

SLN: Yes.

DM: Do you feel that this novel would appeal to other age groups?

SLN: The novel has proven to appeal to readers between the ages of 10 and 20, a few younger children have also enjoyed it and a few older adults too.

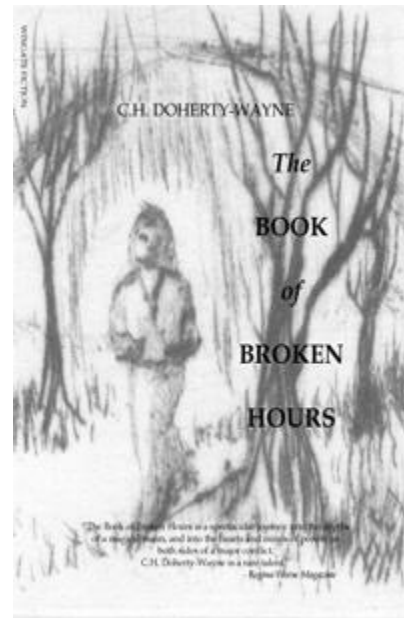
DM: Are you planning on publishing more works by young adults in the future?

SLN: We plan on publishing excellent books by writers regardless of their age, if they happen to be young, that is not a factor for us and we'll certainly publish their work. We do have a rule that if we work with a young author, we will only work with them on one contract. This is because we feel young writers should get as much experience as

possible working with many different publishers and editors etc.

DM: Are you currently recruiting young adult authors?

SLN: We accept young adult story submissions usually; however, our young adult schedule is full until 2007



DM: What is your general impression of working with teen authors?

SLN: *Caeli* was wonderful to work with, however, one thing that all young writers have to learn is that writing is a disciplined craft. It requires hard work, dedication and constant learning in order to grow as

a writer. A writer's voice changes as the writer gains new experience. We believe very strongly that all writers should develop themselves through post-secondary education as well as through life experience.

DM: In your opinion, are there particular challenges facing young adult writers who wish to publish?

SLN: Actually, young adult is one of the easiest genres to write for. It is a huge global audience and far less competitive than adult fiction these days. One challenge that faces young adult writers is the tendency towards writing fan fiction. Young

writers tend to emulate their own favourite authors. Inspiration is one thing, writing your own version of an existing film or novel is plagiarism.

DM: Do you have any advice for teens that would like to publish?

SLN: LEARN, READ and go to university. Travel, meet people and keep a journal every day. That is my personal advice for young writers. It is okay to decide not to follow the rules once you are established - but you must KNOW the rules in order to break them. I have noticed a disturbing trend in writing circles and artistic circles,

where more weight is given to life experience than to education. This is so wrong, education is imperative to writing well and even once university is completed, good writers, truly good writers that is, continue to educate themselves in their craft.

For more information about Wingate Press, write to Wingate Press, 74 Birmingham Street, Stratford, ON, N5A 2S8, Canada; Tel/Fax: (519) 271-8406 Email: publisher@wingatepress.com



Spotlight on Caeli Hampton Doherty-Wayne

In the fall of 2004, Wingate Press launched a projected trilogy of fantasy novels by Caeli Doherty-Wayne. *The Book of Broken Hours* was **Caeli Hampton Doherty-Wayne's** first published work. The second volume in the series, *Forever's Shadow*, is set to appear in the summer of 2005. Caeli aspires to continue her writing career. She is also planning to work abroad teaching English as a second language. She has traveled in Cambodia, Vietnam, the United States and Canada. Caeli currently lives in Toronto. (Wingate Press)



Portrait by G. Kiff

