

ALASKA

A photoalbum by Florentin Smarandache

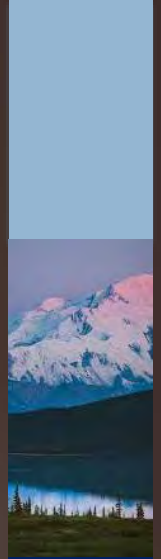
The Snowbound World

This photoalbum contains photographs made during my trip to Alaska in August 2009 (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Portage Creek, Prince William glacier, Tiulana lake, Ship Creek, Chugach park, Seward, Mouse Pass, Denali National Park & Preserve).

The title-lines are distinctive poetry lines of poets in connection with Alaska: John Burroughs (6, 7, 8, 14, 19, 20, 21, 36), Charles Keeler (5, 9, 15, 17), Robert W. Service (16, 34, 37, 38, 40, 43), John Haines (25, 26, 28, 30, 31, 35), Richard Dauenhauer (12, 13, 18, 22, 33, 42), and Sheila Nickerson (10, 11, 23, 27, 29, 32, 39, 41).

This album honors these poets and all the creators of the white lands of Alaska.

Florentin Smarandache





The Snowbound World



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Belgium



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Support by RFM - NCM: <https://youtu.be/7-S4RH2MJel>

A landscape photograph showing a dense forest of green trees in the foreground. In the background, a mountain range is visible, with the peaks partially obscured by thick, white clouds. The sky is overcast and grey. The overall scene is misty and atmospheric.

out of the cloud-world



the waters know their own



at morn,
at noon,
in pallid
night



a wistful note from out the sky



the drear peak's
snow-encumbered
crest



what are they thinking, the trees on the hills

an order of angels sent by Oertha





reality erupting from the secret deep

An aerial photograph of a glacier system. The foreground shows a wide, textured expanse of blue-tinged ice with numerous crevasses and ridges. In the middle ground, a large, dark, jagged rock formation protrudes from the ice, casting a shadow. The background shows more ice and a hazy horizon. The overall scene is a vast, rugged landscape of glacial ice and rock.

the signature of each in fluke
designs



the tidal wave
unto the sea



sides deep grinding in the mountain's breast

the Northern Lights have seen queer sights





vast frozen river, fostered by the storm



the very
forms of life



the brook that
springs in yonder
height



pink
bloom,
gold
bloom,
fleabane
white



the soul
of pure
delight

crisp September morning





remembering fogs and
springtimes of fern



froze into mist
that enveloped
the world



the sunken road

to find
the fish
spirit
gone





wild as cellos not yet carved



a whiteness
that flowed
on the ground



when spring
came and
the blue
bear came
to town



the bones whiten in a summer



I believe in this stalled magnificence

in the neighborhood
of man





the floral fullness of life



*the Arctic trails have
their secret tales*

dust from a far-off mountain



nor time, nor space, nor deep, nor high





you seek the last lone frontier



a purpose to revisit
the old claim



my strength flows



roaming the world at will



from a secret
honey in my paws



the ripening of all
forms toward infinite
potential



far later than you think

John Burroughs (1837–1921) was an American naturalist and nature essayist, active in the U.S. conservation movement. The Complete Writings of John Burroughs totals 23 volumes. His first volume, *Wake-Robin*, was published in 1871 and his last two volumes, *Under the Maples* and *The Last Harvest*, were published posthumously. Burroughs also published a volume of poetry titled *Bird and Bough* (1906).

