***VICE VERSA:* Poetry in English & French**

**by Renée von Paschen & Robert Paquin,**

**Quattro Books, Toronto 2017.**

**BOOK REVIEW of *VICE VERSA* from the Canadian Poet Laureate:**

Canadian English and Canadian French are almost always monologues, and seldom do they dialogue except, well, in translation. But here's **the magic of *VICE VERSA***: Both superb tongues are brought together--kissing, if also mutually tasting-- the flavour and *savoir-faire*of their gourmet courses, which is another definition of poetry. **Renée von Paschen crafts exquisite** **images of delicate but indelible experiences**: *"The vanilla perfume /* *of the oleander / seeps into the evening*"; for his part, Robert Paquin turns out rhymes that trace the flow of feeling: "*Close to* *my heart I hold you / With a smile on your face, / As if I were wearing a true / Flower in your place.*" **There's an ineffable subtlety of congruence in the touching here of Rilke's *"Two Solitudes,"* akin to the wonder that occurs when singular instruments duet in coinciding solos.**

***by George Elliott Clarke***

***Canadian Parliamentary Poet Laureate 2016-17***

***Professor of English Literature, University of Toronto***

***& E.J. Pratt Professor of Canadian Literature***

**BOOK REVIEW by Prof. Norman Shapiro for *VICE VERSA*:**

This engaging collection, the inspiration of two of present-day Canada’s most respected poets and literary translators, deserves to be read and savored, not only for the ingenious idea that produced it, but certainly no less for **the gentle, unaffected elegance of the poetic art and craft that enlivens its pages**.

Enjoying many years of devoted friendship and artistic exchange, Edmonton’s **Renée von Paschen, now transplanted to Vienna, and Montréal’s Robert Paquin have bent their respective many-stringed bows, each to each in a work whose witty title is only the first of these poets’ striking attractions.**

Both multilingual, they limit their “vice-versifying” talents to French and English, welcoming us to the inner worlds of both their original poetry and its demanding, revealing hand-maiden: translation…  In so doing, they remind us that translation is no mere pastime, but that it serves, indeed, to deepen and round out our appreciation of the original works in question.

**“Bravo” and “brava,” and a double “merci,” to poets Paquin and von Paschen for this enriching and memorable collection!**

***Norman R. Shapiro***

***Distinguished Professor of Literary Translation and Poet-in-Residence,***

***Wesleyan University***

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***Academy of American Poets***