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Permafrost

*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.permafrostmag.com](http://www.permafrostmag.com) or email editor@permafrostmag.com.

Tidal Echoes

*Tidal Echoes* is a literary and art journal that showcases the art and writing of Southeast Alaskans. The journal is published by the University of Alaska Southeast and edited by undergraduate students on the Juneau campus. It may be purchased for $5 from Emily Wall at emilly.wall@uas.alaska.edu.
In the quiet of morning, exactly six months after Pearl Harbor, the Japanese touched down on American soil. Landing on the remote Alaska island of Attu, they assailed an entire village, holding the Alaskan villagers for two months and eventually corralling all survivors into a freighter bound for Japan.

One of those survivors, Nick Golodoff, became a prisoner of war at just six years old. He was among the dozens of Unangan Attu residents swept away to Hokkaido, and one of only twenty-five to survive. *Attu Boy* tells Golodoff’s story of these harrowing years as he found both friendship and cruelty at the hands of the Japanese. It offers a rare look at the lives of civilian prisoners and their captors in WWII-era Japan. It also tells of Golodoff’s bittersweet return to a homeland torn apart by occupation and forced internments. Interwoven with other voices from Attu, this richly illustrated memoir is a testament to the struggles, triumphs, and heartbreak of lives disrupted by war.

**Attu Boy**

*A Young Alaskan’s WWII Memoir*

Except for his imprisonment in Japan, **Nick Golodoff** (1935–2013) lived his entire life in the Aleutian Islands. **Rachel Mason** is a cultural anthropologist for the National Park Service in Anchorage, Alaska.
In 1912, Shoki Kayamori and his box camera arrived in a small Tlingit village in southeast Alaska. At a time when Asian immigrants were forbidden to own property and faced intense racial pressure, the Japanese-born Kayamori put down roots and became part of the Yakutat community. For three decades he photographed daily life in the village, turning his lens on locals and migrants alike, and gaining the nickname “Picture Man.” But as World War II drew near, his passion for photography turned dangerous as government officials called out Kayamori as a potential spy. Despondent, Kayamori committed suicide, leaving behind an enigmatic photographic legacy.

In Picture Man, Margaret Thomas views Kayamori’s life through multiple lenses. Using Kayamori’s original photos, she explores the economic and political realities that sent Kayamori and thousands like him out of Japan toward opportunity and adventure in the United States, especially the Pacific Northwest. She reveals the tensions around Asian immigrants on the West Coast and the racism that sent many young men north to work in the canneries of Alaska. And she illuminates the intersecting—and at times conflicting—lives of villagers and migrants in a time of enormous change. Part history, part biography, part photographic showcase, Picture Man offers a fascinating new view of Alaska history.

MARGARET THOMAS

Margaret Thomas is a librarian and journalism instructor at South Puget Sound Community College. She lives in Olympia, Washington.
When Richard Nixon signed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1971, eighty million acres were flagged as possible national park land. Field expeditions were tasked with recording what was contained in these vast acres. Under this decree, five men were sent into the sprawling, roadless interior of Alaska, unsure of what they’d encounter and ultimately responsible for the fate of four thousand pristine acres. *Life and Times of a Big River* follows Peter J. Marchand and his team of biologists as they set out to explore the land that would ultimately become the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. Their encounters with strange plants, rare insects, and little-known mammals bring to life a land once thought to be static and monotonous. And their struggles to navigate and adapt to an unforgiving environment capture the rigorous demands of remote field work. Weaving in and out of Marchand’s narrative is an account of the natural and cultural history of the area as it relates to the expedition and the region’s Native peoples. *Life and Times of a Big River* chronicles the riveting, one-of-a-kind journey of uncertainty and discovery of a disparate (and at one point desperate) group of biologists.

**PETER J. MARCHAND**

Peter J. Marchand is a field biologist who studies forest, tundra, and desert landscapes. He is the author of *Autumn: A Season of Change*, *Nature Guide to the Northern Forest*, *Life in the Cold*, and *The Bare-toed Vaquero*. He lives in Penrose, Colorado.
A man witnesses a tragic accident that calls his own life into question. A young woman meets her high school sweetheart after many years and seeks to make sense of the separate paths they’ve taken. A soldier home from Iraq tries to rebuild his life in a remote Alaskan village.

