WINNER OF THE 2014 EDWIN MORGAN POETRY AWARD ANNOUNCED
AT THE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

The Trustees of the Edwin Morgan Trust are thrilled to announce the results of the first Edwin Morgan Poetry Award for Scottish poets aged 30 or under, the largest poetry prize in the UK.

The winner is Niall Campbell, for his first collection *Moontide*, published by Bloodaxe this year. Niall was born in 1984 on the island of South Uist in the Outer Hebrides, and now lives in Edinburgh. He received the news and the Award of £20,000 at an event at the Edinburgh International Book Festival this evening. *Moontide* was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation, and is also shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection.

The judges of the Award were poets Stewart Conn and Jen Hadfield. Stewart Conn commented: ‘These poems, with their rich textures, succulent descriptions and seductive cadences reveal a gifted wordsmith… [they] transform the sea-bound Uist they celebrate.’ And Jen Hadfield remarked, ‘In lightly framing the unsaid, some of these poems have a haunted quality: they are cat’s cradles between poet and reader.’

The runner-up is Claire Askew for her unpublished collection ‘This changes things’. She receives £1,000 as a shortlisted poet, and a further amount to support her work towards publication. Jen Hadfield said that ‘Askew’s is a humane consciousness, with a genius for communicating how people tick’, while Stewart Conn welcomed a ‘voice that is arrestingly and distinctively her own… words and imagery constantly seeming fresh-minted.’

The other short-listed poets, who each receive £1,000, are: Tom Chivers, Harry Giles, Stewart Sanderson, and Molly Vogel.

On behalf of the Trustees, Professor James McGonigal recalled Edwin Morgan’s basic optimism, his faith in the future, as a poet who ‘always preferred to look forward, not back’: ‘The Edwin Morgan Poetry Award supports a new wave of Scottish poets in practical and positive ways. The quality of work emerging is ample proof that such faith in Scottish poetry was justified.’
THE SCOTTISH POETRY LIBRARY is very pleased to be working with the Trust on this Award. For further information, please contact: Colin Waters  
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EDITORS' NOTES

The Scottish Poetry Library was founded in 1984. It is one of three poetry libraries in the UK, but the only one to be independently constituted and housed, off the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. It is the only poetry house in the world to have an extensive lending library at its core. Books remain central to its mission to bring people and poetry together: the SPL has over 2,000 registered borrowers, runs its own reading groups and supports public libraries with resources to promote poetry. It houses the Edwin Morgan Archive of the poet's published works, opened in 2009. The SPL works with schools, has an innovative programme for care homes, partnered the BBC in producing poetry postcards for the Commonwealth Games, and has recently published a pocket poetry anthology distributed to all graduating doctors from Scottish medical schools. It issues podcasts and poetry recordings through its lively website at www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk

Edwin Morgan (1920-2010) Born in Glasgow, Edwin Morgan lived there all his life, except for service with the RAMC, and his poetry is grounded in the city. Yet the title of his 1973 collection, From Glasgow to Saturn, suggests the enormous range of Morgan's subject matter. He was Glasgow's first Poet Laureate 1999-2002, and the first to hold the post of 'Scots Makar', created by the Scottish Executive in 2004 to recognise the achievement of Scottish poets. Edwin Morgan was endlessly inventive, inquiring, energetic, internationalist; a benign influence on and encourager of younger poets.

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