



Improved Binoculars

By Layton, Irving

Erin, Ontario, Canada: Porcupines Quill, 1991. Soft cover. Book Condition: New. 2nd Edition. Original printed wraps. 128 pp. Octavo. `The Improved Binoculars, published in 1956 by Jonathan William's Jargon Press, was the first of Lton's collections to be widely published in North America. Ryerson Press, the book's Canadian distributor, refused to distribute the book (or even release it to the author) because of its "controversial" content. It is telling that Layton, whom we now regard as the author of some of the finest poems in Canadian history, found a warmer reception at first in the United States than he did in his own country. Layton's early backers included Robert Creeley and William Carlos Williams, who provided a warm (but condescending -- he refers to Layton, a Montrealer, as a "backwoodsman") forward for The Improved Binoculars." Printed offset by Tim Inkster on the Heidelberg KORD at the printing office of the Porcupine's Quill in the Village of Erin, Wellington County, Ontario, Canada. Smyth sewn into 16-page signatures.



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