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Joan Braddock
Director
jfbraddock@alaska.edu

Amy Simpson
Assistant to the Director & Marketing Manager
amysimpson@alaska.edu

James Engelhardt
Acquisitions Editor
james.engelhardt@alaska.edu

Sue Mitchell
Production Editor
suemitchell@alaska.edu

Laura Walker
Sales & Distribution Coordinator
laura.walker@alaska.edu

Dawn Montano
Marketing Assistant
dawn.montano@alaska.edu

Cover illustration by Mindy Dwyer, Kayak Girl (page 15).
Permafrost
A literary journal published by the University of Alaska Fairbanks

Permafrost is the farthest north literary journal in the world and is published annually by the graduate students in the UAF Department of English. For submission information and subscription rates, visit www.alaska.edu/english/permafrost or email fbpfrost@uaf.edu.
As a child of German parents associated with the Russian Revolution, Victor Fischer grew up in the shadow of Hitler and Stalin, watching his friends’ parents disappear after political arrests. Eleanor Roosevelt personally engineered the Fischer family’s escape from Russia, and soon after Victor was serving in the U.S. Army in World War II and fighting against his childhood friends in the Russian and German armies.

As a young adult, he went on to help shape Alaska’s map by planning towns throughout the state. This unique autobiography recounts Fischer’s earliest days in Germany, Russia, and Alaska, where he soon entered civic affairs and was elected as a delegate to the Alaska Constitutional Convention—the body responsible for establishing statehood in the territory. A move to Washington, DC, and further government appointments allowed him to witness key historic events of his era, which he also recounts here. Finally Fischer brings his memoir up to the present, describing how he has returned to Russia many times to bring the lessons of Alaska freedom and prosperity to the newly democratic states.

VICTOR FISCHER, WITH CHARLES WOHLFORTH

Victor Fischer held several government positions and was on the faculty at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks and Anchorage, where he was director of the Institute for Social and Economic Research. He continues to work in state policy, local government, and Alaska-Russia issues. Charles Wohlforth is a lifelong Alaska resident and prize-winning author of numerous books about Alaska. A popular lecturer, he has spoken all over the United States and overseas.
Reaching 20,320 feet into and above the clouds, the peak of Denali as the highest and coldest summit in North America. In this novel of adventure, adversity, and ambition by renowned mountaineer and writer Nicholas O’Connell, four men set out to conquer it. Among the sharply drawn team members is narrator John Walker, a family man trying to choose between domestic stability and mountaineering’s uncertain glory. In the course of their ascent the group battles avalanches, fierce winds, and mind-numbing cold before it splinters, leading inexorably to tragedy.

Throughout the book, the author’s first-hand experience lends vivid reality to the formidable challenges of the mountain and to the bonds formed and broken in the pursuit of its summit. Beyond the physical tolls, O’Connell presents in stark relief the internal debate about the price of success—all the more urgent at the earth’s extremes.

Nick O’Connell is the author of several books, including Beyond Risk: Conversations with Climbers and On Sacred Ground: The Spirit of Place in Pacific Northwest Literature. His writing has appeared in Newsweek, Outside, National Geographic Adventure, Condé Nast Traveler, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Sierra, and many other publications.

“IT BROUGHT ME INTO THAT DREAMY STATE OF IMAGINING MYSELF IN JOHN’S BOOTS, THINKING ABOUT BATTLING TO THE TOP, AND THE SINGULAR EXPERIENCE OF BEING ON THAT MOUNTAIN...AS MUCH AS ANYTHING, THIS NUANCED DENALI TALE IS ALSO A PARABLE ABOUT THE PRICE OF AMBITION...AND I DARE SAY THE NOVEL IS BRILLIANT, FUNNY, AND REPLETE BECAUSE OF THIS.” —JON WATERMAN
This beautifully photographed book catalogs the collection of nearly five hundred Alutiiq cultural items held by the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, or the kunstkamera, in St. Petersburg, Russia. Gathered between 1780 and 1867, many of the artifacts are composed of fur, feathers, gut, hair, and other delicate materials, which prevent their transport for display or study.

