

My thoughts on size and length:

by Matson Tew

My thoughts on size and length: I really enjoy collections that are either from certain periods of a poet's life, or just certain years. I like more focused collections. If it is just a collection of one particular poet then I would rather a longer collection be broken down if possible. I really like how D Whyte does this. Then it's like moving from one chapter to another rather than large collections that don't seem to follow any particular theme. Now, I have bought books that contain only 10 poems and loved them. However, the collection is built out of various authors/poets etc commenting on the meaning or how they interpret the poem. Although some could find that "dumbing down" poetry, if done right, I like it.

To answer in general terms, if I really liked the poet, 50 poems seems about right. You don't have to love everyone, heck you don't have to read everyone. That's the beauty to me of a book by a poet I love or on a subject matter I love, you don't have to commit to more than one poem or page to get engaged.....you can read it over and over, just that poem, or you can skip around and see what grabs you and always come back. I would suppose a very established poet could release a book on one particular and precise matter i.e. revelation or even love, and again a small collection of 20 poems would be quite valued. -so many variables.

I doubt that is a fresh thought but that's me. I look forward to others' thoughts as I have often wondered what it takes to publish a volume of work. Guess you have to have quantity to start with, but I would hope quality rules out, otherwise I might as well listen to fm radio.