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Preface

*Alaskana for Libraries: A core list of books* is the product of the Alaskana Working Group which is a part of the Alaska Library Association's Statewide Collection Development Committee. It is our first attempt to list a core collection for public libraries in Alaska. This bibliography is a committee effort, and as such is based on compromise in some cases. We have worked on this list for two years as our time allowed. We solicited help from those knowledgeable in Alaskan history and literature and public library needs. Thanks to Robert N. DeArmond, Terrence Cole, William Hunt, Jo Antonson and Alaska State Library coordinators Judy Monroe, Aja Razumny and Audrey Kolb, all of whom reviewed our drafts and made helpful suggestions. Any mistakes or omissions, however, are our own.

Production of this bibliography was endorsed by the Alaska Library Association and funded in part by Interlibrary Cooperation Grants from the Alaska State Library. In addition, each member of the working group works for a library, which gave staff time for meetings and for writing annotations and compilation of this list. We thank all of these institutions for their encouragement and support.

Please contact any members of the group (listed on the following page) if you have questions, additions, comments, or need assistance in finding Alaskan titles or sources for purchasing books. We will be looking for new titles for future editions.

-- Kay Shelton, Chair, Alaskana Working Group
March, 1993
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FAX: 907/786-6050  
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UACN: FFCEW

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Introduction

This publication is an annotated list of over 400 books on Alaska which the Alaskana Working Group recommends be considered first for any Alaskana collection in public libraries. It is meant to suggest, not dictate, titles for three levels of public libraries in Alaska, based on the level of service offered: Basic - Level 1; Intermediate - Level 2 and Advanced - Level 3. An individual library should evaluate each title according to its own collection policy and the regional interests of its users. Some of the titles in the Advanced - Level 3 category, for example, may fit into collecting goals of a smaller library. Or, in another case, a library in Southeastern Alaska may not choose to purchase all titles listed which concern Eskimo culture. The list may seem overwhelming to some libraries, but the committee erred on the side of a longer list, trusting that the length of the list will allow each library to pick and choose which books are most important and have the most priority for its particular collection and users.

Criteria:

- Titles selected are those which have proved most useful to those in the Alaskana Working Group.
- Some titles are not in print. If a book is out of print, and a similar title is in print, the in-print title was given preference.
- Regional or local interest items are listed only in special cases.

Children’s books and periodicals (except for issues noted as monographs) are not included.

Arrangement of the list: Category - Level - Entry

Category ①

The core list is arranged in broad subject categories:

Reference

Biography, Memoirs, Travel

Fiction

History

Native Culture/History

Native Language Dictionaries

Nature, Science, Technology
Within each category, the list is arranged in three levels, with the exception of Native Language Dictionaries.

**Basic - Level 1**: Libraries with a small developing collection and limited services (Consider Level 1 first.)

**Intermediate - Level 2**: Libraries with a more mature collection and services (Consider both Level 1 and 2.)

**Advanced - Level 3**: Libraries serving a collection and services for a stable, larger population (Consider the entire list.)

Basic - Level 1 choices in each subject category should be considered first by all libraries. To determine a library's level, a library will need to consider the stage of development and services of its program. For example, is the library open full-time, seasonal, or part-time? Are programs mainly for children and young adults? Does the budget allow for purchase of Alaskana, or should the monies be used for a higher collection priority? These are questions which each library must answer for itself.

The list is cumulative: Those libraries at Basic - Level 1, for example, will find titles listed under Level 1 most relevant. Titles at Levels 2 and 3, should be considered only if they are significant for the population that the Level 1 Library serves and fit that collection development policy. Libraries at Intermediate - Level 2, in turn, should evaluate all titles listed in both Levels 1 and 2 and chose what is most appropriate. Those at Advanced - Level 3 will want to consider all titles on the list.

**Entry**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>RID of Library of Congress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Short annotation concerning book contents
**Reference**

**Alaska atlas and gazetteer.**
Alaska topographic maps reproduced in small (11"x 15 1/2"), easy to use, portable format.

