**Mandel, (Elias Wolf) Eli (1922-1992)**

Eli Mandel was a Canadian poet, anthologist, professor, and literary critic. He was born into a Russian-Jewish family and grew up on the Prairies during the Depression. After serving in the army during WWII, he earned a BA (1949) and MA (1950) from the University of Saskatchewan and a PhD from the University of Toronto (1957). He authored nine volumes of poetry, edited numerous anthologies, and published two volumes of literary essays, *Another Time* (1977) and *The Family Romance* (1986). His first collection was published alongside work by Gael Turnbull and Phyllis Webb in *Trio* in 1954. It demonstrates the interest in classical and biblical myth, the Canadian West, and the tension between order and openness that characterizes much of his work, particularly *Fuseli Poems* (1960). Mandel was awarded the Governor General’s Award for *An Idiot Joy* (1967). His interest in myth and archetype marks him out as a Canadian mythopoeic modernist poet, along with Jay Macpherson, James Reaney, Anne Wilkinson, and Margaret Atwood. Mandel’s criticism has, like Atwood’s, been labeled mythic or thematic. Mandel’s work is invested in the idea that words create the world, and that art is an act of social intervention and transformation.

**List of Works**

Poetry

* *Trio: First Poems by Gael Turnbull, Phyllis Webb, and Eli Mandel* (1954)
* *Fuseli Poems* (1960)
* *Black and Secret Man* (1964)
* *An Idiot Joy* (1967)
* *Crusoe: Poems Selected and New* (1973)
* *Stony Plain* (1973)
* *Out Of Place* (1977)
* *Life Sentence: Poems and Journals: 1976-1980* (1981)
* *Dreaming Backwards : The Selected Poetry of Eli Mandel, 1954-1981* (1981)

Edited Collections

* *The Other Harmony: The Collected Poems of Eli Mandel,* ed. Andrew Stubbs and Judy Chapman (2003)

Criticism

* *Criticism: The Silent-Speaking Words, Eight Talks for CBC Radio* (1966)
* *Irving Layton* (1969)
* *Another Time* (1977)
* *The Family Romance* (1986)

**Paratextual Material:**

Photograph: <http://esask.uregina.ca/management/app/assets/img/enc2/selectedbig/51C1FDFA-1560-95DA-43213F030629D822.jpg> (copyright held by his wife, Ann Mandel)

Sound Recording: <http://spokenweb.concordia.ca/sgw-poetry-readings/eli-mandel-at-sgwu-1969-d-g-jones-george-bowering/> (reading from *An Idiot Joy* (1967), *Black and Secret Man* (1964) and from “newer manuscripts”)