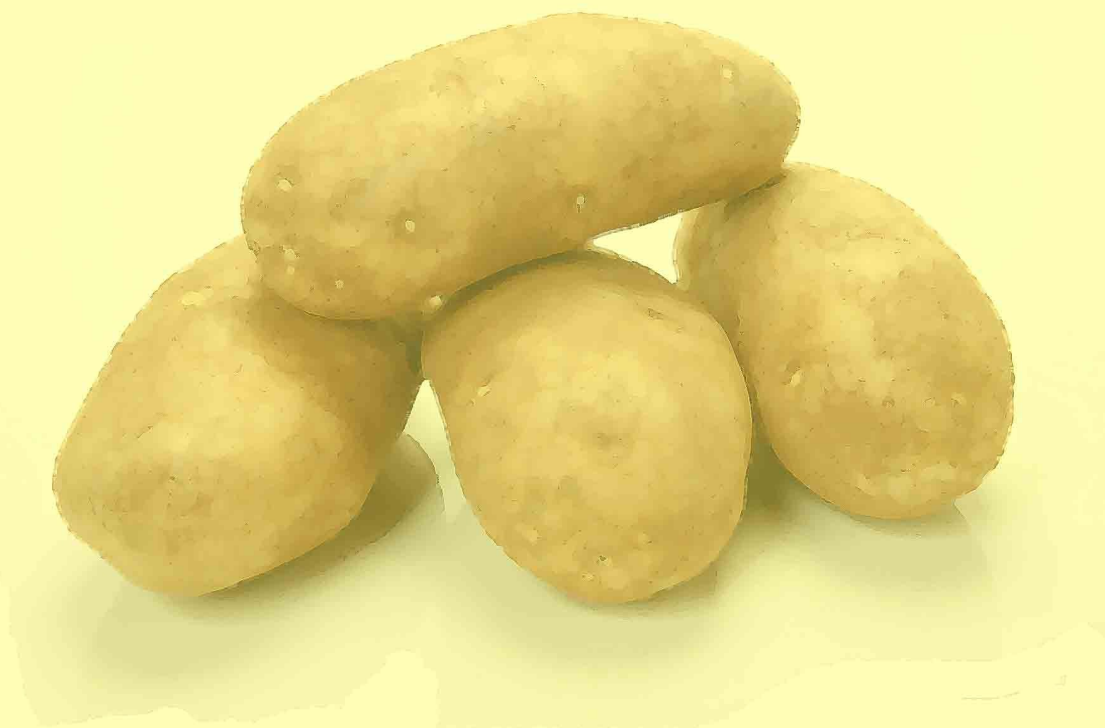


YUKON GOLD



POEMES DE TERRE

1970-2010

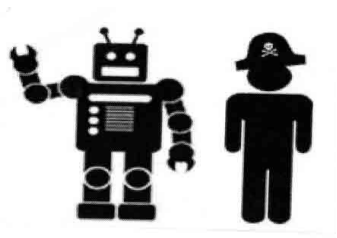
WITH A KEY TO THE MYSTERIES

Mike Finley

NOTA BENE

YUKON GOLD too big for Issuu.com to store. So this page is just a placemaker for the actual book, which can be safely downloaded at this link:

<http://mfinley.com/pdf/poemes.pdf>



Robots & Pirates

YUKON GOLD: Poemes de terre is free. But if you wish to make a donation to Robots & Pirates, the anti-suicide foundation founded by Mike and Rachel in the wake of Daniele's death, use this link. We offer counseling, followup, group presentations, [an online presence](#) and direct funding. Donations are not tax-deductible at this time, but be assured that all money will be spent helping Twin Cities punks get through hard times.

<http://mfinley.com/daniele/robots.htm>

Or mail your donation to: Robots & Pirates, c/o Mike Finley, 1841 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul MN 55104

About the cover:

Four Yukon Gold potatoes represent the four members of my family. A spud is laid out horizontally, representing the death of one. These are poems about family and growth, art and truth, life and death, God and no-God. The potatoes suggest Rachel's Arctic (Yukon) experiences as well as our generally Hibernian (Irish) orientation. Gold suggests "the best" – this is a selected works. *Poemes de terre*, of course, is a play on *pommes de terre* – potatoes themselves, bursting with protein, being heartfelt songs from the earth, from which we all sprout, and to which we all return.

