

PUBLISHED MEMBER

Congrats to MEA member Doug Whiteway (pen name C.C. Benison) on the launch of his latest book *Twelve Drummers Drumming*, the first in a new series on the theme of 'the 12 days of Christmas'. Available at McNally Robinson (www.mcnallyrobinson.com). Visit C.C. Benison's website at www.ccbenison.com.



BOOKS FOLLOW-UP

For those who attended our recent linguistics workshop led by Barbara Becker – and those who weren't able to attend, you may be interested in these two titles that relate to the topic: *Phasal Analysis: Analyzing Discourse through Communication Linguistics* by Karen Malcolm, and *Developing a Written Voice*, by Dona J. Hickey. Both can be ordered through McNally Robinson (www.mcnallyrobinson.com) and cost approximately \$50 each.

GET CERTIFIED!

by Janice Dyer

Certified Professional Editor
Certification Steering Committee Co-Chair,
Editors' Association of Canada

EAC certification is based on four tests and four corresponding study guides. Each test allows you to demonstrate your understanding of the publishing process and your ability in one of the core editing areas:

- Structural Editing
- Stylistic Editing
- Copy Editing
- Proofreading

If you pass one of the four certification tests, you will earn a credential in that skill area and be a Certified Structural Editor, a Certified Stylistic Editor, a Certified Copy Editor, or a Certified Proofreader. If you pass

all four tests, you will be a Certified Professional Editor.

Each year, two tests are offered at sites across Canada in a two-year cycle: Stylistic Editing and Copy Editing are being offered in November 2011, while Structural Editing and Proofreading Tests will be offered in November 2012, and so on.

Benefits of EAC Certification

If you're an editor, certification:

- provides official recognition of your high level of knowledge and skill
- serves as a powerful marketing tool, and may allow you to command a higher salary
- earns you the respect of your peers
- supports you in your search for professional development activities that ensure you continue to do excellent work

If you're an employer, certification:

- ensures that your staff meet industry standards for quality of work
- provides meaningful professional development opportunities for your employees—before and after they are certified

If you hire editors, certification:

- allows you to hire employees and freelancers with the professional skills and knowledge you need
- makes the selection and hiring process easier

Preparing to Write the Tests

- Ensure that you have at least five years of editing experience and that you are familiar with the standards outlined in EAC's *Professional Editorial Standards* (PES).
- Start studying at least four months before the test, using the EAC Study Guides and editorial references such as *Editing Canadian English* and *Chicago Manual of Style*. See the Study Guides and the EAC website for more information about what you can bring to the tests.

- Form a study group or work with a partner.
- Practise hard-copy markup if you do not usually do this type of editing.
- Write and score the Practice Test provided in the Study Guide. Identify your weaknesses, and work on improving your performance, using self-directed learning materials such as EAC's *Professional Editorial Standards*.

Costs to Write the Tests

- Each Study Guide is \$75 for a printed version and \$55 for a PDF download. Three Study Guides are currently available: Stylistic Editing, Copy Editing, and Proofreading. The Structural Editing Study Guide will be available in May 2012.
- Fees to write the test are \$375 per test for EAC members and \$475 per test for non-members.

For the most up-to-date information about EAC membership and certification, see the EAC website at www.editors.ca.

CALLING ALL WEBSITE AFICIONADOS!

Cheri Frazer, MEA treasurer and website administrator, is starting an ad-hoc volunteer website committee to evaluate what content should be on the MEA site for editors and clients, and what (if any) content from external sources should be linked (e.g., the publishing courses at Simon Fraser, Ryerson, etc.). The team always outperforms the individual, so we're hoping to gather a few web wizards together to improve our online presence. If you would like to offer your talent, opinions and a little time, please email Cheri at meaworkshops@gmail.com.

BORED WITH OUR IMAGE?

Do you feel strongly one way or the other about the MEA's marketing image? We're looking for feedback on the idea of a re-brand of the organization. We're tossing around the idea of a new look for our website, so the launch of that down the line is the perfect time to coordinate our broader look. We'd love to hear from you with thoughts on a re-brand strategy and ideas for our brand. Email us at meaworkshops@gmail.com with "image ideas" in the subject line.

THE VIRTUAL QUILL & QUIRE

If you want to keep up with Canada's book news and reviews but can't afford to buy a subscription to the preeminent magazine, *Quill & Quire*, check out its online presence at www.quillandquire.com, which seems to offer scads of information. I stumbled upon it after having decided I could not spring for the 10-issue-a-year paper publication. I'm delighted – and amazed – at the content provided online. Subscriptions to the full magazine cost about \$80 and are available in either paper or digital format (<https://secure.indas.on.ca/care/qqm/subscribe.php>).

INSIDE STORIES CANADA

Douglas Gibson, one of Canada's most well known editors at publisher McClelland & Stewart, has written what sounds like a must-read book for anyone interested in Canadian writing and writers and the Canadian publishing industry. Check out *Stories About Storytellers*, in which he recounts his first-hand writing-related experiences with the likes of Alice Munro, Stephen Leacock and Pierre Trudeau (to name only three of the BIG names with whom he worked).

INSIDE STORIES BRITAIN

Diana Athill is a big name in British publishing, having helped Andre Deutsch found his eponymous publishing house in London, England. Born in 1917, Athill is still alive and writing, though no longer editing. A while back, I came across an omnibus book of her memoirs, *Life Class*, in McNally's bargain books section and snapped it up. (At under \$10 for more than 650 pages of fascinating stories about Athill's life, loves and her experience as an editor, how could I possibly resist?) One of the books included in this massive collection is *Stet*, Athill's memoir of her time in publishing; it's a captivating account of a now lost-era (I greatly fear) when paper-printed books really mattered.

Here are a few tidbits from Diana Athill on being an editor that will, I hope, pique your interest in this remarkable woman, still going strong at 94:

- ▶ Editing “gave me a daily occupation which brought in enough money to live on and which was almost always enjoyable, and it constantly proved the truth of that ancient cliché about working in publishing: You Meet Such Interesting People.
- ▶ She talks about her breadth of reading as invaluable experience in her editing: “I had read a lot and I was developing confidence in my own judgment.”
- ▶ She writes about how editing can teach you a lot about a subject unfamiliar to you.
- ▶ On editing an unskilled writer: “I enjoyed the work. It was like removing layers of crumpled brown paper from an awkwardly shaped parcel, and revealing the attractive present which it contained – a good deal more satisfying than the minor tinkering involved when editing a competent writer.”
- ▶ “An editor must never expect thanks. We must always remember that we are only midwives – if we want praise for progeny, we must give birth to our own.”

THE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DEADLINE FOR THE MEA IS NOVEMBER 19TH.
IF YOU'VE NOT YET SENT IN YOUR DUES FOR 2011/12, PLEASE DO SO.
WE REALLY DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU!

THE MEA IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Check out our FACEBOOK page

(<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Manitoba-Editors-Association/176151379138651>)

created by Melody Rogan, our new membership chair,

and "LIKE" us.

Go on. Be our friend!

And, "FOLLOW" us on Twitter: @mbeditors

SOCIAL MEDIA...a great way to connect online and stay in touch with MEA goes on

MEA's Musings newsletter is put together by Amanda Le Rougetel, with help from MEA executive members. Any and all feedback & input is welcomed. Email us at meaworkshops@gmail.com