who sits drained before me: "Thank you very much for sharing your experiences. I'd like to ask one more thing before we conclude. Do you tell people about your experiences?"

"No. Well, sometimes, if somebody is interested. But, no. It's too hard. And people don't believe. Who would believe such a story? Maybe you because you are like my children. But how could someone who is born in Canada imagine such a thing? No... Who would believe?"

The author thanks Sue McIntosh Larsh for her literal eye and editorial touch.

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1This figure may never be adequately determined, even if when researchers are granted adequate access to Soviet archives. I have chosen to use a figure of 1.5 million Poles deported by the Soviet Union during the period 1939-41 as a "middle ground." Anders, Davies, Gross, Piotrowski, Jolluck, Sword, Thurston, and others posit numbers ranging from 980,000 to 2,000,000.

2The book, Kanada Pachnaca Zywica [Canada Smelling of Resin] by Arkady Fiedler, was read by a number of Poles before their arrival in Canada.

References


Davies, Norman "5,000 Immigrants Handled At Ajax in Year". The Daily Times-Gazette 18 August, 1949: 4.


ELISAVIETTA RITCHIE

Road-Building Instructions

— for Jessie Elspeth Curtis

Make it straight through the briars
Leave it dirt no matter if hollows hold puddles
I want to sit on my back steps shelling peas stringing beans thinking poems watching the child on the fat-wheeled bike waver and splash all the far way open the gate keep the geese in rule cows out reach in the box stuff my mail in her saddlebags shut the gate pause to pick raspberries bramble—and black—lose count feet muddy mouth purple letters intact wheel home

Elisavietta Ritchie's poetry appears earlier in this volume.