Alaska. Dept. of Community & Regional Affairs. **Alaska municipal officials directory.**
Juneau: Dept. of Community & Regional Affairs/Alaska Municipal League. 76-64531
An annual guide to Alaska municipal government, listing boroughs and home rule, first and second class cities and their current officials. Also noted are date of incorporation, population, city election date, sales tax and date of City Council meetings.

Alaska. Dept. of Fish and Game. **Wildlife notebook series.** publ. date varies.
Juneau : Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game. wln91-377089
Fifty-seven leaflets giving brief background information and descriptions of various Alaskan fish and wildlife species. There are illustrations and maps showing common habitat regions.

Juneau : Alaska Dept. of Education. Div. of Libraries, Archives and Museums. 73-646395
Official fact book for Alaska, including a directory for all three branches of state government, the Alaska Constitution, local and federal entities, and general information concerning the arts, education, and the economy. Indexed. Not cumulative, so keep back editions.

_________. **Some books about Alaska received in 19-**. annual.
Free. An annotated listing of Alaskan and Arctic-related materials received by the Alaska Historical Collections. Citations are in three categories: Juvenile, Adult Non-fiction (including Reference), and Adult Fiction. Beginning with the 1989 edition, titles considered appropriate for purchase by small and medium-sized public and school libraries are starred.

Alaska Geographic Society. **Alaska geographic.**
Alaska Geographic, P.O. Box 93370, Anchorage, AK 99509-3370 (ISSN0361-1353);72-092087
Quarterly since 1969. Published as a serial, each issue covers a single subject, and many individual titles are valuable additions to an Alaskana collection. Select titles pertaining to the whole state, your region, or local interests for reference. Individual issue costs vary.

Juneau : Alaska Legislative Affairs Agency. 81-1234
Lists members of the executive, judicial and legislative branches and miscellaneous offices of state government. Includes mailing addresses and phone numbers. A good way to keep up with changing personnel at the upper levels of state government. (Keep most recent)

Juneau : Alaska Division of State Libraries, Archives and Museums/ Alaska Library Association. 77-810
All libraries and key personnel are listed with addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers and UACN identification. Indispensable for contacting other libraries. (Keep most recent)
ALASKANA for LIBRARIES: a core list of books

Alaska wilderness milepost. annual.
Bellevue, WA: Vernon Publications, Inc. 86-650008
*Describes access and visitor services for more than 250 remote villages and 200 public-use cabins. Profiles the parks and wildlife refuges of Alaska, gives tips on fishing locations and selecting outfitters or guides (Keep most recent)*

Facts about Alaska. annual.
Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Books sn90-5652
*Miscellaneous information about Alaska, arranged in dictionary format with brief entries. Serious statistics as well as fun trivia about Alaska. An incomplete listing of Alaska newspapers and magazines is included. (Keep most recent)*

Kolb, Audrey. A Manual for small libraries in Alaska. 2nd ed. win92-393395
*Distributed free to public libraries in Alaska by the Alaska State Library. Indispensable resource for managing and operating a small public library in Alaska.*

Milepost. annual.
Bellevue, WA: Vernon Publications, Inc.
ISSN 03611361; ISBN 1878425250; 51-22092
*Reference guide for travelers. Detailed information, mile-by-mile, about Alaska and northwestern Canada’s highways. Brief descriptions of places accessible by road, with Alaska ferry and railroad schedules and other travelers' information.*

Orth, Donald J. Dictionary of Alaska place names.
microfiche: Reston, Va.: National Cartographic Information Center, 1982. wln84-12637
*Indispensable guide to names of places and natural features in Alaska, with geographic descriptions and historical references.*

Schorr, Alan Edward. Alaska place names.
*Published as a cumulative supplement to Orth’s Dictionary of Alaska Place Names; this edition includes all new and revised place names for Alaska since 1966.*

Telephone books
*Purchase as needed: for most of Alaska and the Lower 48 purchase from the Pacific Telecom offices (1 +800-478-7121). For the Fairbanks directory, contact the Fairbanks Municipal Utilities System. A Seattle phone book, with both white and yellow pages, is an essential purchase.*

Juneau: Alaska Department of Commerce
*Fold out maps and a range of practical information on over 60 Alaskan towns and villages, including land use, environmental considerations and a calendar of subsistence activities. Series is not expected to be updated, and some profiles are out of print, but much of the information is still useful.*
REFERENCE

Alaska. Dept. of Education. **Alaska education directory. annual**
Juneau: Alaska Dept. of Education 82-643736
Arranged alphabetically by school district, then by name of the school; lists personnel, including classroom teachers and grade level or subject. Indexed by school name with appendices for private schools, postsecondary schools and other education resources.

