THE GRIFFIN TRUST
For Excellence In Poetry

Press Release

THE GRIFFIN TRUST FOR EXCELLENCE IN POETRY
ANNOUNCES THE JUDGES FOR THE 2004 GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE

TORONTO, September 25, 2003 – Distinguished poets Billy Collins (U.S. Poet Laureate 2001-2003), Bill Manhire (New Zealand’s inaugural poet laureate) and Governor General Award-winner Phyllis Webb (Canada) have agreed to judge entries submitted by publishers around the world for the 2004 Griffin Poetry Prize, it was announced today by Scott Griffin, Chairman of the Griffin Trust for Excellence in Poetry.

The judges are selected annually by the Trustees: Margaret Atwood, Robert Hass, Michael Ondaatje, Robin Robertson and David Young. Collins, Manhire and Webb will be judging books of poetry published in the 2003 calendar year. The shortlist will be announced in New York on April 1st, 2004. The C$80,000 Griffin Poetry Prize, divided between the International and Canadian winners, will be presented at the awards event in Toronto on June 3rd, 2004, following the shortlisted poets’ reading on June 2nd.

The Griffin Trust was created to serve and encourage excellence in poetry written in English anywhere in the world. Eligible collections of poetry, which includes translations, must be submitted by publishers in the calendar year of their publication.

Bill Manhire was New Zealand’s inaugural Poet Laureate, and is a four-time winner of the New Zealand Book Award for poetry. His *Collected Poems* (2001) are published by Carcanet in the UK and by Victoria University Press in New Zealand, while a collection of short fiction, *South Pacific* aka *Songs of My Life*, is also in print. He recently published a short memoir, *Under the Influence*; a collection of essays and interviews, *Doubtful Sounds*, appeared in 2000. He is also well known for such anthologies as *100 New Zealand Poems*, *Six by Six*, *Some Other Country*, and *Soho Square IV*. He founded the creative writing programme at Victoria University of Wellington, where he is currently director of the International Institute of Modern Letters, and inaugurated the electronic annual, *Best New Zealand Poems*. He is currently compiling an anthology of imaginative writing about Antarctica, *The Wide White Page*.


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