To document these artifacts for the public, the kunstkamera collaborated with the Alutiiq Museum in Kodiak, Alaska. Together, anthropologists and members of the Alutiiq community combined the collection records with cultural knowledge and high-resolution digital imagery and worked to name objects, describe their uses, and detail the materials used in their construction. As a result, this book will provide the Alutiit, Alaskans, Russians, and the global community with lasting access to one of the oldest, most extensive ethnographic collections from the central Gulf of Alaska.

EDITED BY YURI E. BEREZKIN
TRANSLATED BY LOIS FIELDS AND KATHERINE ARNDT

Yuri E. Berezkin is the head of the American department of the Kunstkamera Museum.
Lois Fields is a translator and businesswoman in Anchorage and southcentral Alaska. Katherine Arndt is the bibliographer and curator of rare books at the Rasmuson Library at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.
In his final major publication, Ernest S. “Tiger” Burch, Jr. reconstructs the distribution of caribou herds in northwest Alaska using data and information from research conducted over the past several decades as well as sources that predate western science by more than one hundred years. Additionally, he explores human and natural factors that contributed to the demise and recovery of caribou and reindeer populations during this time. Burch provides an exhaustive list of published and unpublished literature and interviews that will intrigue laymen and experts alike. The unflinching assessment of the roles that humans and wolves played in the dynamics of caribou and reindeer herds will undoubtedly strike a nerve. Supplemental essays before and after the unfinished work add context about the author, the project of the book, and the importance of both.

Ernest S. “Tiger” Burch, Jr. was a social anthropologist specializing in the early historical social organization of Eskimo peoples. He was an advisor to the US Arctic Research Commission and a member of the National Academy of Sciences’ National Research Council.

Igor Krupnik is the curator of arctic and northern ethnology at the Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. Jim Dau is a caribou research/management biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

“This work is a reminder of how much Burch’s voice—the social anthropologist versed in the biological sciences, with an ethnohistorian’s appreciation of oral evidence—will be missed.” —Shepard Krech III, Brown University
This book is a comprehensive guide to the natural history of the North Slope, the only arctic tundra in the United States. The first section provides detailed information on climate, geology, landforms, and ecology. The second provides a guide to the identification and natural history of the common animals and plants and a primer on the human prehistory of the region from the Pleistocene through the mid-twentieth century. The appendix provides the framework for a tour of the natural history features along the Dalton Highway, a road connecting the crest of the Brooks Range with Prudhoe Bay and the Arctic Ocean, and includes mile markers where travelers may safely pull off to view geologic formations, plants, birds, mammals, and fish. Featuring hundreds of illustrations that support the clear, authoritative text, Land of Extremes reveals the arctic tundra as an ecosystem teeming with life.

"This comprehensive account and guide to the biology and natural history of Alaska’s North Slope contains wonderful and authoritative detail of practically every animal and plant species, the geology, and the human history of a fascinating part of Earth...I have been visiting and doing research on the North Slope for twenty-five years, yet I learned something new on almost every page.” —Brian Barnes, Director, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska Fairbanks

ALEXANDER HURYN AND JOHN HOBBIE

Alexander Huryn is a freshwater ecologist and a committed field naturalist who has worked extensively in the Smoky Mountains, New Zealand, Panama, the Alaska Arctic, and Iceland. John Hobbie is a senior scholar at the Ecosystems Center, Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. He is a founding researcher of the Toolik Field Station in Alaska and former director of the Arctic Long-Term Ecological Research Project there.

"THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SOURCE BOOK THAT I KNOW OF FOR AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NATURAL HISTORY OF ALASKA’S NORTHERNMOST TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC REGIONAL SYSTEMS. THAT IS, ITS MATERIALS PROVIDE NATURAL HISTORY STUDENTS WITH A REFERENCE THAT ABOUNDS WITH INSIGHTS INTO THE WORKINGS OF ORGANISMS IN OUR CHALLENGING (AND CHALLENGED) ENVIRONMENTS." —DAVID W. NORTON, AMERICAN POLAR SOCIETY
Skijoring, or being pulled on skis by a dog in harness, is a great sport in which almost everyone—and almost any breed of dog—can participate. It requires little beyond a pair of skis and a dog with a desire to pull. The second edition of this popular and practical guide to the sport covers what equipment is needed, how to teach a dog to pull, and how to work with your dog year-round. Although it is geared toward beginners, *Skijor with Your Dog* offers plenty of useful information for experienced skijorers as well, including racing tips, how to involve children, how to camp and travel with dogs, and how to train for competition. The book also covers canicross, bikejoring, and other ways to work with dogs when there’s no snow. With this book in hand, readers will have all the information they need to begin enjoying the outdoors with their dogs in a whole new way.