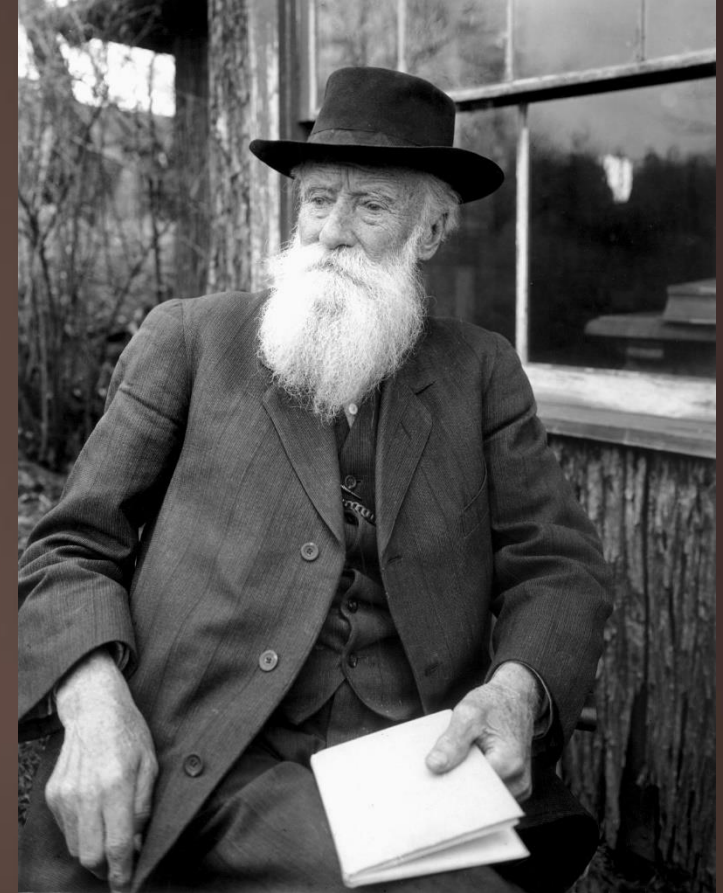


Photo source: Encyclopædia Britannica

Charles Augustus Keeler (1871–1937) was an American author, poet and ornithologist. He published the collection of verses *A Light Through the Storm* (1894), *The Promise of the Ages* (1896), *A Season's Sowing* (1899), *Idyls of El Dorado* (1900), *A Wanderer's Songs of the Sea* (1902).

