

***What the critics say about Morrissey's books:***

*The Trees of Unknowing*, Vehicule Press, Montreal, 1978:



"I would like to say of Stephen Morrissey's poetry that it strikes me very much as the real thing."  
—Louis Dudek, Introduction to *The Trees of Unknowing*

"This is the real thing: glimpses of absolute reality recorded with insight, clarity, and quietness, always effective and always expressed with a faultless ear for words and rhythms."  
—John Glassco

"It has been a long time since a first book of poems from someone I had never read before has given me as much pleasure as did *The Trees of Unknowing* . There was a freshness in the imagery and an originality in the language which instantly caught and held my attention and interest."  
—F.R. Scott

"...anti-poems, quiet improvisations that celebrate life over art, acceptance over will and (ultimately) silence over virtually linguistic possibilities. The purity of this work is extreme."  
—Michael Cameron, *Montreal Poetry*

*Divisions*, Coach House Press, Toronto, 1983:

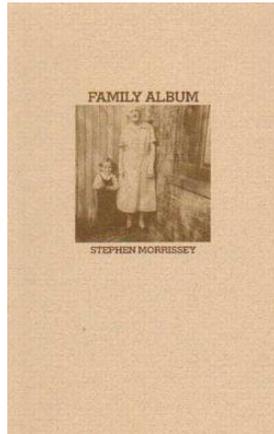


"*Divisions* ... I found extremely powerful, at once visionary and movingly personal."  
—Northrop Frye

"Stephen Morrissey's 'Divisions' is one of the most moving confessional poems I know."  
—Louis Dudek, *The Montreal Gazette*

"*Divisions*, a remarkable piece that manages to contain childhood, adolescence, the '60s love, fear, what poetry is all about and more."  
—Quill & Quire

*Family Album*, Caitlin Press, Vancouver, 1989:



"Haunted and sombre, *Family Album* explores a dark realm of isolated consciousness in which, dreamlike, times and places shift and interpenetrate... It is a triumph of skill to have articulated such an elusive condition at all, much less to have done it so movingly."

—Northrop Frye

"The whole book is an achievement in the unadorned, sparing use of language... Whether or not he shares my affection for pre-Shakespearian English, this is very nearly what he writes."

—George Johnston, *The Antigone Review*

"The snapshots in *Family Album* are as haunting as X-rays, the images naked and piercing, pared to the bone."

—Barry Dempster, *Museletter*

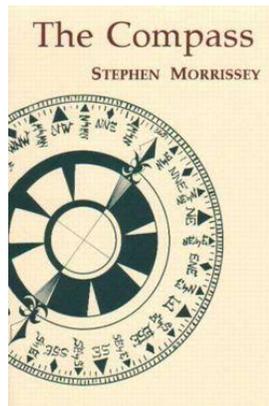
"Morrissey is testifying to a vast loneliness of soul, and if we are honest with ourselves, we have to admit to the familiarity of that loneliness."

—Ken Norris, *Poetry Canada Review*

"Morrissey's deft eye, along with his spare and certain style, demands of his readers the emotional honesty and intensity he so obviously brought to writing these poems."

—William Blackburn, *Canadian Book Review Annual*

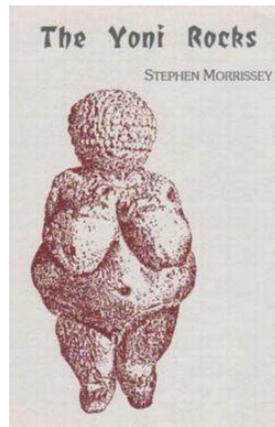
*The Compass*, Empyreal Press, Montreal, 1993:



"These confessional, discursive poems are richly emotive, accumulating energy... Morrissey's poems build to their conclusions, which then open to larger associations. The talent demonstrated is like that of Yeats; Morrissey's lines of stainless steel gleam with a dangerous, piercing beauty."  
—George Elliott Clarke, *Books in Canada*

"...if release and relief are part of laughter's background, this long compass narrative, which points the way magnetically to the success of human love, ends happily..."  
—Anthony Raspa, *Canadian Literature*

*The Yoni Rocks*, Empyrean Press, Montreal, 1995:



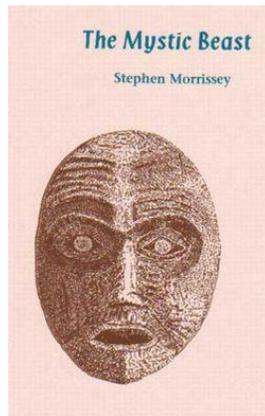
"One the page, Morrissey's poems look like those of Bronwen Wallace, and their personal, intimate tone is similar."

