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INDUSTRY NEWS

NEWS

George Fetherling pits poetry against piety

March 9, 2010 | 6:45 PM | By Laura Godfrey

Author, poet, and frequent *Q&Q* contributor George Fetherling will be battling Our Lord and Savior for readers later this month when he launches his latest collection, *The Sylvia Hotel Poems*, inside the eponymous Vancouver landmark. On March 23, his publisher, Quattro Books, will be placing a copy of the collection in every nightstand in each of the hotel's 120 rooms, right next to the Gideon's Bible.

Fetherling has a long personal history with the 99-year-old Sylvia Hotel, an eight-storey landmark with a reputation for attracting writers, artists, and bohemians of all kinds. Ten years ago, when he moved back to Vancouver after a long absence, Fetherling's friends and colleagues held a welcome-back party for him in one of the hotel's suites. Now, the author and poet lives just steps away. "I stayed at the Sylvia for the first time probably 40 years ago and have held parties and attended all sorts of functions there," Fetherling says. "It's a very cozy place and I'm very fond of it."

Copies of the book will be placed in each room on the night of the launch. While a note on each copy will indicate that the book is to remain inside the hotel, the collection will be available for purchase at the front desk. And according to Fetherling, the books will remain there indefinitely. "Presumably they'll stay there until they're all stolen," he says. "I hope that won't be for a long time."

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