Why this book is unlike any other book.

Yukon Gold follows in the tradition of *Leaves of Grass* and *Songs of Innocence and Experience* – self-made and self-renewing. It is re-published week-to-week, each time purer.

The book contains not just text but annotations, encyclopedic citations, and "behind the mask" insights about what things mean, or don't mean. Obscurities are resolved, indulgences sought.

Yukon Gold is pure multimedia. Over 70 of the items include video versions. Click on the blue headline and the page's YouTube counterpart appears on your screen.

Yukon Gold is interactive. If you hate a page, or every single page, there is a mechanism to relay your unhappiness to the author and to other unhappy readers. All complaints will be published online, without delay or moderation. Unless you use it to sell discount Viagra.

Yukon Gold is an online tome. It can be read and linked to anywhere there is an IP connection. No trees were pulped to make its pages. No bush, no slash, not a single twig.

Yukon Gold is 100% free. No money has changed hands in the creation of this gritty saga, or will.

There will be no remainders table at Barnes & Noble, and no secondary marketplace at Amazon.com. This nonconformance breaks the back of the man. We do not dwell on the grid.

As an added inducement, this book contains an authenticated signature by W. H. Auden.

Topics covered herein:

Hitler Enters Austria, 1939
The Vandalism of Thoreau's Grave
The Sacking of Troy
The Great Hunger 1846-47
Anton's Syndrome
Norm Coleman Concedes, 2009
Black Holes Explained
Pelagius of Venice
Bernal Diaz and the Battle
of Otumba
The Nature of the Dust Devil
Being the Pope
The Wild Man of Borneo
The Business of Bees
The Newmans of Westport
Auden in Minnesota, 1974
The Wreck of the Hesperus
Farewell, Curtis Hotel
Jack Kerouac's Will
The Song of Catherine of Sienna
The Lazarus Cheese
Alien Abduction
Understanding Frankenstein
Is There NASCAR in Heaven?
The College of Poets
Buick Century
Moab
Proof of God
The Reason We Exist
What To Do When You
Encounter A Bear
The Irish Potato Famine
The Homeric Inheritance

YUKON
GOLD

Poemes de Terre

1970-2010

With Videos; Plus

A Key to the Mysteries

by

Mike Finley

*for Daniele, with greatest love,
and for Jon, who is my strength*

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Videos

To see videos: click on [hyperlinked](#) titles

To spend actual money:

Buy [Zombie Girl](#) – a multimedia fable in PDF format about the life of an unusual girl, Daniele Finley. Proceeds go to Robots & Pirates, Mike's foundation for helping Twin Cities punks in trouble. \$4.95

Explanation

This book is my 'last will and testicle,' to quote John Lennon. Everything of value that I have written that has line breaks. Anyone can have anything of mine they like, at no charge. Everything must go. These prices are not guaranteed in perpetuity.

There is a companion prose tome, [A Cellarful of Nose](#), essays and stories.

Comments

Are welcome To me this collection is like *Leaves of Grass*, a work-in-progress to its last day. If you have an idea, and it's not too cruel, I want to hear it.

What has been said ...

*'In no one else's poems, except Vallejo's,
do I sense such great desire
straining at the limits of words.'*

Michael Cuddihy
IRONWOOD, 1977

*'Mike Finley is the angry young man
of American poetry.'*

Helge Schotz-Christensen
MOONS & LION TAILS, 1978

"Mike Finley - best fricken poet since Carl Sandburg"
[the Baker Klecko, 2011](#)

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This Wordle graphic shows the words most commonly used
in *Yukon Gold*.

Poet's Foreword

I am not a successful writer or famous poet. I am someone who has been around a long time and never even found an audience. So where do I get off issuing any selected works, much less a giant one?

