Loren Eiseley Centennial
1907 – 2007

A Biographical Note
and
A Representative Checklist of Materials

Including call numbers and holdings of
The Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors
and the other Lincoln City Libraries
A Biographical Note

Loren Corey Eiseley was born on September 3, 1907, in Lincoln, Nebraska. Eiseley learned much from his parents, both of whom were descendants of pioneers. From his mother, Daisy Corey, an amateur artist, he gained an immense appreciation for the beauty of natural structures and creatures. From his father, Clyde Edwin Eiseley, once an itinerant Shakespearean actor, he acquired the sensitivity and expression of a poet. In addition, the Plains environment in which he spent his childhood stimulated his interest in anthropology with its salt flats, ponds, and the mammoth bones and fossil collections of the University of Nebraska museum.

The difficulties of the Depression led Eiseley from work in a chicken hatchery and sporadic attendance at the University of Nebraska to the life of a drifter and rail-rider, to fossil hunting and an academic career in science. After participating in the Morrill Paleontological Expedition to western Nebraska in 1931-33, Eiseley received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Nebraska in 1933. He went on to achieve master’s and doctorate degrees in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. He subsequently taught, first at the University of Kansas, then at Oberlin College. Leaving there in 1947, Eiseley returned to the University of Pennsylvania where he became chairman of the Anthropology Department, Benjamin Franklin Professor of Anthropology and the History of Science, Curator of Early Man at the University of Pennsylvania Museum, and Provost.

Eiseley was awarded thirty-six honorary degrees and was a visiting professor and lecturer at many universities of distinction across the country, including Harvard, Columbia, Stanford, and Yale. Widely acclaimed for his books of scientific philosophy and poetry, Eiseley wrote many scientific and literary essays which reached readers in both scholarly journals and popular magazines.

An anthropologist, poet, humanist and thinker, Loren Eiseley died on July 9, 1977. His wife, Mabel Langdon Eiseley, former Assistant Director of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, died on July 27, 1986; both were buried in West Laurel Hill Cemetery in Bala-Cynwyd, Pennsylvania. With Mabel’s guidance and consent, the University of Pennsylvania created the Loren Eiseley Library and Seminar Room to commemorate one of its greatest scholars. In his native Nebraska, several organizations created ways to remember Eiseley. The Nebraska Academy of Sciences established a memorial scholarship fund in his name. Those acquainted with Eiseley personally or through his work may join the “Friends of Loren Eiseley,” a group whose goal it is to further honor the man and his ideas. The Lincoln City Libraries and the Junior League of Lincoln sponsored an all-day “Celebration of Loren Eiseley” on September 2, 1982, the day before the seventy-fifth anniversary of Eiseley’s birth.

The year 2007 marks the 100th anniversary of Eiseley’s birth on September 3, 1907, as well as the 30th anniversary of his death on July 9, 1977.
**Eiseley Collections in the Heritage Room**

♦ **The Gale E. Christianson Collection of Eiseley Research Materials**

The collection offers much documentation of Eiseley's early years and career that is new and not available anywhere else. It also includes many new sources on Eiseley's later years. Christianson corresponded with Eiseley's teachers, friends, and colleagues, some of whom wrote extensive essays about their experiences with Eiseley. Christianson also interviewed many of these people on tape, and the tapes and his notes are included in the collection. Christianson obtained research materials from many university and publishing house archives. For a more extensive description see the Introduction to the collection. A finding aid is available in the Heritage Room. The recordings in this collection are currently undergoing conservation work and may not be available. Contact the Heritage Room for information about availability of these materials.

♦ **The Laszlo Kubinyi Collection of Eiseley Book Illustrations**
A collection of 22 original drawings by book illustrator Laszlo Kubinyi. Laszlo Kubinyi illustrated Eiseley's poetry collections, *The Innocent Assassins* and *Notes of an Alchemist*.