Alaska. Dept. of Labor. Research and Analysis Section. **Population overview. annual**
Juneau: Alaska Dept. of Labor. Research and Analysis Section, 1979- 88-659938
Population statistics for all towns and villages in Alaska, with latest census estimates and trends.

Alaska. Division of State Libraries, Archives and Museums. **Interlibrary loan, the key to resource sharing: a manual of procedures and protocols.**
Free to members of the Alaska Library Network. (All libraries in Alaska are Network members ). Essential guide to interlibrary loan procedures for libraries in Alaska.

Alaska Legislative Council. **Alaska statutes.**
Juneau: Alaska Legislative Council (Charlottesville, VA: Michie Co.), 1962 - 63-1415
All laws of the state of Alaska. A set should be available in either the library or in the municipal offices of each community. Updated annually, at additional cost.

Portland, OR : Binford & Mort/Alaska Historical Commission, 1977. ISBN 0832302872; 77-76025
Short biographical outlines of governors, secretaries, judges, delegates, U. S. marshals, legislators and other governmental officials, as well as personalities who made substantial imprints on Alaskan politics.

**Census Alaska: number of inhabitants, 1792-1970.**
microfiche: Anchorage, Environment and Natural Resources Institute, 1978.wln88-150558
Reprints of basic enumerations of population available on Alaska by federal government from 1880 to 1970; also includes some materials reported by the U. S. Census on Russian reports of population before 1880.

Pierce, Richard A. **Russian America: a biographical dictionary.**
Selected biographies of those who most influenced Alaska during this period: Native Americans, British, Spanish, French, American and others, in addition to Russians.

**Subject guide to Alaska magazine.**
1973 - 77 (pub. 1980) wln84-100333
Index to longest continuously published magazine devoted to Alaska. Two volumes, one covering 1935 - 1972; one covering 1973 - 1977.
ALASKANA for LIBRARIES: a core list of books

A dictionary of words that are unique to or highly characteristic of the English used in Alaska. It is arranged around broad semantic categories such as "Food", "Transportation" and "Climate", with alphabetical access through an index. Each word is explained, then citations demonstrate examples of usage, both historical and current.

REFERENCE Advanced - Level 3

Access Alaska. Alaska resource manual. biennial
Anchorage: The Resource Line, c1988- w1n92-79403
Lists basic social services available by region in state; indicates service, contact address and telephone number, and outline of services provided. Includes organizations providing assistance for basic needs, physical and mental health, education, safety, environmental quality and consumerism, human services planning and community development, senior citizens, family and youth, disabled, minorities, gender specific and veterans/military.

Alaska business directory.
American Directory Pub. Co., 1990- ISSN 1048-7069; 91-657808
Lists 27,000 Alaskan business names and addresses, in order by subject. Very useful for compiling mailing lists.

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education. Directory of postsecondary educational resources in Alaska.
Juneau: Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, 1989. 90-657460
Lists postsecondary institutions authorized to operate in Alaska.

Alaska. Dept. of Fish and Game. Alaska's wildlife and habitat.
Juneau: Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game 1973-78. 73-622043
Locates Alaska's wildlife resources on maps; identifies habitats and characteristics of species. Two oversized volumes.

Juneau: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Juneau Area Office, Branch of Tribal Government Services Free; tel no.: 907-586-7007. Compiled by the Juneau Area Office twice yearly, this directory lists tribes, elected leaders and corporations.

Anchorage Times obituaries: three volumes cover 1915-1990. All are arranged by last name and location in newspaper. A valuable source for genealogy.

volume one for 1915 - 1965 wln80-71619
volume two for 1966 - 1980 w1n81-74162

Anchorage Times obituaries index 1981-1990. edited by Barbara Samuels ...[et al.]


