

PROVERSE PRIZE 2019

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Available soon on the Proverse youtube channel:
An edited video of the Proverse Autumn Reception 2020 live event.

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At the Proverse Autumn Reception, held at the Helena May, Central Hong Kong, on the evening of 19 November 2020, Dr Verner Bickley, MBE, Co-Founder of the Proverse Prizes, announced the full results of the Proverse Prize 2019 as follows, MC'd by Dr Gillian Bickley, fellow Co-Founder.

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Three entries for the International Proverse Prize for unpublished publishable works of fiction, non-fiction or poetry submitted in English 2019 have been awarded as winners of supplementary -- publication -- prizes. One, Nick Binge, had his science-fiction novel, *Professor Everywhere*, launched at the online April Reception, before returning to the UK to teach there. Two more finalists are being launched tonight.

JOHN ASOME is the author of *Coolie Ships of the Chinese Diaspora (1846-1874)*. Now living in Australia, JOHN was born in Hong Kong and attended St Joseph's College. He is represented tonight by his sister, Patricia Yung.

An expert in the subject, Walton Look Lai, has written this of John Asome's book, "*Coolie Ships of the Chinese Diaspora* fills an enormous gap in our knowledge of the Chinese coolie trade. John Asome has enabled readers and future scholars to distinguish fact from myth, reality from exaggeration, in the understanding of this vast and complex experience. All will be inspired by this brave project, all the more so because it is the result of one man's single-minded devotion over the years, rather than the work of a collective body."

JAN PEARSON is an Australian who lived in Hong Kong in her girlhood. Tonight we launch *Blue Dragon Spring*, the fourth in her series of thrillers set in Hong Kong.

William Wadsworth, in the Sunday Morning Post, described an earlier book in the series, *Tiger Autumn*, as, "one of the best Hong Kong novels in years."

As for *Blue Dragon Spring*, Joe Darlington in the *Manchester Review of Books*, calls it, "A hell of a page-turner."

THIS YEAR WE AWARD TWO WRITERS AS WINNERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROVERSE PRIZE 2019. Each receives the prize of publication and they share the cash prize.

They are JACK MAYER OF VERMONT, USA,
with his first poetry collection (but by no means his first book), *Poems from the Wilderness*,

and J. P. LINSTROTH of Palm Springs, Florida,
with his second work of poetry, *Epochal Reckonings*.

It is the first time that two poetry collections have shared the Proverse Prize.

J.P. Linstroth's *Epochal Reckonings* approaches large topics. He observes the impact on individuals and society of several recent catastrophic events.

In his *Poems from the Wilderness*, Jack Mayer has a more eschatological focus -- on the spiritual thoughts inspired by mountain-trekking and by his work as a medical doctor.

Several advance comments and reviews have been received on these two winning books. The following are representative.

Michelle Jacobs in *The US Review of Books*, writes: “[Mayer] follows a long tradition of poets and thinkers who seek in nature the truth of the human condition.... His thoughtful, intelligent observations from the ‘cosmological wilderness’ reveal not only the invisible winds, footfalls, and crinkling dead leaves but also an understanding of desire, grace, and frailty.... This communion with nature on the trail that Mayer eloquently calls his ‘enduring house of worship’ provides wisdom and revelations and showcases the enduring bond between humans and the natural world.”

The following is one of the advance comments on J.P. Linstroth's *Epochal Rceckonings*: “With the finesse and erudition of a classicist, and yet the clarion urgency of a contemporary activist, J.P. Linstroth ably chronicles the struggles of those whose tales are both sung and unsung. While his lyrical invocations speak of historical and contemporary oppression, the varied sufferings of marginalised peoples and more widespread catastrophes around the globe, he infuses his verse with cultural richness, resilience and human indomitability.”

—Akin Jeje, author of *Smoked Pearl: Poems of Hong Kong and Beyond*, Proverse 2010.

Congratulations to all these winners!

All titles are already available at:

https://cup.cuhk.edu.hk/index.php?route=product/category&path=59_68_171

E-book and alternate paperback editions already are, or soon will be, available at all international amazons and many online retailers.

Your feedback and support are welcome!

The next Proverse event, the Proverse Spring Reception is scheduled for 22 April 2021.

Visit our website from time to time for details: proversepublishing.com

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**The Proverse Prize 2021 will receive entries, 7 May-30 June 2021**



**Proverse Hong Kong**