These are fishing stories, told as such stories are meant to be: simple, often coarse, and tinged with the elemental beauty of the sea. They reflect rugged lives lived on the edge of the ocean’s borders, where grief and grace ride the same waves. Rosemary McGuire, a fisherman herself, captures the essential humanity at the heart of each tale. No one comes through unscathed, but all retain a sense of hope and belief in earthly miracles, however humble. A dazzling debut, 

*The Creatures at the Absolute Bottom of the Sea* will leave readers with a sense of the fragility and beauty inherent in eroded lives spent in proximity to danger.

**ROSEMARY MCGUIRE**

*Rosemary McGuire* has been working as a commercial fisherman for fourteen years. She has worked in Antarctica and in field camps across Alaska and has traveled most of Alaska’s river systems by canoe.

“Make way for a terrific new voice from Alaska! McGuire’s short fictions are as authentic as they come—drawn from a life steeped in rural Alaska and commercial fishing, deeply imagined. Her language is luminous, and her characters—rough, innocent, tragic, fully human—are unforgettable.”

—Nancy Lord, former Alaska writer laureate and author of *The Man Who Swam with Beavers*
I Follow in the Dust She Raises is a collection of deeply personal poems born from a life sharply observed. Linda Martin takes readers from the mountains of the West to the shores of Alaska, as she delves into the rippling depth of childhood experiences, tracks the moments that change a life, and settles into the fine grooves of age. Exploring the ties of family and grief, Martin’s unflinching poetry ripples with moments of extraordinary beauty plucked from what seem like ordinary lives.

LINDA MARTIN

Linda Martin lives in Homer, Alaska, where she and her husband own and operate a glass shop.

"Mother, father, brother, sister, husband, daughter, son populate this book. But these relationships, past or present, are not static. As they move in time and place—Montana, Idaho, Manhattan, Alaska—the poems map an inner geography, spaces of loss and acceptance, memory and survival. They are stepping stones through a life only as ordinary as the truth of art. Martin’s poems belie their artfulness almost with the ease of conversation; they ask for little but give much. Few poets can trace an itinerary of the heart with such distinctive grace and clarity."

—Stan Sanvel Rubin, author of Hidden Sequel
A debut collection from an exciting new voice in Alaska poetry, *Overwinter* reconciles the natural quiet of wilderness with the clamor of built environments. Pataky’s migration between Anchorage and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park inspires these poems that connect urban to rural. This duality permeates *Overwinter*. Moments are at turns fevered or serene. The familial and romantic are measured against the wildness of the Far North. Empty spaces bring both solace and loneliness in full. Past loves haunt the present, surviving in the spaces sculpted by language.

**Jeremy Pataky** earned an MFA at the University of Montana. He is a co-founding board member of the 49 Alaska Writing Center and splits his time between Anchorage and McCarthy.

"Emerson suggests that ‘genius is the activity that repairs the decay of things.’ Such genius is at work in Pataky’s debut, *Overwinter*. . . . A book that makes of the heart’s affections a myriad world, where presence and absence intertwine, and the poet is no more than faithful recorder of difficulty and wonder."

—Dan Beachy-Quick, author of *A Whaler’s Dictionary*
Whether watching men releasing caged birds at dawn in New York City or a ladder of cranes rising from a field in Manitoba, Tom Sexton is a keen observer of the interconnectedness of the natural and human worlds. The former Alaska poet laureate takes to the road in this new collection, wending a lyrical and at times mystical path between Alaska and New England.

Travelers along the way include the fabled wolf of Gubbio, old and lame and long past his taming encounter with Saint Francis of Assisi, and Chinese poet Li Bai chanting to a Yangtze River dolphin. Yet, while Sexton’s journey crosses borders—and occasionally centuries—his ultimate destination is always the landscape and people of Alaska. A Ladder of Cranes showcases Sexton’s mastery of both traditional forms and free verse. The tensions of his formal influences, Chinese and European, force the reader to experience these spare lines and tight observations in stunning new ways.

TOM SEXTON

Tom Sexton is professor emeritus of English at the University of Alaska Anchorage and was Alaska’s poet laureate from 1994 until 2000. He is the author of several collections of poetry, including For the Sake of the Light and I Think Again of Those Ancient Chinese Poets, both from the University of Alaska Press.

Praise for I Think Again of Those Ancient Chinese Poets:
“Sexton revels in the natural: river otters and Arctic char, sedge and wrens and yellow warblers, witch hazel and the wolves of Denali. He’s an atavistic avatar of how to look hard yet write simply.”
—New York Times Book Review
Plash and Levitation delves into the chaotic sublime of fatherhood, the candid revelations of youth, and the lingering consequences of history. Adam Tavel’s revealing and imaginative poems are joined by fictional monologues from historical figures and cultural icons, juxtaposing personal history with our shared one. Civil War general William Tecumseh Sherman and rock legend Keith Moon are joined by musings from the Redskins logo and the Wolfman. Together they create a lively chorus that clashes and soars. The result is forty-two fascinating pieces that are witty, consistently musical, and undeniably powerful—the perfect inaugural selection for the Permafrost Book Prize.

