BLITZKRIEG Q&A: NATE PRITTS, poetry editor of the online journal H_NGM_N and author of Sensational Spectacular and Honorary Astronaut

HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT ASSEMBLING YOUR COLLECTIONS? I don't know if I have one tried and true method yet. … I did just put together a new manuscript, and I realize I did the same thing that I did at one point with Honorary Astronaut and with my chapbook Shrug: I printed off all the poems, found a room with big tables and spread them all out. Then I just walked around the room reading them out loud, thinking about the echoes, the correspondences. And at one point, I started picking up a poem, then grabbing another one that belonged before or after the first one. I kept doing this until I was holding all these poems in my hand, and there were others scattered on the floor that hadn't made the cut, and I had a scrap of paper with notes for a few poems that I might need to write to emphasize or add to the manuscript.

IF YOU COULD PASS ON ONLY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO OTHER POETS, WHAT WOULD IT BE? Assuming my one piece of advice can only be one word, I'd say “persevere.” I think you need to keep at it. I think you need to keep the faith. I think you need to do something that you know is right and keep doing it until everyone else is convinced, too. And I suppose I would encourage poets to realize that writing a poem is a small portion of what they owe to Poetry. A Poet doesn’t just write poems. A Poet starts a journal or starts a press. A Poet gives a reading or organizes a reading. A Poet reads poems—thousands of them. A Poet cares about your poem as much as they care about their own.

Poetic Asides

No matter what you write, a bit of poetic license can be a valuable asset to any writer’s arsenal.

Poetic Form

Triolet

The triolet has French roots related to the rondeau, or “round,” poem. This eight-line poem consists of repetitive lines, rhymes and a format of eight to 10 syllables per line using this pattern:

A: First line
B: Second line
a: Rhyme with first line
A: Repeat first line
a: Rhyme with first line
b: Rhyme with second line
A: Repeat first line
B: Repeat second line

Poetic Prompt

Write a temperature poem.

Temperature can mean the heat outside, the heat of something (or someone) or even the temperament of someone.

Robert Lee Brewer is the editor of Writer’s Market and Poet’s Market. To find more poetry (almost) daily, visit blog.writersdigest.com/poeticasides.