Selkregg, Lidia L. **Alaska regional profiles.** Anchorage: University of Alaska, Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center, 1974. 76-367991 v.1: Southcentral region v.2: Arctic region v.3: Southwest region v.4: Southeast region v.5: Northwest region v.6: Yukon region The natural and man-made environments of Alaska. Includes maps, statistics and photographs of each region, plus an extensive bibliography. (AT minimum, the library should have the profile from its own region.)
ALASKANA for LIBRARIES: a core list of books

Subtitle states: "containing the titles of all histories, travels, voyages, newspapers, periodicals, public documents, etc., printed in English, Russian, German, French, Spanish, etc., relating to, descriptive of, or published in Russian America or Alaska ...." Wickersham did miss some items, but lists 10, 380 items which he identified and gave a unique "Wickersham number". Arranged in broad subjects with a general index.
Editors' note: The Alaskana Working Group found choosing titles for this section difficult. A library's selections will vary according to writing styles and regional, subject and historical interest of the reader. The librarian in each community will know what the community prefers. Titles listed are representative of the various genre. Extra care in selection is advised.

The library collection should contain appropriate regional biographies such as: Yukon-Koyukuk School District's (Box 309, Nenana, AK 99760) biography series; for example:


The University of Alaska Press serves as distributor for some titles in this series.

Leo, Richard. Edges of the earth: a man, a woman, a child in the Alaskan wilderness.

Biography of a man who leaves the city to establish a homestead near Denali Park: a wilderness adventure of the 1980's.

McPhee, John A. Coming into the country.

A raft trip on the Kobuk, the plan to move the capitol, the folks who settle the wilderness along the Yukon: stories by a well-known New Yorker writer.


Biography of artist, Tundra Times founder, editor and native rights spokesman, by a close associate and colleague.

Many reprint editions available; for example:
Travels in Alaska. Forward by Haines, John
Travels in Alaska.
Travels in Alaska.

A classic by naturalist who visited Alaska several times between 1880 and 1900.
Contemporary "dual autobiography" of twins who live and trap in the Lake Minchumina region of interior Alaska.

Columns by noted newspaper editor during Klondike gold rush in Dawson and afterwards in Juneau. Later he was an Alaska territorial legislator.

Adventures of a famous dogsled racer, the son of a white father and an Athapascan mother.

Recollections of life in Alaska with her naturalist husband during the 1950's.

Teacher's memoir of year in Atka following World War II, as natives rebuilt their lives after three years of exile. Two appendices include personal accounts of Mike Lukanin and Alex Prossoff

Life in and around Fairbanks from 1908 to 1946.

Pioneer school teacher comes to teach and finds a life's work at Chicken, Alaska, in the 1920's and 1930's.

The Short family learns to cope with life in remote areas of Southeast Alaska in the period immediately after World War II.

Stuck, Hudson. Ten thousand miles with a dog sled; a narrative of winter travel in interior Alaska.
(reprint: Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Pr., 1988. ISBN 0803241925)
Ten years on the Yukon River in the early twentieth century, by a well-known Episcopalian missionary.
Wickersham, James. **Old Yukon: tales - trails - and trials.**
*A judge, appointed in 1900, holds court in Alaska during the gold rush.*

---

Aspen, Jean. **Arctic daughter: a wilderness journey.**
*The author and a companion paddle up an unnamed river in Alaska's Brooks Range to build a cabin and stay for four years.*

---

Atwood, Evangeline. **Frontier politics: Alaska's James Wickersham.**
*Biography of Alaska's pioneer judge and long-time territorial delegate to Congress whose efforts directed much of Alaska's development in the first half of the 20th century.*

---

Blackman, Margaret B. **Sadie Brower Neakok, an Inupiaq woman.**
*Biography of an Inupiaq woman in Barrow who, as magistrate, won the right for Native languages to be used in court. Her story is that of the Americanization of a Native village.*

---

Brower, Charles D. **Fifty years below zero: a lifetime of adventure in the far north.**
New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1942. 42-022432
*Life, humor and philosophy of a pioneer Alaskan who settled in Barrow just after 1900.*

---

Dufresne, Frank **No room for bears: a wilderness writer's experiences with a threatened breed.**
*The author, the former director of the Territorial Game Commission, relates his experiences, some of them humorous, with bears in Alaska.*

