

**Bloody Words XIII presents...**



**DANSE MACABRE:  
HISTORICAL MYSTERIES  
& THE DANCE OF DEATH**

June 6 - 8, 2014  
Toronto, ON

**Guest of Honour: Vicki Delany**  
**International Guest of Honour: Michael Jecks**  
**M.C.: Melodie Campbell**

Progress Report 1+  
March 2014

## **Breaking news: Who is that Masked Medieval Murderer?**

OK, so he isn't masked, but he is a Medieval Murderer...and our new international guest of honour. Criminous ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Michael Jecks, author of the Knights Templar series set in 14<sup>th</sup> century Devon, England, to our bloody midst. As for the Medieval Murderer tag, Mike is also one of a group of British historical mystery authors (the Medieval Murderers) who collaborate on a series of books of linked novellas dealing with such themes as tainted relics, cursed swords, King Arthur's bones, and the like. But seeing as this progress report is already very long, why don't you check Mike out, either on the [BW guests of honour](#) page or on [Mike's Website](#).

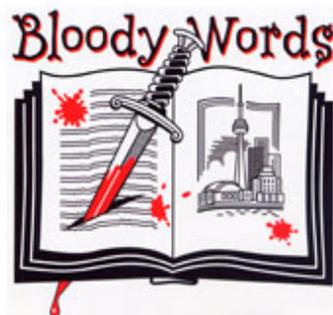
## **And it came to pass...that Cain rose up against Abel, his brother, and slew him...**

The first murder – and the forbear of the blood-soaked stories that we read, yea, even unto the present day. And now, here we are in 2014, celebrating a long line of historical murder and mayhem with Bloody Words XIII, June 6 to 8. Our Danse Macabre guests of honour are historical mystery writers [Vicki Delany](#) and [Michael Jecks](#), with mistress of ceremonies [Melodie Campbell](#).

No matter what your choice of time period – from ancients to the 1970s – you should find something of criminous fascination in our panels and presentations that will discuss the myriad ways that people did each other in over the span of centuries.

But I don't like historical mysteries, you say? No worries: Our programming covers a spectrum of crime fiction from cozies to noir, from police procedurals to amateur sleuths, from capers to psychological suspense. And BW is more than panels and presentations. Your registration fee also gives you:

- a reception & banquet
- two tracks of programming on everything from first novels to the latest in forensics and publishing
- the Mystery Café
- loot bags (with lots of free books & stuff)
- lots of authors, fans, and folks in the publishing biz to schmooze with
- dealers room
- Bony Pete short story contest (see below for details)
- the presentation of the annual Bloody Words Light Mystery Award (aka the Bony Blithe)
- presentation of the Hammett Prize
- three Sunday morning events to choose from: two workshops, one presentation
- manuscript evaluation service (small surcharge for this, as usual; see below)
- an opportunity to pitch your book to an agent or an acquiring editor
- the Friday night special event (see below)
- plus, of course, some surprises



## **Murder they wrote (and murder they spoke about)**

We start to work on the Track 2 panels (the ones with the authors) in April, so if you want to be on a panel and haven't registered yet, meet us halfway: Register. You still do have some time and we do try to accommodate as many authors as possible, but if we have too many authors, we look at when people registered. To register, go directly to [Registration](#) on the BW Website. You can choose to register either online with Paypal or Interac e-transfer or by snail mail with a cheque.

Authors, please check the "published crime/mystery author" box in the "I am a(n)" section of the registration form *only* if you are published in the crime/mystery/suspense genre (fiction or nonfiction, novel or short fiction). And please remember to fill out the bottom of the registration form. Note: We need to know the name of your publisher, even if you are published in short fiction. We use this info for soliciting ads in the program book, getting books for the loot bags, and ordering books for sale in the dealers' room.

## **Struttin' your stuff...**

...and we mean that literally. If you've had a book published between December 2013 and the beginning of June 2014, you, too, can strut down the catwalk as part of Books With Legs, a fashion show of new titles and our BW 2014 Friday night special event. We'll make a placard of your book cover for you to wear, and Caro Soles, who's done colour commentary for various fashion shows, will describe your book in couturier terms. What we need from you: a high resolution pic of your book cover, a 100-word blurb about your book that Caro can massage appropriately, and your promise to wear a hat during the show that suggests what your book is about. Send the high-res pic of your cover plus your blurb to the [BW chair](#). Deadline: May 1, 2014.