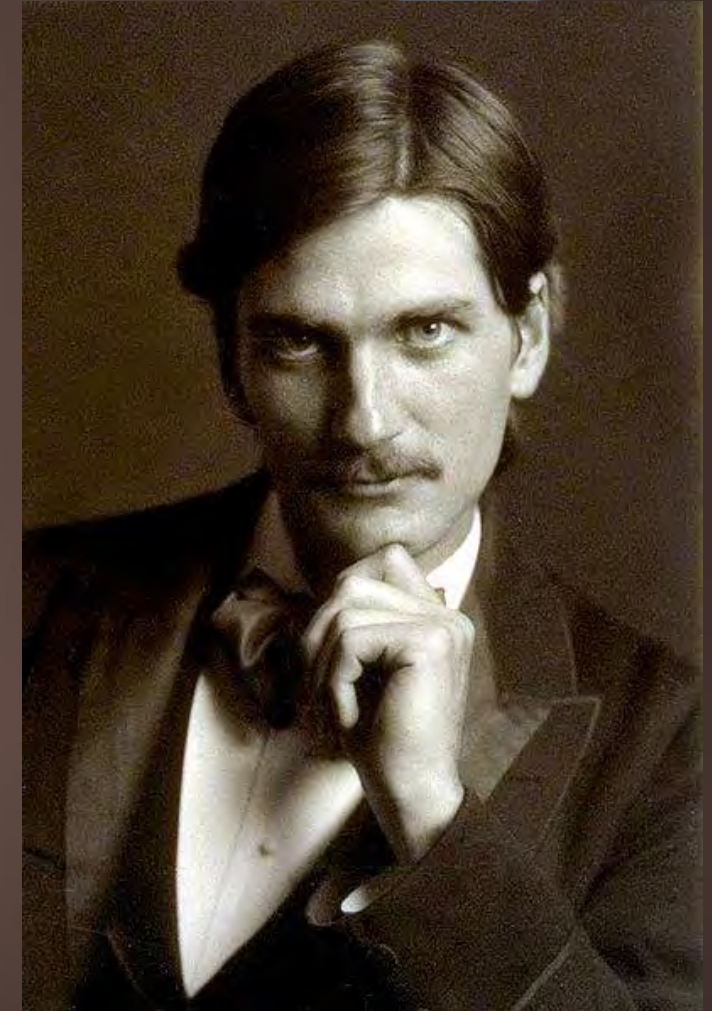


Photo source: Online Archive of California

A prolific writer and poet, **Robert W. Service** (1874–1958) sailed to Canada in 1894 to become a cowboy in the Yukon Wilderness. He published numerous collections of poetry, including *Songs of a Sourdough or Spell of the Yukon and Other Verses* (1907), *Ballad of a Cheechako* (1909), *Rhymes of a Rolling Stone* (1913), *Ballads of a Bohemian* (1921), as well as six novels.

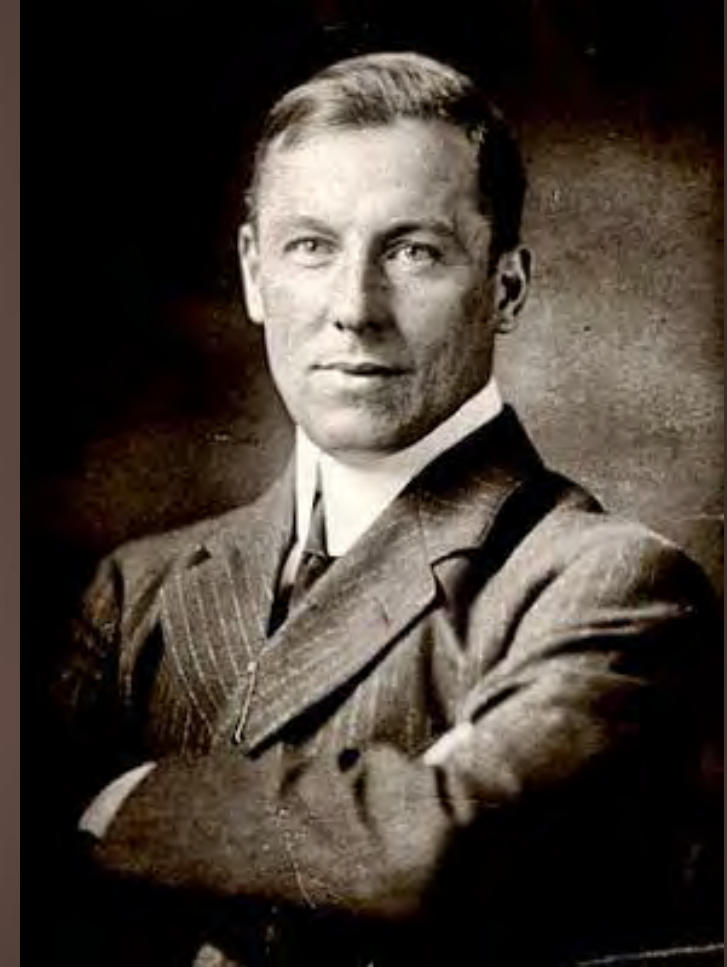


Photo source: <http://www.robertwservice.com>

John Meade Haines (1924–2011) was an American poet and academic, who served as the poet laureate of Alaska. His collections of poetry include *Winter News* (1966), *The Stone Harp* (1971), *News from the Glacier: Selected Poems 1960-1980* (1982), *The Owl in the Mask of the Dreamer: Collected Poems* (1993), among others.