---

Gallagher, Hugh Gregory. **Etok; a story of Eskimo power.**
*A highly personal history of contemporary native political happenings which culminated in the Native Claims Settlement Act.*

---

Green, Paul; illustrated by George Aden Ahgupuk. **I am Eskimo, Aknik my name.**
*Eskimo daily living in NW Alaska as told by one Alaskan Native and illustrated by another.*

---

Gruening, Ernest. **Many battles; the autobiography of Ernest Gruening.**
*Alaska's territorial governor and first U.S. junior senator tells his story.*

---

Heller, Herbert L. **Sourdough sagas; the journals, memories, tales and recollections of the earliest Alaskan gold miners.**
*More tales of rough and rugged men at the turn of the century in Alaska.*
ALASKANA for LIBRARIES: a core list of books

Hildebrand, John. Reading the river; a voyage down the Yukon.
Narrative of a three-month journey by canoe down the Yukon; filled with colorful people and scenery.

Lomen, Carl J. Fifty years in Alaska.
New York: D. McKay Co., 1954. 54-13313
The Lomen Brothers' reindeer business in Northwest Alaska, with emphasis on the great reindeer drive from Kobuk to the Mackenzie River delta between 1930 and 1935.

Machetanz, Fred. The Alaskan paintings of Fred Machetanz.
Short biography and lots of color illustrations of paintings.

Machetanz, Sara. Where else but Alaska? (illustrations and photos by Fred Machetanz)
New York: Scribner, 1954. 54-8787
Autobiography, describing her marriage in Unalakleet and life in Alaska with Fred, to 1954.

Marshall, Robert. Arctic village.
1930's description of life in Wiseman, a village on the Koyukuk river.

Martin, Martha. O rugged land of gold.
Life at a gold claim on Chichigof Island in Southeast Alaska between 1928 and 1954.

McGinniss, Joe. Going to extremes.
1975 traveler to Alaska gives his views of the places and lives of the people he meets.

Nelson, Richard K. The island within.
San Francisco: North Point Press, 1989. 89-016196
In exploring the natural world around him, an anthropologist realizes that "there are many paths to a meaningful sense of the natural world".

Oliver, Simeon. Son of the smoky sea.
New York: J. Messner, Inc., 0941. 41-15390
A half-Eskimo boy grows up at the Methodist Mission (Jesse Lee Home) at Unalaska, and recounts his travels up and down the Aleutian chain.

Pearson, Grant. My life of high adventure.
Denali National Park, 1926-1959, by one of its superintendents.

Potter, Jean. The flying north.
One chapter each on the well-known early bush pilots.
Wayburn, Peggy. **Adventuring in Alaska.**
*Guidebook to Alaska, including travel, lodging, descriptions, special events, some history.*

Woodward, Kesler E. **Sydney Laurence, painter of the North.**
Seattle: U. of Washington Pr./Anchorage Mus. of History and Art, c1990.ISBN 0295969539; 89-70471
*Exhibition catalog with many color plates of noted Alaskan painter active through the 1930’s.*
Editor’s note: Well-written fiction depicting Alaska is very hard to find. Some of the following have great historical interest, but are not of the highest literary quality.

**FICTION**

**Basic - Level 1**

(or any other anthology including *White Fang* and *To Build a Fire*)  
Novels and short stories about adventure and survival in the Alaskan and Yukon outdoors.

**Intermediate - Level 2**

Beach, Rex E. *(one representative title recommended: choose by region.)*  
*The Spoilers.*  
(reprint; Manchester, NH : Irvington, 1971. 0839801572; 71-96874)  
Novel set in the mining camps around Nome during the gold rush.

*The Iron Trail.*  
Sausalito, CA: Comstock Editions, 1913.  
Triumph, corruption, and romance during the building of the Copper River Railroad.

*The Silver Horde.*  
Novel about salmon breeding and fishing in the Bristol Bay area.