♦ **Lincoln City Libraries Eiseley Collection**
Due to long-standing interest of library staff and, after Eiseley's death, cooperation between the Libraries and “The Friends of Loren Eiseley,” an organization incorporated in 1982 to celebrate the life and works of Loren Eiseley, the Library gradually accumulated its own collection of Eiseley materials. These materials include Eiseley correspondence, letters from Eiseley's teachers and fellow students at the University describing their experiences with him, and Eiseley display materials acquired from a variety of sources, including an extensive album of photographs acquired from the University of Pennsylvania. “The Friends of Loren Eiseley” have donated various individual items to the Heritage Room. These include a painting by Eiseley's mother and a dollhouse, the subject of one of Eiseley's poems, from his office at the University of Pennsylvania.
Nebraska Academy of Sciences Eiseley Donation
C. Bertrand Schultz and Loren Eiseley worked together as part of the Old South Party team of bone diggers sponsored by the Nebraska State Museum in the 1930s. Schultz eventually became Director of the Museum and Eiseley joined the faculties of Kansas and Oberlin, finally settling at the University of Pennsylvania for the majority of his career. Schultz and Eiseley kept a professional and personal correspondence that spanned from their bone hunting days at Nebraska until Eiseley’s death in 1977. The highlights of this donation include letters between Mabel and Loren Eiseley and Schultz, photographs of Eiseley’s induction to the Nebraska Hall of Fame, reproductions of some of Eiseley’s writings, clippings about Eiseley, and files on two memorial services that were held at Eiseley’s death. Staff at the Nebraska Academy of Sciences assembled this donation and gave it to “The Friends of Loren Eiseley” which deposited it with the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors. The collection includes the C. Bertrand Schultz-Loren Eiseley Correspondence: 1943-1978; other correspondence regarding Eiseley, photographs, newspaper clippings, and materials from memorial convocations held after Eiseley's death in Pennsylvania and Nebraska.

Eiseley Association Books
“The Friends of Loren Eiseley” and the family of C. Bertrand Schultz have donated a number of Eiseley association books to the library. These are now held in the Heritage Room. The collection includes books Eiseley owned as a child, as well as copies of his own books signed and dedicated for friends.
A Selection of Books by Loren Eiseley

All the Night Wings. Times Books, 1979. (BMPL, Anderson, Bethany, Gere, South, Walt, HR) 811 Eis

All the Strange Hours: The Excavation of a Life. Scribner, 1975. (BMPL, Anderson, Eiseley, Gere, Walt, HR) B Ei7

All the Strange Hours: The Excavation of a Life. Jeffrey Norton, 1975. (HR only) Heritage Audio B Ei7

All the Strange Hours: The Excavation of a Life. Scribner, 1975. (HR only) Heritage B Ei7 1975 Proof


All the Strange Hours: The Excavation of a Life. University of Nebraska Press, 2000. (HR only) Heritage B Ei7 2000

Another Kind of Autumn. Scribner, 1977. (BMPL, Anderson, Gere, South, HR) 811 Eis

Another Kind of Autumn. Scribner, 1977. (HR only) Heritage 811 Eis Proof

The Brown Wasps. Perishable Press, 1969. Essays taken from The Night Country (HR only) Heritage 500.9 Eis

Darwin and the Mysterious Mr. X: New Light on the Evolutionists. Dutton, 1979. (BMPL, HR) 575.01 Eis


Darwin and the Mysterious Mr. X: New Light on the Evolutionists. Dutton, 1979. (HR only) Heritage 575.01 Eis Proof

Darwin and the Mysterious Mr. X: New Light on the Evolutionists. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich/Harvest, 1981. (HR only) Heritage 575.01 Eis


The Firmament of Time. Atheneum, 1960. (BMPL, Anderson, Gere, HR) 575 Eis

The Firmament of Time. Atheneum, 1966. (HR only) Heritage 575 Eis 1966

The Firmament of Time. University of Nebraska Press, 1999. (BMPL, Eiseley, Walt, HR) 576.8 Eis