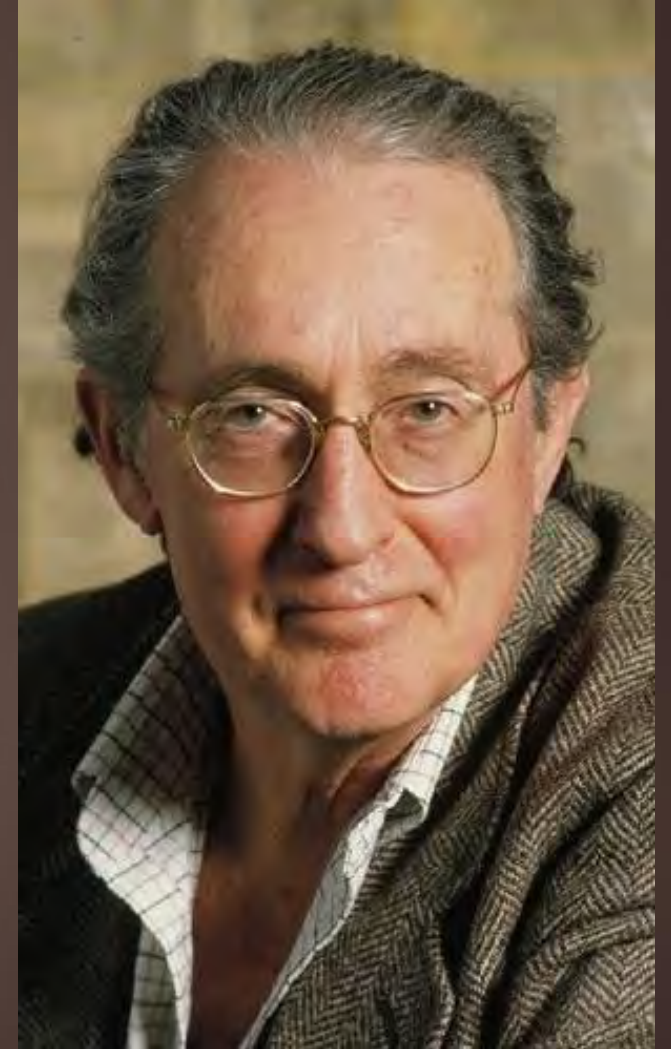


Photo source: The Quivering Pen

The author of *Two Missions to Alaska* (1982), specialist in the Tlingit nation of southeastern Alaska, **Richard Dauenhauer** (1942–2014) was an American poet, linguist, and translator. From 1981 to 1988, he was the poet laureate of Alaska. He published a selection of his poems in *Benchmarks: New and Selected Poems 1963–2013* (2013).



Photo source: <http://alchetron.com>


Sheila Bunker Nickerson (born 1942) is an American poet and writer. Much of her works focuses on Alaska and arctic exploration. She was the state's poet laureate from 1977 to 1981. She published a dozen of poetry collection, among which Letter from Alaska and Other Poems (1972), To the Waters and the Wild: Poems of Alaska (1975), Along the Alaska Highway (2009).



Photo source: <http://alchetron.com>

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out of the cloud-world,
the waters know their own.
at morn, at noon, in pallid night,
a wistful note from out the sky -
the drear peak's snow-encumbered crest.
what are they thinking, the trees on the hills?
an order of angels sent by Oertha -
reality erupting from the secret deep,
the signature of each in fluke designs,
the tidal wave unto the sea -
sides deep grinding in the mountain's breast.
the Northern Lights have seen queer sights,
vast frozen river, fostered by the storm,
the very forms of life,
the brook that springs in yonder height -
pink bloom, gold bloom, fleabane white -
the soul of pure delight!
crisp September morning
remembering fogs and springtimes of fern
froze into mist that enveloped the world.



the sunken road -
to find the fish spirit gone.
wild as cellos not yet carved,
a whiteness that flowed on the ground
when spring came and the blue bear came to town.
the bones whiten in a summer.
I believe in this stalled magnificence,
in the neighborhood of man.
the floral fullness of life -
the Arctic trails have their secret tales -
dust from a far-off mountain.
nor time, nor space, nor deep, nor high:
you seek the last lone frontier,
a purpose to revisit the old claim.
my strength flows
roaming the world at will
from a secret honey in my paws.
the ripening of all forms toward infinite potential
far later than you think.

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