Bodett, Tom. *As far as you can go without a passport; the view from the end of the road.*  
Observations by Homer resident and down-home philosopher of *End of the Road* radio program.
ALASKANA for LIBRARIES: a core list of books

Service, Robert W. Spell of the Yukon.
c1913 (one copy of any edition)
(reprint: Mattituck, NY : Amereon, Ltd. ISBN 089190929X)
Poems by the Canadian "Bard of the North", written during the Klondike gold rush, many in his
cabin in Daswon, Yukon Territory.

Doig, Ivan. The sea runners.
Novel about the escape of four indentured Scandinavians from Russian America in 1858
and their canoe journey to Oregon.

Ferber, Edna. Ice palace.
Novel about a young girl raised by two grandfathers of strongly
opposing views in the mythical city of Baranof, Alaska.

Guttenberg, Elyse and Jean Anderson, eds. Inroads: an anthology celebrating Alaska's
twenty-seven fellowship writers.
ISBN 0910615012; 88-71207
Stories, poems and essays by the twenty-seven fellowship writers.

Haines, John Meade. The stars, the snow, and the fire: twenty-five years in the Alaska
wilderness.
Noted Alaskan poet remembers homesteading in the northern
wilderness; a collection of essays.

ISBN 0918273846; 90-27025
Short stories by an author who writes and fishes in Homer, Alaska.

McCloskey, William B. Highliners.
In Alaska's fishing industry the highliners, or skippers and crews, challenge the elements;
includes information on various kinds of fishing.

Michener, James A. Alaska.
Historical novel by a master of the genre.
FICTION

Willoughby, Barrett
(one representative title recommended; choose by region.)

**Spawn of the north.**
*Novel based on the salmon industry in Ketchikan.*

**The trail eater, a romance of the All-Alaska sweepstakes.**
*Romance centered on the Nome dogsled race.*

**Fur trail omnibus: containing two complete novels.**
New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1925. win79-37126
*Includes Where the sun swings north (novel of adventure on a "lost" Alaskan island) and Rocking moon (a romance set on a Kodiak Island fox farm).*
HISTORY

Basic - Level 1

   High school level textbook on Alaska history; a good place to start.

   College-level textbook.

Intermediate - Level 2

   (originally published as Klondike fever: the life and death of the last great gold rush)
   The best history of the gold rush, covering Alaska and the Yukon.

   A popular history of Alaska when it was still owned by Russia.

   Very readable history of the battles on the Aleutians during the war, plus information on lend-lease and the Alaska highway.

   A classic two-volume account of Vitus Bering's voyage of discovery.

   Political history of Alaska, concentrating on the efforts to become a state. Written by a former governor and U. S. senator.

ALASKANA for LIBRARIES: a core list of books

Levi, Steve C., and Jim O'Meara. **Bush flying.**
*Practical guide to basics of flying small aircraft in wilderness areas.*

Morgan, Murray Cromwell. **One man's gold rush: a Klondike album.**
*Collection of pioneer photographer EA.. Hegg's images of the Klondike and Nome gold rushes.*

Sherwood, Morgan B. **Exploration of Alaska, 1865-1900.**
*History of exploration in the 1800s, concentrating on the many expeditions sent by the U. S. government.*

Smith, Barbara Sweetland, and Redmond J. Barnett, eds. **Russian-America: the forgotten frontier.**
*Essays relating to exhibit on Russian-America, showing trading influences which led to exploration and finally the decline of Russian interest in Alaska.*

---

**HISTORY** Advanced - Level 3

Andrews, Clarence Leroy. **The story of Sitka.**
Seattle: Lowman and Henford, 1922.
*Short chapters about the history of Alaska's first capital city.*

Bancroft, Hubert Howe. **The history of Alaska, 1730-1885.**
San Francisco: A. L. Bancroft & Co., 1886. 02-12654
*(Published as one volume in Bancroft's History of the Pacific States of North America.)*
*At one time the only history of Alaska; very detailed for the period it covers.*

Bockstoce, John R. **Whales, ice and men: the history of whaling in the Western Arctic.**
*A well-illustrated account of AlaskalArctic whaling and of maritime history.*

Bowkett, Gerald E. **Reaching for a star: the final campaign for Alaska statehood.**
*Political history of the drive towards statehood in 1959.*

Cloe, John Haile. **Aleutian warriors: a history of the 11th Air Force & Fleet Air Wing 4.**
*The story of World War II air warfare in the Aleutian Islands (Well-illustrated, many photos).*
HISTORY


The story of one of the worst shipwrecks in Alaska's history; over 300 people died in this 1918 disaster near Juneau.