ADAM TAVEL

Adam Tavel is associate professor of English at Wor-Wic Community College on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. He is the author of The Fawn Abyss.
Russia first encountered Alaska in 1741 as part of the most ambitious and expensive expedition of the entire eighteenth century. For centuries since, cartographers have struggled to define and develop the enormous region comprising northeastern Asia, the North Pacific, and Alaska. The forces of nature and the follies of human error conspired to make the area incredibly difficult to map. *Exploring and Mapping Alaska* focuses on this foundational period in Arctic cartography. Russia spurred a golden era of cartographic exploration, while shrouding their efforts in a veil of secrecy. They drew both on old systems developed by early fur traders and new methodologies created in Europe. With Great Britain, France, and Spain following close behind, their expeditions led to an astounding increase in the world’s knowledge of North America. Through engrossing descriptions of the explorations and expert navigators, aided by informative illustrations, readers can clearly trace the evolution of the maps of the era, watching as a once-mysterious region came into sharper focus. The result of years of cross-continental research, *Exploring and Mapping Alaska* is a fascinating study of the trials and triumphs of one of the last great eras of historic mapmaking.

ALEXEY POSTNIKOV AND MARVIN FALK
TRANSLATED BY LYDIA BLACK

Alexey Postnikov is a research fellow in the Russian Academy of Sciences. Marvin Falk is professor and curator of rare books emeritus at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Lydia Black (1925–2007) was professor of anthropology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.
Karluk One is a remarkable archaeological site. For six hundred years, the Alutiiq built houses upon houses, preserving layer after layer of their ways of life. When fresh water from a nearby pond seeped through the deposit, the massive mound of cultural debris became suspended in time. Yet the site’s location at the mouth of a river meant it could disappear at any moment. Working together, researchers and community members recovered more than 26,000 items made of wood, bone, ivory, baleen, antler, and leather before the meandering river finally shifted and washed away the site forever. Kal’unek From Karluk explores the site. Beautifully photographed, the book also features essays by community members and scholars and a glossary of Alutiiq terms developed for the artifacts by Kodiak Alutiiq speakers.

Kal’unek From Karluk
Kodiak Alutiiq History and the Archaeology of the Karluk One Village Site

EDITED BY AMY STEFFIAN, MARNIE LEIST, SVEN HAAKANSON JR., AND PATRICK SALTONSTALL

Amy Steffian is director of research and publication at Kodiak’s Alutiiq Museum. Marnie Leist is curator of collections at the Alutiiq Museum and coordinator of the Kodiak Alutiiq/Sugpiaq Repatriation Commission. Sven Haakanson Jr. is curator of Native American anthropology at the University of Washington’s Burke Museum. Patrick Saltonstall is curator of archaeology at the Alutiiq Museum.
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About Us

University of Alaska Press
Physical address:
1760 Westwood Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Mailing Address:
PO Box 756240
Fairbanks, AK 99775-6240

Joan Braddock
Director
(907) 474-2776
jfbraddock@alaska.edu

Amy Simpson
Assistant to the Director & Marketing Manager
(907) 474-5832
amy.simpson@alaska.edu

James Engelhardt
Acquisitions Editor
(907) 474-6389
james.engelhardt@alaska.edu

Krista West
Production Editor
(907) 474-6413
krista.west@alaska.edu

Laura Walker
Sales & Distribution Coordinator
(907) 474-5831
laura.walker@alaska.edu

Dawn Montano
Marketing Assistant
(907) 474-6544
dawn.montano@alaska.edu

GO GREEN

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High atop cascading waterfalls and deep within the lush green depths of the valleys, Swiss photographer Ruedi Homberger has for more than twenty years captured in photographs the majestic beauty of eastern Alaska’s Wrangell Mountains. In addition to summiting some of the Wrangells’ loftiest peaks, Homberger has in recent years incorporated a technically challenging new approach into his work. Flying above the mountains in a small plane, Homberger literally goes to new heights to reveal a series of stunning aerial views. The first book-length collection of photographs focusing exclusively on the Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve, My Wrangell Mountains offers readers a rare opportunity to “stand among the giants.” Included in this magnificent oversized volume are over three hundred full-color photographs and an accompanying selection of sketches by award-winning illustrator Jon Van Zyle.