

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

for a collection of scholarly essays tentatively titled:

ARTIFACTS AND ILLUMINATIONS: CRITICAL ESSAYS ON LOREN EISELEY

to be edited by

Tom Lynch (University of Nebraska, Lincoln)
Susan Maher (University of Nebraska, Omaha)

Loren Eiseley is generally acknowledged as one of the most important 20th-century American nature writers and is a widely admired practitioner of creative non-fiction, a genre that, in part due to his example, has flourished in recent decades. His work is regularly praised and cited as an influence by contemporary writers. Furthermore, the past few decades have witnessed a burgeoning of scholarly interest in a variety of fields that are especially amenable to the interpretation of Eiseley, including both the serious consideration of creative non-fiction as an important genre of American literature as well as the related scholarly analysis of science and nature writing.

The study and teaching of writers such as Eiseley is a growing trend in academic institutions in both the U.S. and around the world. Recent articles in the Chronicle of Higher Education and other publications dedicated to trends in academe have called for new emphases on interdisciplinary research and pedagogy. As a writer who bridged the sciences and the humanities, Eiseley has proved a challenge for scholars often locked in firm disciplinary boundaries. Now that scholars are seriously exploring knowledge at the intersections of disciplines, Eiseley studies are positioned to flourish in a way that they have not up to now.

We are soliciting abstracts of articles that apply a variety of critical approaches, including interdisciplinary approaches, to an examination of the prose and poetry of Loren Eiseley. We are not seeking "appreciations" of Eiseley's work, but solid critical examinations.

We seek essays that:

- apply contemporary critical approaches, including but not limited to ecocriticism and ecopoetics, to a close reading of Eiseley's texts;
- examine the interdisciplinary relationship between science and artistic expression in Eiseley's writing;
- contextualize Eiseley's work within mid-20th century American culture, including but by no means limited to the relationship of his writing to the cold war, the space race, environmentalism, the 1960s counterculture, and cultural debates over evolution;
- position Eiseley within literary history, assessing influences on his work by such figures as Henry Thoreau, W. H. Auden, Robinson Jeffers, and Howard Nemerov, as well as Eiseley's own influence on later writers such as Edward Hoagland and Annie Dillard.
- assess Eiseley's international influence and significance.

We have received an expression of strong interest in this project from the University of Nebraska Press, but do not yet have a contract.

Submit abstracts of not more than 500 words and a short vita by August 1, 2008 to

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Email your submission both as a Microsoft Word attachment and within the body of your email. (If using Microsoft Word 2007, please convert from .docx to .doc format.)