The answer is, screw you. This being America, it's my dollar, and I can do with it what I like.

More to the point, at age 60, and having had to face in the past year one of the most difficult events any person can face – the suicide of a child – I have been in need of rebirthing, of re-purposing. There have been days when this project was the only thing that kept me from joining Daniele.

My friends have had to endure me and my work for years. What champs they are. They don't even like poetry – as if anyone does, really – but they have stuck with me and my scribbled lines for forty years, and administered the occasional chuck to the chin that kept me respiring.

Not a favor to literature, perhaps, but a hell of a favor to me, and I hope you guys know how grateful I am, and how lucky I was to be loved by you. Please never doubt that. I would write it in my blood. And then make you read it.

As for the rest, what might this mean to you. Pray God you are not tested like I have been. It is better to lose two legs and an arm than to lose your child to despair. Nothing is normal again. So far.

Now for the controversy. Many of my poems run to the bleak side, especially the old ones, but the recent ones are no day in the sunshine either.

Did I therefore, encourage negativity or suicidality on my daughter? Again, that's not really any of your business, but I

have seen how literature works, and it likes to fasten on shit like this. Ted and Sylvia. Tom and Viv.

I believe this. That the world is a rough place, that we are on our own, and that God is walled up in his mansion, unable to swoop down to assist us.

In this rough place, a sense of humor comes in handy. Daniele had it in spades. But she had a bad day August 18, and neither God nor Hallmark cards could save her that day.

I miss her like you would not believe. She was my treasure. And this collection is for her ... and about her ... and a riddle for us all. How can there be such catastrophic pain? And how did we see it coming, so clearly, so far in advance?

MIKE FINLEY
St. Paul, August 2010



History

YUKON GOLD: Poemes de terre is a collected works of my line-break writings – not everything, but everything I still enjoy. Many have appeared in print before, in different versions, in magazines or anthologies. As many as possible are listed below, and the editors and publishers are thanked for their encouragement. (Titles in parenthesis) means the item appeared under a different title, or has been substantially altered.

ABRAXAS: My Bicycle, The Business of Bees, Happiness,
Drunken Christ
BALTIMORE REVIEW: To His Missus Returned from the Sea
BEGGAR'S BOWL: (Buffalo Pound)
BIG MOON: (The Reality Thing), Rachel the Student
BITS: Frankenstein in the Cemetery
BOSPHORUS ARTS PROJECT QUARTERLY: Sky Repair
CAFE SOLO: Your Human Being, Triangles Prisms Cones,
Anton's Syndrome, The Heart Sings a Song About Blood
CALLIOPE: Salesmen
CHOWDER REVIEW: The Lost Colony, (Kenwood), The Clarinet Is
a Difficult Instrument, Trompe l'Oeil
DACOTAH TERRITORY: Blind Li Po
DEEP CLEVELAND: This Poem Is a Public Service
DANSE MACABRE: Be Patient!
DELAWARE VALLEY COMPOSERS NEWSLETTER: The Clarinet Is a
Difficult Instrument
FALCON: Li Po, Iron Lung, Legerdemain
FIDDLEHEAD: Dry Wash
FOUNDLING REVIEW: Look What the Sun Has Lit Up
FLOATING ISLAND: Home Trees, This Gun Shoots Black Holes,
The Man in the Air, The New Country,
FUCK POETRY: The Lord God Addresses the Convocation of
Poets, Letter From Como
GLOOM CUPBOARD: Ice Flowers
GREAT CIRCUMPOLAR BEAR CULT: The Light, Pathetic Fallacy
GRUB STREET: Not Far from the Beach at Plum Island
HANGING LOOSE: (Look Li Po)

HIRAM POETRY REVIEW: Home Trees

IMPACT: Salesmen, The Beach at Plum Island

INK POT: Proof of God

INVISIBLE CITY: (Too Numerous to Mention), Poem, The Secret Storm, Look Li Po, This Poem Is a Public Service

