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# Between Friends / Entre Amis



## **Synopsis**

Published in 1976, Between Friends/Entre Amis was Canada's gift to the United States on its bicentennial. McClelland & Stewart's press run was the most ambitious Canadian publishing project to that time, and the book received outstanding praise. It has been out of print for many years. A special Presentation Edition was run for American dignitaries. Pierre Trudeau and Lorraine Monk personally gave President Ford his copy in a Washington ceremony. Twenty five years later, there are 75 copies of this special edition, which was never available for sale in the U.S. or Canada. Each will be personally signed by Lorraine Monk, and is handsomely slipcased. Each copy is \$595.00, normal trade discounts apply.

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

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## **Customer Reviews**

Text: English, French

Lorraine Monk, Officer of the Order of Canada and founding Executive Director of the Canadian Museum of Photography was, from 1960 to 1980, the Executive Director of the Still Photography Division, of the National Film Board of Canada. She is the recipient of 2 honorary doctorates (York University, Doctorate of Letters, and Carleton, Doctor of Literature), and many other honours, for her contributions to Canadian photography.

A most poignant work at this time when talk of walls has become respectable, even fashionable; a

magnificent celebration of the vast open border between the US and our closest sister and best neighbor. My own experience with this book goes back to the late 70's when I first encountered it in the University of Maine library. I recall that it could not be checked out, but was available for enjoyment in the main reading room. A few years later, my appreciation of the wonderful open border grew as I entered Canada on a dirt road through a potato field in northern Maine. There was only a small shack on the side of the road, and a sign requesting that you please sign in if you planned to be in Canada for more than 48 hours.... different times, and far better, to my thinking. So sad to see this fine book and thoughtful gift from the people of Canada being sold for a pittance, but a magnificent reminder of a more neighborly age.

I have bought a copy of this book for each of my siblings. It's a beautiful remembrance of the relationship between the US and Canada, love the photographs.

I will echo Linda Burger's praise for this lovely, big, rich book, and say simply that while the new price might be mighty dear, the Marketplace has copies for less than can be shipped by MediaMail (7cents + \$4 < \$5.50 postal rate)!? -- and on up, from a couple dollars, twenty-some, and beyond. I just bought four copies for a total under \$100, and have previously had one shipped overseas for a good price. (6.6-pounds or more!) The beauty of this book can't be overstated. The color images at times are, yes, not as super sharp as some in good photo books -- depends on how enlarged the image is. But they are shot by good photographers and cover such a range -- of landscapes, people, places. It would be nice were the text for each image given with the image instead of in appendices (1 each for French, English), but I guess that the space demands, as well as artistic aspect (they have quotations associated with images), indicated that they needed to be separate. NB: Page 47-8 of the only two copies I've seen had a small tear about center height near the binding; it's as though maybe a coin was pressed there and tore a quarter arc, except that the tear isn't so much an arc, and there is NO sign of pressure -- just a tear. This is hard to see in the images (front/back), and is simply redressed by touching the white of the tear with ink to darken and hide it. Must've been some production glitch. HIGHLY recommended.

Love the book.

I have wonderful cousins from Prince Edward Island who visit me in Maine at least twice a year. Their company is all the gift I want from them, but two years ago they bought me this book in our

favorite used book store near my town."Between Friends/Entre Amis" presents photographs of landscapes and people along the 5,522 miles of the International Boundary, embellished with quotes in English and French from a variety of sources (including my subject line, which is attributed to Sitting Bull, Chief of the Sioux). The original edition was produced in 1976 by the National Film Board of Canada; the photographers' brief was to interpret places and people where there is "a sense of the border present in the daily lives of the people that live there." The beautifully produced book was a gift to the United States on the occasion of the Bicentennial. The book is divided geographically into five parts. The first few times I looked at it, I was captivated with the spectacular scenery shots; but over time I've come to treasure the photographs of people in all their simplicity and diversity. Some of my favorite photographs, by section: THE NORTHWEST -- Full of rocky peaks; the snowy Boundary Mountains; the braided White River that carves itself a new channel every year; Chuklat Village in the mist; a young girl in braids and a big smile in Eagle, Alaska. THE ROCKIES -- A snowy, cloud-shrouded mountain road in Manning Park, British Columbia; two retired Olympic Peninsula loggers standing tall in front of a truckload of logs, one wearing a string tie with a starfish clasp; a Canadian ranch with a looming U.S. mountain as backdrop; mule deer on a hillside near the British Columbia-Washington border. THE PLAINS -- A small white church with leaded windows and a steeple, alone in a wheat field under billowing clouds; a sheep farmer in a dim barn with his flock of sheep, light slicing in sharply from a window; a rainstorm far across a field in Manitoba. THE LAKES -- A woman fishing through the ice with a shiny silver pile of fish in front of her; The Outcasts, a cheerful-looking motorcycle club in Detroit; a group shot in a Boy Scout campground; a railway bridge over the Niagara River gorge; the St. Lawrence River. THE EAST -- An "international pool table" straddling the NY-Quebec border; a ballerina whose kitchen is in Canada, her living room in the U.S.; snow geese migrating across the St. Lawrence River; a grinning team of ice hockey players; the members of the world's only international Masonic Lodge. "Between Friends/Entre Amis" is a wonderful book produced to a fine concept. The edition pictured above is a limited re-release with a sky-high price tag, but I treasure my copy more because both book and slipcover are in mint condition from the long-out-of-print 1976 release -- and because it was a gift to me in love and friendship. "Nothing makes the earth seem so spacious as to have friends at a distance; they make the latitudes and longitudes." Henry David Thoreau Linda Bulger, 2008

I inherited this book from my parents, but I remember when they received it as a gift from their dear friends in Vancouver. Interestingly, the Canadian couple were also hikers and mountaineers like my

parents, and both men were housing economists for their respective governments. It's a really wonderful volume, not only full of wonderful photographs, but also full of interesting details about life along the border, from Saskatchewan wheat fields to Detroit slums. As with many things we receive from Canada, this book is a wonderful gift.

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