Francis Bacon and the Modern Dilemma. University of Nebraska Press, 1962. (BMPL, HR) B B135e


How Flowers Changed the World. Sierra Club, 1996. Originally published in The Immense Journey. (BMPL, Anderson, Gere, South, HR) 582.13 Eis

The Immense Journey. Random House, 1957. BMPL, Anderson, Bethany, Gere, HR) 575 Ei8i

The Immense Journey. Watts, 1957. Large Type (HR only) Heritage LT 575 Eis

The Immense Journey. Time, 1962. (HR only) Heritage 575 Eis 1962

The Immense Journey. Vintage, 1959. (BMPL, Gere, Walt, HR) 575 Eis 1959

The Innocent Assassins. Scribner, 1973. (BMPL, Anderson, Bethany, Gere, South, HR) 811 Eis

The Innocent Assassins. Scribner, n.d. (HR only) Heritage 811 Eis Proof

The Invisible Pyramid. Scribner, 1970. (BMPL, Anderson, Gere, South, HR) 304.2 Eis


The Lost Notebooks of Loren Eiseley. Little, Brown, 1987. (BMPL, Anderson, Eiseley, Gere, South, Walt, HR) B Ei7h

Man, Time, and Prophecy. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1966. (BMPL, HR) 128 Eis


The Mind as Nature. Harper & Row, 1962. (BMPL, Eiseley, HR) 128.2 Eis

The Night Country. Scribner, 1971. (BMPL, Anderson, Gere, HR) 500.9 Eis

The Night Country. Scribner/Macmillan, 1987. (BMPL, Gere, South, HR) 500.9 Eis 1987


Eiseley’s books, including *Darwin’s Century: Evolution and the Men Who Discovered It*, *The Firmament of Time*, *The Immense Journey*, and *The Unexpected Universe*, were translated into many languages, including Arabic, Bengali, Dutch, Greek, Hindi, Korean, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Urdu to name but a few. The Heritage Room owns examples of his work in fifteen languages. Essays by Eiseley have also been published in Russian language journals.

**Biographies**


Christianson, Gale. *Fox at the Wood’s Edge: A Biography of Loren Eiseley*. University of Nebraska Press, 2000, 1990. (HR only) **Heritage B Ei7c**


Videos


*A Celebration of Loren Eiseley, September 2, 1982.* (HR only) **Heritage Video B Ei7s**

*How Grasses and Sunflowers Changed the World.* James Estes. 1996. (HR only) **Heritage Video 577.85 Est**

*Loren Eiseley: The Man and His Writings.* Naomi Brill and John Janovy. 1988. (HR only). **Heritage Video B Ei7b**

*Loren Eiseley: Nebraska Author, Naturalist, Fossil Hunter.* Darrell Berg and Bing Chen. 1992. (HR only) **Heritage Video B Ei7**

*Loren Eiseley’s Lincoln.* Gale Christianson. 1995. (HR only). **Heritage Video B Ei7c**


*Loren Eiseley’s Religious Pilgrimage.* Harvey Potthoff. 1990. (BMPL, HR) **Video B Ei7p**


*Sixth Annual Celebration of the Life and Works of Loren Eiseley.* By a panel of Eiseley scholars. 1987. (BMPL, HR). **Video B Ei7s**

*Sixth Annual Celebration of the Life and Works of Loren Eiseley.* Drama Quartet of Eiseley Readers. 1987. (BMPL, HR). **Video B Ei7s**

*Sixth Annual Celebration of the Life and Works of Loren Eiseley.* Old South party members reminisce. 1987. (BMPL, HR). **Video B Ei7s**

*The Works of Loren Eiseley.* Read by Phil Heckman. 1985. (HR only) **Heritage Video B Ei7p**
Other works about Loren Eiseley and works including his prose or poetry