ISTANBUL: Proof of God

KANSAS QUARTERLY: Accident, The Beagles of Arkansas, Dance of the Dog, Old Stone Enters into Heaven, The Audience, (Meet Me at Giant Wash)

LA FOVEA: Salesmen

LAKE STREET REVIEW: My Gun Shoots Black Holes, Bob Canizzarro's Living Room Décor

LAKE SUPERIOR REVIEW: Rachel the Student

LIGHT YEAR '84 (Anthology): The Clarinet is a Difficult Instrument, Tsunami, Browsers

LIT UP: Penn Station

MAD SWIRL: God Told Me to Tell You to Cut Your Hair

MAGAZINE OF SPECULATIVE POETRY: This Gun Shoots Black Holes

MANROOT: Letter from Como, The Man with Red Gloves, Louse

MARAJA: From the Roof of My Apartment Building in Downtown Minneapolis, Tsunami

Maverick: Intuitions, The Tide Complains, The Kindly Cannon, Courtesy

MEDULLA: Roads, Glutton

MIDWEST QUARTERLY: The Sugar Trap

MILKWEED CHRONICLE: The Clarinet Is a Difficult Instrument, Where Birds Fare Well, Little Jo

MINNESOTA MONTHLY: Signs, Hamsters

MOONS & LION TAILS: Li Po in Debt, (Things of Value), A Short Song to the Moon, My House

MNEMOSYNE: Cartes Postales, The Brood, The Family that Bathes Together, Dance of the Dog, Sneeze

NEW AMERICAN & CANADIAN POETRY: Li Po Dying, (Bells Are Ringing), Ghost, The Hunt, (Inside Kansas), (Who Makes These Moans)

NEW COLLAGE: This Gun Shoots Black Holes

NIBBLE: The Pittsfield Tornado

NORTH COUNTRY ANVIL: Elevators
NORTH DAKOTA QUARTERLY: The Height of the Drouth
NORTHEAST: Biker Bob Cannizzaro's Living Room Décor, The
Lost Colony, In Praise of Granite
OHIO JOURNAL: (Glue-Girl)
ORPHEUS: The Man in the Air
PANACHE: The Secret
PAPER DARTS: L'Abbaye de les Abbeiles, Cannon Falls, Les
Vacances Sont Finis, A Prayer for Money, I
PAUNCH: The Business of Bees, Trompe L'Oeil
PAWN REVIEW: The Minstrel & The Ladie, Last Year's Xmas
Dance
POETRY NOW: Taking a Job in Another Town, Old Stone Enters
into Heaven
PUDDING: Tsunami
RATTLE: God Must Love Crazy People
RIGHT HAND POINTING: Fountain Pen Poem
ROAD/HOUSE: A Drive in the Country
ROCKBOTTOM: The Beagles of Arkansas, Cleveland 1959, A
Drive in the Country, From the Roof of My Apartment Building
in Downtown Minneapolis
ROLLING STONE: Eating & Flying (Airplane Food)
RHYSLING ANTHOLOGY 1986: The Man in the Air
SALT CREEK READER: Elephants, (The Girl in the Taxi)
SALTHOUSE: Old Stone Enters Into Heaven
SCOPCRAEFT: Three Dogs, More
SHINE: When We Are Gone
SMOKE: Meet Me at Giant Wash, Peace Poem
SOUNDINGS EAST: The Iliad
STEELHEAD: (Li Po)
STONE COUNTRY: The New Country
STORYSTONE: The Clarinet is a Difficult Instrument, (One Day
Over lunch)
STUDIO ONE: (I Hear Water)
TANGENT: Ampersand
TIOTIS: (Eating & Flying)

