

PROVERSE HONG KONG

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You are receiving this Newsletter because you are a subscriber to our E-Newsletter; because you have expressed interest in Proverse as a book publisher and/or in entering for the annual international Proverse Prize for unpublished book-length non-fiction, fiction or poetry and/or in entering for the Proverse International Poetry Prize for a single unpublished poem; because you have attended our events, or because you have given us your business card.

JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER

An up-to-date Newsletter, typed (we hope) on a new machine that is striving to give the impression that it is easy to use. Is this correct? Perhaps. We need to get used to it, as we have struggled to do during all the phases of the computer revolution. It is surely easy for small children. But not for us (at least not for me). Remember the song, "My Boy, Laptop," or was there a different title? Has the computer revolution spawned any new lyrics? Or is it too serious for fun and games? Are there any organizations that have moved, or are shifting, to the front?

To take one example, members of the world-wide organisation, the Royal Commonwealth Society, have become aware of the times and abandoned communication by letter. Strange and sinister creatures named "Webcams" have taken over (I think), and these are now scuttling to adopt other forms of communication. If, for example, one needs to gather some information about the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation, or the Commonwealth Essay Competition, one can look for help from a mysterious organization, created by Harvard dropouts and named "Facebook." The chaps there will probably have the answer, but, if it is not immediately to hand, they will simply have to consult their own creation. Fascinating when you think about it. Invent a barrier and then decide how to cross it (if you remember).

It's all rather complicated. Putting together the latest list of Proverse books is a much simpler task but certainly a worthy one. The word, "Worthiness", surely applies to Laura Solomon's play, *Brain Graft*, based on her own experience of suffering from a brain tumour. As we are told, the book explores the topic of personality and how it may be affected by "spare-part" surgery. In very different vein, is Dragoş Ilca's *HK Hollow*, described by the writer, Jason Polley, as a "street-smart" novel of ideas. The author was born and raised in Romania, studied literature in Amsterdam and now teaches in Hong Kong University.

From novels to poetry. Birgit Bunzel's *Bliss of Bewilderment* follows her prize-winning first poetry collection, *Shadows in Deferment*. "If we practice listening to our bewilderment inside, it ultimately leads to a more expansive understanding, a greater acceptance of the 'givenness' of life and a clarity of heart."

Gillian Bickley's *Over the Years* is a collection of poems published between 1972 and 2015. It includes selections from the volumes, *For the Record*, *Moving House*, *Sightings*, *China Suite* and *Perceptions*.



Emeritus Professor, I.F. Clarke, described the collection in the following terms. “The variety of human life and the individual response to life, these are Gillian Bickley’s central interests.”

In a separate volume, entitled *Mingled Voices*, editors Gillian Bickley and Verner Bickley present an anthology of thirty-one poems selected from entries to the first Proverse Poetry Prize.

All these books are available online in paperback and amazon kindle editions. Why not read one or two of them at least over the summer months!

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## **The Proverse International Literary Prizes**

If you want to enter for one (or both) of the two Proverse Literary Prizes please do it now!

We are already in the late entry period (closing 30 June) for **The International Proverse Prize** for unpublished non-fiction, fiction, or poetry, submitted in English (book-length work).

**The International Proverse Poetry Prize** (single poems) closes on 30 June.

Full details and entry forms for each prize are on the Proverse website, [proversepublishing.com](http://proversepublishing.com). Entries for each can also be made through the Proverse submission manager, at the following URL: <https://proversehongkong.submittable.com/submit>

You are warmly invited and encouraged to enter your work and/or to forward the information to your writing friends and contacts.

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Videos

If you missed the Proverse Spring Reception, held on 27 April 2017, or would like to enjoy it all over again, please see youtube, for the expertly edited video, courtesy of Simon Overton: https://youtu.be/mrtSF0iel_c

This includes the videoed messages from 2016 Proverse Prize winner Ivy Ngeow and 2016 supplementary prize winner, Hayley Ann Solomon, which have also been (separately) uploaded to the “Gillian Bickley” Youtube channel.

NOTICE

EMAIL ADDRESS

For the time being at least, we are sending our E-Newsletters from our gmail address. If you hear of anyone who is not receiving our E-Newsletters, please do tell them this and also please suggest that they look in their Spam folder. If there are any problems, they should please contact us at proverse@netvigator.com.

We do upload our newsletters to the website, proversepublishing.com; but this is usually quite some time after we send them out to our newsletter subscribers.

You are welcome to pass this newsletter on to those you think will be interested.

Proverse Hong Kong, 18 June 2017



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