

Newfoundland's Post-Confederation Poets

I must be amongst the last to be reading
this province's post-Confederation poets
seldom mentioned today by our vaticans of
launch, grant and display.

I read into their lives from their
raven
gull
beach
bog
words

writers who believed too easily , or
loved too deeply , or had held too
firmly to a twilight from
an age gone by.

learned
gentile
gifted in word by God
or by their island
or by their sea -
they used their Bible-based
language to present
their mindscape as
seascape to
a mundane world.

apart
they belonged to neither
town
bay
creed
class
day
night
living quietly as teacher, artist
civil servant
outside the evolving polity

having willed their souls to a more gnawing faith
a deeper love
a firmer twilight.