THIRD EYE: Trompe L'Oeil

TURTLE QUARTERLY: The Lazarus Cheese, In Minnesota, Drama King

UNCLE: Browsers

WATER-STONE REVIEW: Lines Written the Morning of the Funeral

WHAT LIGHT (Anthology): Is There NASCAR in Heaven? Prayer for Poets

WIND: I Feel Sorry for My Fish, Woman in the Blue Dress

WINDFALL: Centipede on Chop Suey

WRITING POEMS (Textbook): Frankenstein in the Cemetery

ZAHIR: Yevtushenko & Voznesenski

ZYGOTE IN MY COFFEE: God Told Me to Tell You to Cut Your Hair, Kerouac's Will

About the Author



MIKE FINLEY of St. Paul, Minnesota is a novelist, futurist, journalist, and videographer. He is married to nurse practitioner/Arctic anthropologist Rachel Frazin. and has two children: finger-style guitar composer Jonathan Finley and punk queen Daniele Finley, who died in August 2009. Mike and Rachel together operate Robots & Pirates, a foundation that helps people in the Twin Cities punk scene survive tough times.

Mike is of Irish descent. His mother was one Mary Josephine Mulligan Finley Konik of County Down, a poor good woman who rose in the world from "the slummiest name in Ireland,"

according to James Joyce to a kind of a queen of the excavating trades in northeastern Ohio's Firelands. As a child, it was Mike feared his mother would divorce his father and revert to the name Mulligan – Mike Mulligan, the steam shovel driver who walled himself up in a house being built. And she did, but he kept his name.

As poet Mike has written numerous collections, including 22 drawn on for this book. He is winner of a 1984 Wisconsin State Arts Fellowship, and he appeared in he 1985 Pushcart Prize Anthology XI. In 1995 he and co-author Harvey Robbins were awarded top prize for the Americas for their book *Why Teams Don't Work*.

His work has appeared in Paris Review, New American & Canadian Poetry, Invisible City, Floating Island, and Rolling Stone. *Yukon Gold* is his last will and poetical testicle.

A prose volume also exists: *A Cellarful of Nose*, [downloadable here](#) at no charge.

Also of interest:

[About Daniele Finley](#)

[Mike's videos](#)

[Mike's website](#)

Follow Mike on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

About [Kraken Press](#)

I have heard people say that Kraken is a poor excuse for a small press. To the contrary, it is an excellent one.

The Kraken was a sea-beast described in classic tales, whom no two describers could agree upon. It was alternately half-snake, half-fish, half lion, half-squid. That's a lot of halves, and we enjoyed that ambiguity.

Kraken Press *happens* to have published a handful of print books, notably the books *Among Dreams* and *Equilibrium Fingers* by Minneapolis poet-prophet Barry Casselman.

But mainly, Kraken eschews the wooded-page world for online publication.

Kraken sees itself as a publisher of last resort. It swoops in to salvage projects that seem deserving but have run out of gas with their original publishers. It supported projects by Estonian born poet Helgi Michelson and (then) Cottonwood, Minn. poet Florence Dacey.

In addition we have provided support for David Mura, Deb Thornton (pen name), and other people, mostly writer-friends of ours.

Also, Kraken slavishly promotes publisher Mike Finley's own publishing appetites. It arose from the discovery that publishing one's own work (usually, in a single day, with no review from other minds) triggered vast quantities of pleasure receptors in the brain.

In the 1970s The Kraken published four of his frequent occasional books – *14 Poems a Dollar*, *Dr. Newyear*, *The Woman I Love*.

After that, Kraken went electronic, publishing ebooks and esheets by Mike through the current day – a total of 43 titles. Some of these titles: *The New Yorker*, *The Upset Sea*, *Skibbereen*, *Moab*, *You*, and *The Thing that Devoured Duluth*, Parts I and II.

In 2009 Kraken Press jumped the tracks and spawned a new product line of poetry videos, viewable [on YouTube here](#).

Yukon Gold: Poemes de terre is the most ambitious effort

ever undertaken by Kraken Press.

Hey, writers:

Do not send your work to Kraken Press until you have exhausted every other possibility, including cuneiform tablets, and have evidence of such. Our budget is minuscule and our energy is worse. But we love that you are thinking, and want you to be encouraged to continue. Working with and encouraging other creators helps us to deserve to continue to write our own things. Publishing is one way we do that.

Idea – consider starting your own version of Kraken – then tiny budgets and scant energy like ours can be yours.



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