

Loren Corey Eiseley

September 3, 1907 – July 9, 1977



Photo: Frank Ross

A Biographical Note and A Representative Checklist of Books

Including call numbers and holdings of
The Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors
and Lincoln City Libraries, Lincoln, Nebraska
2014

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," now "The Loren Eiseley Society," 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, marked 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

This collection was assembled by Gale E. Christianson in researching his biography of Eiseley, *Fox at the Wood's Edge: A Biography of Loren Eiseley*, New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1990. Christianson donated the materials to Lincoln City Libraries in 2005. The collection consists of 9.5 linear feet of files and manuscripts and, additionally, 95 cassette recordings of interviews.

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 Lazlo Kubinyi Collection of Eiseley Book Illustration

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," now "The Loren Eiseley Society," 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," now "The Loren Eiseley Society," 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 Science 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 Science assembled this donation and gave it to "The Friends of Loren Eiseley," now "The Loren Eiseley Society," 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," now "The Loren Eiseley Society," 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.



Loren Corey Eiseley Branch Library
1530 Superior Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

A Selection of Books by Loren Eiseley

All the Night Wings. Times Books, 1979. **811 Eis**

All the Strange Hours: The Excavation of a Life. **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. Scribner, 1987. **B Ei7 1987**

All the Strange Hours: The Excavation of a Life. University of Nebraska Press, 2000.
B Ei7 2000

Another Kind of Autumn. Scribner, 1977. **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.
575.01 Eis

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

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**

Darwin's Century: Evolution and the Men Who Discovered it. Anchor/Doubleday, 1958, 1961. **575.09 Eis 1961**

Darwin's Century: Evolution and the Men Who Discovered It. Doubleday, 1958. (HR only) **Heritage 575.09 Eis**

Darwin's Century: Evolution and the Men Who Discovered It. London: Victor Gollancz, 1959. (HR only) **Heritage 575.09 Eis 1959**

The Firmament of Time. Atheneum, 1960. **575 Eis**

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

The Firmament of Time. London: Gollancz, 1961. (HR only) **Heritage 575 Eis 1961**

The Firmament of Time. University of Nebraska Press, 1999. **576.8 Eis**

Francis Bacon and the Modern Dilemma. University of Nebraska Press, 1962. **B B135e**

How Flowers Changed the World: 1989 engagement book. Pomegranate Calendars, 1988. Originally published in *The Immense Journey*. (HR only) **Heritage 582 Eis**

How Flowers Changed the World. Sierra Club, 1996. Originally published in *The Immense Journey*. **582.13 Eis**

The Immense Journey. Random House, 1957. **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. **575 Eis 1959**

The Innocent Assassins. Scribner, 1973. **811 Eis**

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

The Invisible Pyramid. Scribner, 1970. **304.2 Eis**

The Invisible Pyramid. London: Rupert Hart-Davis, 1971. (HR only) **Heritage 304.2 Eis 1971**

The Invisible Pyramid. University of Nebraska Press, 1998. **304.2 Eis 1998**

The Loren Eiseley Reader. Abbatia Press, 2009. **818 EisYI**

The Lost Notebooks of Loren Eiseley. Little, Brown, 1987. **B Ei7h**

Man, Time, and Prophecy. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1966. **128 Eis**

The Man Who Saw Through Time. Scribner, 1973. Revised/enlarged edition of *Francis Bacon and the Modern Dilemma*. **B B135e 1973**

The Mind as Nature. Harper & Row, 1962. **128.2 Eis**

The Night Country. Scribner, 1971. **500.9 Eis**

The Night Country. Scribner/Macmillan, 1987. **500.9 Eis 1987**

The Night Country. Scribner, Lyceum edition, 1971. (HR only) **Heritage 500.9 Eis**

The Night Country. London: Garnstone Press, 1974. (HR only) **Heritage 500.9 Eis 1974**

The Night Country. University of Nebraska Press, 1997. **500.9 Eis 1997**

Notes of an Alchemist. Scribner, 1972. **811 Eis**

Poetry and Prose of Loren Eiseley. Jeffrey Norton, 1968. (HR only) **Heritage Audio 811 Eis**

The Star Thrower. Times Books, 1978. **818 Eis**

The Star Thrower. Times Books, 1978. (HR only) **Heritage 818 Eis Proof**

The Star Thrower. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1979. **818 Eis 1979**

The Unexpected Universe. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1969. **500 Eis**

The Unexpected Universe. Harcourt, Brace Jovanovich, 1985. **500 Eis 1985**

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

Angyal, Andrew. *Loren Eiseley*. Twayne Publishers, 1983. **B Ei7a**

Carlisle, E. Fred. *Loren Eiseley: The Development of a Writer*. University of Illinois Press, 1983. **B Ei7c**

Christianson, Gale. *Fox at the Wood's Edge: A Biography of Loren Eiseley*. Henry Holt, 1990. **B Ei7c**

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

Heidtman, Peter. *Loren Eiseley: A Modern Ishmael*. Archon Books, 1991. (HR only) **Heritage B Ei7h**

Lynch, Tom and Susan Naramore Maher. *Artifacts and Illuminations: Critical Essays on Loren Eiseley*. University of Nebraska Press, 2012. **Biography Eiseley, Loren**

Prairie Schooner. *Loren Eiseley: 1907-1977 – Commentary, Biography and Remembrance*. University of Nebraska Press, 1987. **B Ei7p**

Raz, Hilda, editor. *Loren Eiseley: Commentary, Biography, & Remembrance*. Intro. by Scott Slovic. Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2008. **Biography Eiseley, Loren C.**

Videos

Animal Secrets. National Broadcasting Company, 1968. A series of videotapes – no rebroadcasting rights. (HR only) **Heritage Video 591.5 Ani**

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 Lincoln: A Commentary on the sites and scenes of Loren Eiseley's boyhood and youth in Lincoln. Darrell Berg. 1996. (HR only) **Heritage Video B Ei7l**

Loren Eiseley's Religious Pilgrimage. Harvey Potthoff. 1990. (HR only) **Heritage Video B Ei7p**

Reflections of a Bonehunter. An NETV production. 1994. (HR only) **Heritage Video B Ei7r**

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

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

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

The Works of Loren Eiseley. Read by Phil Heckman. 1985. (HR only) **Heritage Video B Ei7p**

Other works about Eiseley and works including his prose or poetry

Adventures of the Mind. Knopf, 1959. **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**

Before Adam by Jack London. Epilogue by Loren Eiseley. Macmillan, 1962. (HR only) **Heritage London**

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**

Essays Today 6. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1968. (HR only) **Heritage 081 Moy**

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

Galapagos: The Flow of Wilderness. Sierra Club, 1970. **508.866 Gal**

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. **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. **508 Fin**

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

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

The Oxford Book of Essays. Oxford University Press, 1991. **814 Oxf**

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. **917.82 qPla**

The Poetry Anthology, 1912-1977. Houghton Mifflin, 1978. **811.08 Poe**

Prairie Schooner Caravan: An Anthology. University of Nebraska Press, 1943. **810.8 P88p**

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

Reader: a Selection of Articles, Stories, and Poems from Harper's Magazine. Bantam, 1953. (HR only) **Heritage 810.82 Har**

Roger Caras' Treasury of Classic Nature Tales. Dutton, 1992. **508 Car**

Songs of Experience: An Anthology of Literature on Growing Old. Ballantine, 1991.
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)**

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, DVD's, 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 Steve Cloyd
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Revised by Meredith McGowan, Curator
2014

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Lincoln City Libraries
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www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/hr/front.htm

www.foundationforlcl.org/nlha.htm

www.eiseley.org