MARI HØE-RAITTO AND CAROL KAYNOR

Mari Høe-Raitto has been competing in Nordic-style mushing since the age of fourteen. She is a certified Nordic ski instructor and teaches outdoor skills at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska. Carol Kaynor has written articles on skijoring for *DogSport Magazine, Dog World,* and *Mushing* magazine, among others. She is a limited-class sprint musher and has been a member of the Alaska Dog Mushers Association since 1985.

"THIS IS AN INVALUABLE BASIS FOR LEARNING TO ENJOY YOUR DOG AND SKIJORING."—SUSAN BUTCHER, FOUR-TIME IDITAROD CHAMPION
In *Kayak Girl*, a young child learns to cope with serious loss by focusing on something larger than herself. After Jana’s mother dies, she becomes withdrawn. Her grandfather, a carver, pays the girl a visit and finds her unresponsive to his care. He carves a figure of a girl in a kayak and asks Jana to promise that she will watch for the figure after he releases it upriver. Through the following seasons, Jana goes to the river daily and finds strength in the positive memories from her short time with her mother, even as she imagines the distant kayak girl’s struggles. Eventually, they are reunited, and Jana’s spirit is revived. Throughout the book, watercolor illustrations take readers to a magical place along an Alaska river and demonstrate the power of memory and a sense of place in the natural world.

Monica Devine is the author of several books for children, including *Hanna Bear’s Christmas* and *Carry Me, Mama*. Mindy Dwyer is a children’s book author and illustrator.
Anyone curious about what drew people like Christopher McCandless (the subject of *Into the Wild*) and John Muir to Alaska will find nuanced answers in *Frontier Romance*, Judith Kleinfeld’s thoughtful study of the iconic American love of the frontier and its cultural influence. Kleinfeld considers the subject through three categories: rebellion, redemption, and rebirth; escape and healing; and utopian community. Within these categories she explores the power of narrative to shape lives through concrete, compelling examples—both heart-warming and horrifying. Ultimately, Kleinfeld argues that the frontier narrative enables Americans—born or immigrant—to live deliberately, to gather courage, and to take risks, face danger, and seize freedom rather than fear it.

JUDITH KLEINFELD

Judith Kleinfeld founded and directed the Northern Studies Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, which examines psychological, social, cultural, and environmental issues across the circumpolar North. During her more than forty years in Alaska, she has published widely on Northern issues.
The third volume of the revived *Ice Floe* series, *Ice Floe III* features new and exciting works of poetry by authors from Alaska, Canada, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia. All work is presented in both its original language and in English translation. The contributors—Nancy Lord, Tom Sexton, Eira Stenberg, and Riina Katajavuori, among others—include established and emerging poets. This dynamic and vibrant collection of voices from the northern latitudes will be a great read for all poetry enthusiasts and devoted readers of international literature.

**EDITED BY SHANNON GRAMSE AND SARAH KIRK**

*Shannon Gramse* is a poet and teaches English at the University of Alaska Anchorage. *Sarah Kirk* is a lifelong Alaskan and teaches English at the University of Alaska Anchorage.
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Field Guide to Seaweeds of Alaska

MANDY R. LINDEBERG AND SANDRA C. LINDSTROM

The first and only Alaska seaweed field guide, this book is essential for beachcombers, naturalists, teachers, students, scientists, coastal monitors, and others in need of a quick, accurate identification of seaweeds in Alaska. More than one hundred of the most common seaweed species in Alaska’s waters, as well as seagrasses and marine lichens, are fully described and illustrated with color photos on water-resistant paper.

Mandy Lindeberg works for the National Marine Fisheries Service in the Habitat Division of the Auke Bay Laboratory near Juneau, Alaska. Her research includes studies on intertidal invertebrates, seaweeds, oiled shoreline and bioavailability surveys, and coastal mapping. Sandra Lindstrom is professor of botany at the University of British Columbia. She has studied seaweeds in Alaska for more than thirty-five years.