—W.J. Keith, *The Canadian Book Review Annual*

"Stephen Morrissey has made a courageous attempt to explore the heaven and hell of a modern man's life."

—Colin Morton, *Poetry Canada Review*

*The Mystic Beast*, Empyrean Press, Montreal, 1997:



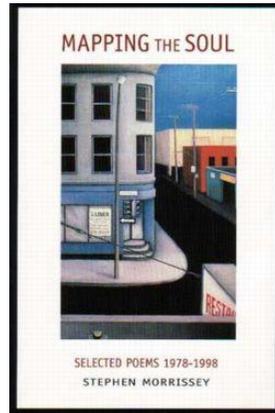
"The reason I am so taken with Morrissey is that he gives me much to think about. He has put himself in the position of a man without faith, with the resulting emptiness and bareness of reality constantly before him..."

—Louis Dudek

"Form is content's ideal servant here: efficient and discrete. Both effectively animate an emotional odyssey that is guided by a profound understanding of the past's effect on the present."

—Ronald Charles Epstein, *Canadian Book Review Annual*

*Mapping the Soul, Selected Poems 1978-1998*, The Muses' Company, Winnipeg, 1998:



“At a time when many of his contemporaries are immersing themselves in global events and diluting their art with politics, Morrissey's inward-looking voice is immediately engaging and intensely personal. *Mapping the Soul* is a significant volume by a major Canadian poet. It is also a book that any reader of contemporary poetry will find rewarding and satisfying.”

—Ian Colford, *The Dalhousie Review*

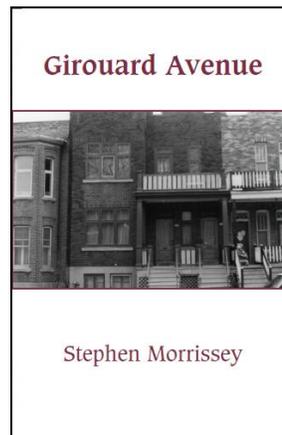
"Morrissey tells us things we want to know about life, his life and ours. He does not get in the way of the reader thoroughly enjoying his poetry."

—Ralph Maud, Emeritus Professor, Simon Fraser University

"Stephen Morrissey is a poet who writes of community and continuity. He explores the spiritual dimension of familial relationships. Morrissey's evocative language draws the reader into a vivid personal world which is both private and universal."

—Marya Fiamengo, Emeritus Professor, University of British Columbia

*Girouard Avenue*, Coracle Press, Montreal, Montreal, 2009:



“Stephen Morrissey’s *Girouard Avenue* is a very compelling book of poems—a deeply personal family history that is so inextricably interwoven with the history of our country, but a history that never loses sight of the personal, how history shapes the individual, how it shapes us all.”

—*Glen Sorestad*, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

“In *Girouard Avenue*, Stephen Morrissey has mapped out in time and place his own neighbourhood, as well as that of Montreal.”

—*Laurence Hutchman*, Ph.D. University of Moncton, Edmundston, New Brunswick

“*Girouard Avenue* is a substantial book, sustained and varied, an eloquent mingling of documentary, personal history and lyrical reflection. Montreal, any city, comes alive in particulars, in stories of who lived and live there, and Stephen Morrissey’s *Girouard Avenue* brings Montreal, or any other city, to life in this way.”

—*Jean Mallinson*, Ph.D.

“*Girouard Avenue* is a Chironic collection—dealing with grief & sorrow, sharing it, moving it to a wider, transpersonal perspective. Stephen Morrissey has given us, and his ancestors, a gift of healing.”

—*Claudia Lapp*, Eugene, Oregon

“*Girouard Avenue* is an important book that will resonate with those who have more than a passing connection to this city and to their troubled ghosts.”

—*John McAuley*, Concordia University in Montreal

“In Morrissey’s role as an “archivist of memory and archeologist of the soul,” he has uncovered much of the other-worldly in the ordinary, the universal in the personal, and the timelessness in time.”

—*David Diefendorf*, Burlington, Vermont

“*Girouard Avenue* uses beautiful and descriptive language, taking us to familiar places but in different times. It evokes a finitude of life’s moments that yearn to be preserved.”

—Oksana Cueva, *The Link*, Concordia University

“Here we find a poet-historian with a fine sense of detail... Morrissey has fulfilled the task he set for himself. He has traced the uprootedness of his ancestors and the chasm of loss. He has dredged up that great stone and inscribed it in commemoration.”

—Jody Freeman, *Montreal Serai*

“Stephen Morrissey's apparently casual but fully controlled narrative skills are evident throughout the four-part *Girouard Avenue*.”

—Allan Brown, *Jones Av.*