## **Show, don't tell**

Every writer of fiction – published or aspiring – has probably heard these three words at some point in his or her life. But readers, you don't have to feel left out: At Bloody Words this year, this injunction applies to you, too. In honour of our historical mystery theme, we're inviting everyone to dress for dinner\* as their favourite mystery book character. For those of you who don't read historical mysteries, not to worry: There are plenty of ways you can dress as a contemporary character. The hotel is air-conditioned, so you don't have to worry about being too hot. And for those of you not staying at the Hyatt, we'll try to arrange for a room where you can change. \*Note: At the very least, use your head...for an appropriate hat (yes, it's OK, you can wear a hat at dinner).

## **Who are you?**

Inquiring minds want to know who's who at Bloody Words, so authors, tell us about yourself in 40 to 50 words (yes, Virginia, you can do it) and don't forget to include the URL to your Website or blog; the URL doesn't count towards the 40- to 50-word count. Add a photo of yourself (preferably a close-up because these photos will be small), then email everything to our [publications chair](#) for inclusion in the program book. Note: Your pic should be at least 3" wide at 300 dpi. Do *not* pull your pic off Facebook, Twitter, etc. and try to enlarge it – you'll look like a corpse that's been rotting for several months.

The deadline for submitting your bio and pic is April 1, but we'd really appreciate it if you sent them as soon as possible. Because of space constraints in the program book and time constraints on my editing time, please do not go over 50 words. Remember, brevity is the soul of wit...and (often) of good writing.

Note: We'll definitely be using your bio and pic if you're a panellist or presenter. We do our best to

accommodate as many authors as possible in programming, but we won't have the line-up completed till mid-May.

*Note 2:* Please send a list of your in-print books (by publication date, most recent book first) along with the publisher and distributor to (1) our [dealers room coordinator](#) so we can give the info to our book dealers, and (2) our [advertising manager](#) so we can approach your publisher to take out an ad in the program book.

*One other thing, but this is completely voluntary:* Please send a sentence or two (no more than 50 or 60 words) on why you've set your books in the time you've chosen. You don't necessarily have to be writing historical mysteries; if your setting is contemporary, why did you choose present day? And of course, if you are writing historical, why have you used that particular period? If you have two series or do standalones, allow yourself 75 to 80 words. We want to include your reasons in an article in the program book.

## Who are we?

Help spread the word about Bloody Words. Do you have a blog or Website? Are you on Facebook and/or other social media sites? Do you tweet? Are you a member of a critique group or a writers' organization? Are you taking a writing course? Do you belong to DorothyL, CrimeThruTime, or any other crime-book board or forum? Then you can help spread the bloody word about Bloody Words by talking about us and/or (preferably "and") linking to us at <http://2014.bloodywords.com/>. You can also like the [BW Facebook](#) page (and tell your friends to like us, too) and follow us on Twitter [@bloodywords2014](#)

## Room at the inn

Take advantage of the discounted hotel rate that the Hyatt Regency on King, our conference hotel, is offering. The room rate is \$199 per night (single or double occupancy) and includes free Wifi.

What's more, this low rate is good from Monday, June 2, to Thursday, June 12, so why not book yourself a mini-vacation in Toronto? In a future progress report, we'll list some criminous (and other) things you can see and do in Toronto both before and after BW.

For more information, go to [Hotel](#) on the BW Website. If you don't book online, remember to mention Bloody Words to get the special room rate. The deadline for getting this rate is May 5, 2014 (assuming rooms are available in the room block until that date).



## **Have you got a deal for us!**

We still have some space in the dealers room, so if you have something to sell that you think might interest our BW attendees or if you belong to a writers or readers group you want to promote, check out our table rates at [dealers room page]. We're expecting some 275 to 300 attendees, all voracious readers. For more information or to reserve a table, contact our [dealers room coordinator](#).

## **Ladies and gents, start your keyboards (Bony Pete short story contest)**

All this reading making your fingers tingle and itching to write? What about entering the Bony Pete Short Story Contest, a Bloody Words tradition since 1999? The basic rules are very simple: The story must contain some kind of crime and Toronto must feature in it in some way. For more info about the contest, check the [Bony Pete contest rules](#). Deadline for submission: April 1, 2014.

## **Is that a manuscript in your bottom drawer...?**

You've finished writing the Great Canadian (or International) Novel/Short Story – congratulations! Now you want to see if others share your opinion. Bloody Words again this year is offering a manuscript evaluation service with published authors doing the evaluations. For more info or to sign up, check the [Manuscript Evaluations](#) page on the BW Website. Deadline for sending in your manuscript: April 1, 2014.

