Andrew Shields was born in Detroit, Mich., in 1964, and was raised in California, Ohio as well as in England. He studied at Stanford University and the University of Pennsylvania, where he received his doctorate in Comparative Literature. He first moved to Europe in 1991 to study in Berlin, and has lived in Basel since 1995, where he teaches at the English Seminar at the University of Basel and also works as a freelance translator. His many translations from German include the correspondence of Martin Heidegger and Hannah Arendt, two volumes of poetry by Dieter M. Gräf, as well as numerous other poems by a wide range of contemporary poets. His own poems have appeared in many journals, as well as in the chapbook Cabinet d’Amateur (Cologne, Darling Publications, 2005), and he has turned many of his poems into songs for his band Human Shields.