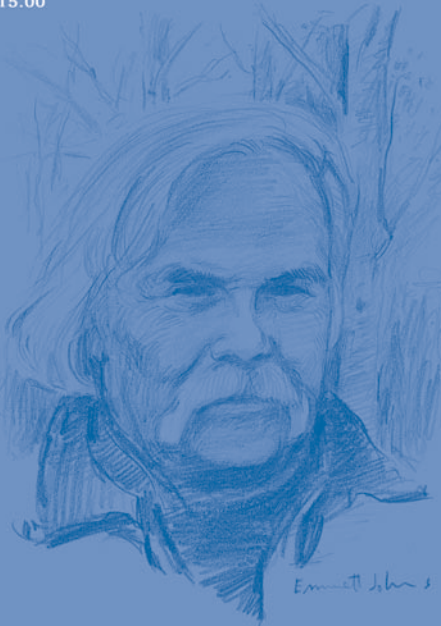


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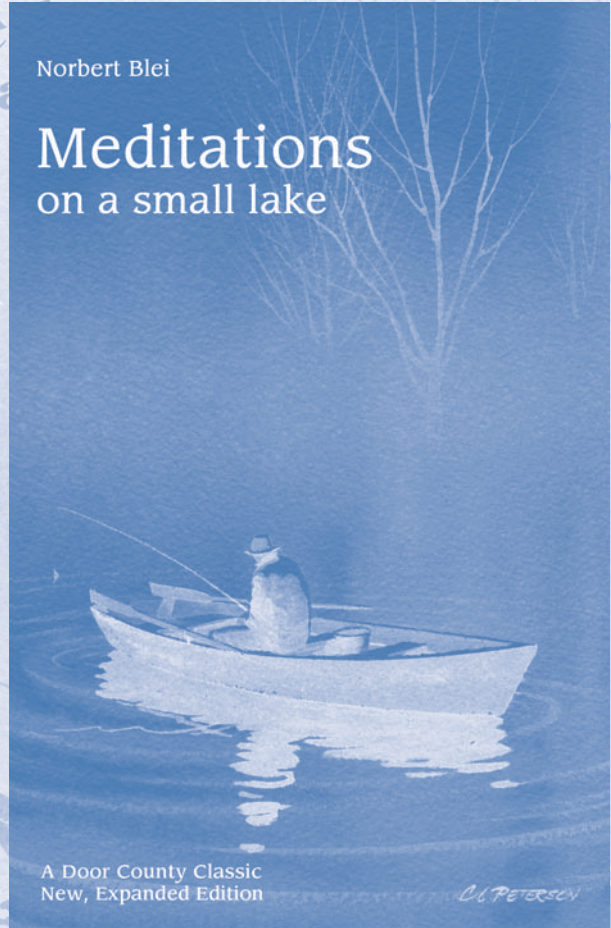
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NORBERT BLEI

Me
on a

Norbert Blei

Meditations on a small lake



A Door County Classic
New, Expanded Edition

MEDITATIONS ON A SMALL LAKE

In the forty years since Chicago writer Norbert Blei bought an old farmhouse and settled into northern Door County to live and write, he has built a considerable body of work (stories, essays, poems, public/commercial radio commentaries, public television programs, newspaper columns, magazine articles, online writing, and books) devoted to his adopted landscape, expressing both his love and concern for the stark beauty of this fragile, Wisconsin peninsula.

While the writer continues to address the loss of rural character and community in print media, online writing (www.bleidoorcountytimes.com), and books, this new, expanded third reprint of his 1987 bestselling book, *Meditations on a Small Lake*, remains a testament to the changing times—informative and thoughtful in its defense of the preservation of the natural landscape, be it Door County or any rural landscape threatened by over development and crass commerce as “place” attempts to retain some sense of history and spirit.

The author has added three new essays to *Meditations on a Small Lake*, and substituted the original photographs of the first two printings with drawings by artist Emmett Johns, casting a whole new light and feeling to the book’s interior. The quiet, starkly beautiful and arresting cover drawing by Charles Peterson of Ephraim continues to retain its remarkable force in drawing the reader into the book upon a single glance.



I reveled in sunrises, sunsets, the eerie but welcome approach of fog...the fields so freshly washed after a thunderstorm, the serene secrecy of snow falling all night while one slept deeply through it, then awoke the next morning to the wondrous transformation of the landscape, a work of art in progress only partially recognizable, finding myself whispering through the windowpane lest I disturb the white world outside, speaking openly of it.

“Silence is the only voice of our God,” said Melville.



He walks in a diminishing darkness toward that moment night recedes behind him, and the slightest glimmer of first light begins spreading over the east, over the road, the woods, the small lake waiting ahead. He has come to love this moment when the night withdraws the darkest mysteries, uncovering the landscapes bare truths—dirt roads, telephone lines, chimney smoke, a black dog watching him from a distance, white birch trees, an entanglement of branches, evergreens, fallen trees...the long history of stone fences.



ORDER INFORMATION

**Meditations on a Small Lake, Ellis Press,
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ELLIS PRESS
P.O. Box 6, Granite Falls, MN 56241
www.ellispress.com

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