*Adventures of the Mind.* Knopf, 1959. (BMPL, HR) 909.82 Sat

*The American Landscape: A Critical Anthology of Prose and Poetry.* Oxford University Press, 1974. (HR only) Heritage 810.8 Con

*An Appraisal of Anthropology Today.* University of Chicago Press, 1953. (HR only) Heritage 301 Int


*Best College Verse, 1931.* Harper, 1931. (HR only) Heritage 811.08 B46

*The Best Poems of 1942.* Harcourt, Brace, 1943. (HR only) Heritage 811.08 Mou

*Cap and Gown: Some College Verse.* L. C. Page, 1931. (HR only) Heritage 811.08 Pag

*Current Anthropology.* University of Chicago Press, 1956. (HR only) Heritage 301 Cur


*The Forest and the Sea.* Time, 1964. (HR only) Heritage 574.5 Bat 1964


*The Illustrated World of Thoreau.* Grosset & Dunlap, 1974. (HR only) Heritage 818 qTho

*Mid Country: Writings from the Heart of America.* University of Nebraska Press, 1945. (BMPL, HR) 810.8 W71m

*New Interpretations of Aboriginal American Culture History.* Cooper Square, 1972. (HR only) Heritage 970.1 Ant

*The Norton Book of Nature Writing.* Norton, 1990. (BMPL, Gere, HR) 508 Fin

*Not Man Apart: Lines from Robinson Jeffers.* Sierra Club, 1965. (BMPL, HR) 917.947 fB81n

*On a Piece of Chalk.* Scribner, 1967. (HR only) Heritage 575 qH98o


*The Place No One Knew: Glen Canyon on the Colorado.* Sierra Club, 1963. (HR only) Heritage SOS 917.913 Por

*The Platte River.* National Audubon Society, 1989. (BMPL, Anderson, Gere, HR) 917.82 qPla

Prairie Schooner Caravan: An Anthology. University of Nebraska Press, 1943. (BMPL, HR) 810.8 P88p

Prose & Poetry of the American West. University of Nebraska Press, 1990. (HR only) Heritage 810.8 Pro


Songs of Experience: An Anthology of Literature on Growing Old. Ballantine, 1991. (BMPL) 810.8 Fow

Visions of Wilderness: A Photographic Essay. Portland, OR: Graphic Arts Center, 1980. (HR only) Heritage 779.3 qJon

A Voyage to Arcturus by David Lindsay. Introduction by Loren Eiseley. Macmillan, 1963. (HR only) Heritage Lindsay (SF)

Location Key
Anderson - Victor E. Anderson Branch Library, 3635 Touzalin Avenue
Bethany - Bethany Branch Library, 1810 No. Cotner Blvd.
BMPL - Bennett Martin Public Library, 136 So. 14th Street
Eiseley - Loren Corey Eiseley Branch Library, 1530 Superior Street
Gere - Charles H. Gere Branch Library, 2400 So. 56th Street
HR - Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors, 136 So. 14th Street
South - South Branch Library, 2675 South Street
Walt - Bess Dodson Walt Branch Library, 6701 So. 14th Street
A Note about the
Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors

The Heritage Room assembles in one central location a representative collection of books written by Nebraskans, past and present, and vividly illustrates the wide literary range of Nebraska’s authors. Many of the volumes are first editions, rare, variant and foreign language editions and autographed copies. Over 3,000 writers are included in the collection of about 13,000 volumes. The collection also contains clippings, reviews, and biographical resource materials on Nebraska authors, Nebraska and Lincoln histories, manuscripts, correspondence, original art, maps, films, tapes, DVDs, and photographs. The materials may be used within the room only.

Although these resources are of special interest to scholars studying Nebraska and Great Plains subjects, people from all walks of life find new pride and pleasure in Nebraska’s heritage when they visit the room. You are invited to visit the Heritage Room where the door is open to the rich history and enduring literature of Nebraska.

Revised by Meredith McGowan, Curator
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www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/hr
www.foundationforlcl.org/NLHA
www.eiseley.org

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