

## Dedication

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### IN MEMORY OF MIRIAM WADDINGTON (1917-2004)

As is often the case with scholars and readers, I came to know Miriam Waddington's work long before I met her as Professor of English at York University. In my second year of undergraduate studies in Ottawa, I chose to write a paper on the poetry of A. M. Klein and, in the course of my research, came upon books and articles written by Miriam. Miriam's groundbreaking scholarship on Klein so impressed me, I sought out more of her writing. As a young student, I was moved particularly by the Jewish sensibility that informed her criticism. Her pioneering reading of Klein as a Canadian Jewish writer whose work was influenced by literary tradition appealed to my developing interest in Canadian Jewish writing. Moreover, when I learned that she herself was a poet, I read all of her books in the university library. My discovery of Miriam's poetry – with its emphasis on the richness and range of female experience, its lyricism, and sensual imagery – determined the course of my future studies in Canadian Literature.

When I arrived in Toronto to pursue a Master's degree in English at York University, I already had decided to work on Miriam's poetry and looked forward to meeting the woman behind the verse. From our first exchange in her office at York, Miriam was encouraging and generous. She appreciated my interest in her work and soon took a personal interest in me. Over the course of my MA, Miriam shared her manuscripts with me, answered my many questions, and granted me ready access to her papers held at Library and Archives Canada.

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Miriam was kind, available, and willing to assist me in my academic work, a boon to the graduate student.

I also am grateful to Miriam for her friendship and hospitality during her latter years in Toronto. Often, she invited my future husband and me to her home for dinner, where we shared her table with her colleagues from York and other interesting people she knew. Miriam opened her home to us, fed us delicious food, and provided lively conversation. Everyone around her table enjoyed her warmth and humour. Miriam also helped celebrate several momentous occasions in my life: marriage; completion of the PhD; and the birth of my first child. She marked each event with a special gift and her good wishes.

In the 1990s, I saw Miriam infrequently. Sadly, in 1992, she and I attended the funeral of fellow writer and friend, Adele Wiseman. I saw her again in 1997 at a book launch in Toronto, and a year later at a literary gathering where she read some wonderful poems, including those published here for the first time. Following her move to the west coast, whenever we met in Toronto or Vancouver, Miriam and I resumed our easy way with one another. To Miriam, I always was the student who took a deep interest in her work, and to me, Miriam always will be a mentor, the poet and critic whose work I admire.

Miriam was unfailingly generous with me. From the first, I felt connected to Miriam Waddington the person, as I had been moved earlier by her writing, and over the years I felt the privilege of knowing Miriam and counting her as my friend. Miriam's vitality, her spirit, and the craft of her writing continue to inspire me. Taken together, Miriam's work celebrates the many stages, challenges, and rewards of a woman's life. To commemorate her contribution to the cultural life of Canada and her achievement as a modernist poet, this special issue of *Canadian Jewish Studies/Études Juives Canadiennes* devoted to writing by Canadian Jewish women is dedicated to the memory of Miriam Waddington.

Ruth Panofsky  
September 2004