## **Editors and agents and writers...oh my!**

We're putting a new twist on the agent appointments this year and adding some editors into the mix. We'll have two top-notch agents and two acquiring editors (both of whom are with traditional publishing houses), all keen to hear your pitches. What's more, this year you'll also have a chance, on a first-come, first-served basis, to choose the agent or editor you want to meet with. We're still waiting to hear back from one agent, and as soon as we do, we'll be announcing the four participating editors and agents and getting their info up on the Bloody Words Website.

Meanwhile, go to [Agents](#) on our Website and read the guidelines. Then download and fill in the pitch request form, and mail it to the address at the bottom of the form. Note: For those of you who registered early, we're giving you first crack at choosing, based on the date you registered. Each author and agent has 13 spots available for pitches, so get your requests in quickly. We'll email you when we have all four names confirmed and then you can email us back with your choice(s); we suggest you choose at least two or three, ranking them in order of preference.

As well as the appointments, which will again be on Friday night, we'll be running the always popular open-mike Q&A session with all of our agents and editors on Saturday morning, plus we're adding an after-hours agent/editor chat in the hotel bar following the Saturday night banquet.

## **The pellet with the poison's in the flagon with the dragon; the vessel with the pestle has the brew that is true!**

What does this have to do with Bloody Words 2014? Not a bloody thing (well, except for the poison), but it's hard to come up with clever headings. Almost as hard, in fact, as it is to come up with brand-new ideas for programming. (Aha, a clever segue, eh?) Which is where you folks come in.

What would you like to hear about at BW this year? What panel topics are of interest to you? Perhaps you've attended a panel at another con that you think would go over well at BW. What kind of presentations from experts in the fields of publishing, forensics, criminology, and the like might pique your interest?

We want to hear from both authors and readers please. While we're not promising to accommodate all

your ideas – after all, we have to have the panelists and presenters to do the talking – we’ll certainly try to fit in as many as possible. And even though the theme of this year’s BW is historical mysteries, feel free to suggest panel and presentation topics that have nothing to do with history. Just contact the [BW chair](#) with your suggestions.

### **Things that say “bumpf” in the light**

Yes, authors, it’s time to send us your shameless self-promotion material (aka bumpf) for the loot bags – bookmarks, pens (always welcome), notepads (ditto), coasters, keychains, letter-openers, stuffed animals (hope springs eternal, eh?), etc. Do not send flat sheets of paper that we might consider an ad because we no longer put these in the loot bags.

Send 300 pieces of your bumpf by May 23, 2014, to:

Karin Hill  
64 Shaver Ave. S.  
Toronto, ON M9B 3T5

Note to US and other international authors: Make sure you put “Promotional material, NCV” (no commercial value) or \$0 on the customs declaration slip. Otherwise, we may be charged a customs fee and we’ll probably just refuse to accept your package.

### **Advertise...your message won’t evade their eyes...**

(With apologies to Tom Lehrer, writer of “Lobachevsky,” the seminal song about plagiarism.) Your – or your publisher’s – ad in the BW program book will be seen not only by hundreds of BW attendees but also by many readers at Toronto’s Word on the Street public literary festival. Visit our [advertising page](#) for our rates and ad specs or contact our [advertising manager](#) and we’ll be happy to send you our rate card.

### **Help!!!**

Conferences like Bloody Words run on volunteers (well, actually on coffee, chocolate, ruthless efficiency, the occasional hissy fit...and volunteers), which means WE NEED YOU! Whether you want to help at the registration/information desk, be a time-keeper, or run interference as a gofer, we can certainly use your assistance as a Bloody Volunteer. Right now, we’re just looking for expressions of interest in helping out; once we have the programming schedule up around mid-May, check it out and then decide when you’re available to help and what you want to do. Contact our [volunteer coordinator](#) to volunteer. Note: If you already volunteered on your registration form, thank you and you don’t have to contact us again; we have your name in our volunteer database.

### **And now, a word for our sponsor**

Bloody Words XIII would like to thank our sponsor, [Dundurn Press](#), publisher of crime fiction and non-fiction books.

### **Major deadlines**

- As soon as possible – registering for Bloody Words if you haven’t already done so
- As soon as possible – submitting your form for an appointment with an agent or acquiring editor
- April 1 (or sooner) – submitting your bio and pic for the program book
- April 1 – submitting to the Bony Pete short story contest and requesting a manuscript evaluation
- There are other deadlines scattered throughout this progress report. Your job is to sleuth them out.