History of construction of the Alaska Highway during World War II.


(Originally published in 1984 as *E. T. Barnette: the strange story of the man who founded Fairbanks.*

Fairbanks history told through the life of its founder, a businessman, mayor and outlaw.


(vol. 11, no. 1 of the *Alaska Geographic*)

Photographic history of the gold rush.


Early description of Sitka as it changed under American rule; includes a census of its inhabitants


Excerpts from books by explorers who travelled through Southeast, all before 1850.


Traces subject from concise summary of health aspects of traditional Alaskan cultures through introduction of European and American diseases and the growth of health services in the 19th century; concludes with a survey of current health problems in Alaska.


Detailed history of the changes which happened when Europeans and Americans discovered furs on the coasts of Alaska and Canada.


Narrative of one of the last great expeditions of the 19th century; members of the expedition included John Muir, Edward S. Curtis and John Burroughs.
Janson, Lone E. **The copper spike.**
*The building of Copper River and Northwestern Railroad through the Wrangell Mountains.*
: **true tales of the 1897-98 Gold Rush.**
   *First hand accounts and historical photographs of women on the trails to the Klondike gold fields demonstrate the author's belief that "there were no typical Klondike women".*

Miller, Orlando W. **The frontier in Alaska and the Matanuska colony.**
   *Accounts of the Depression-era experiment which sent over 100 families to homestead in the Matanuska Valley.*

Minter, Roy. **The White Pass: gateway to the Klondike.**
   *Describes the building of the railroad, finished in 1900, which connected Skagway to the Yukon and the gold fields.*

Neering, Rosemary. **Continental dash: the Russian-American telegraph.**
   *History of the Western Union Telegraph Expedition of 1865-1867, which attempted to lay lines through Alaska and Siberia.*

Webb, Melody. **The last frontier: a history of the Yukon basin of Canada and Alaska.**
   *Detailed look at settlement in Alaska and Yukon Territory with extensive information on gold rushes and steam boats.*

Wilson, William H. **Railroad in the clouds; the Alaska Railroad in the age of steam, 1914-1945.**
   *The building and early operation of Alaska's government-owned railroad. Also describes the founding of Anchorage and contains many railroad photographs.*

Arnold, Robert D. *Alaska native land claims.*

*Historical account of ANSCA and its impact on Alaska Natives. Provides basic background for any study of subject.*

Berger, Thomas R. *Village journey; the report of the Alaska Native Review Commission.*

*A personal review of Alaska Native land claims, and specifically, Native views of the successes and failures of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act some 13 years after the Act became effective.*


*An excellent overview of Alaska’s indigenous peoples, their culture, ceremonies, hunting methods, social organizations and demographics. Some maps and photographs.*

Morgan, Lael, ed. *Alaska’s native peoples.*
Anchorage: Alaska Geographic Society, c1979. (vol. 6, no. 3 of the *Alaska Geographic*)

*Authoritative review of Native groups, including historical background, current status and lifeways as of 1979. Individually-authored chapters by specialists with many color photos.*

Ray, Dorothy Jean. *The Eskimos of Bering Strait, 1650-1898.*


*The standard historical account of Euro-Americans and Eskimo interaction for the area and period presented by a recognized authority.*

Case, David S. *Alaska natives and American laws.*

*"Collection of references to and discussion of major source material which bears on legal and political history of the Alaska Natives under rule of federal and state laws. " Now somewhat dated, but still valuable as a reference source. Revision of author’s 1978 work, Special Relationship of Alaska Natives to the Federal Government.*


*Sweeping overview of relationships and interaction between Native peoples of Alaska and Russian Siberia. This exhibition catalog has separately authored articles about each ethnic group, covering archaeology, ethnology, history, etc., by recognized Russian, American and Canadian specialists. Articles are directed to the interested general public.*
**ALASKANA for LIBRARIES: a core list of books**


*Totem poles of Southeast Alaska and their place in the Native cultures.*

Laughlin, William S. *Aleuts: survivors of the Bering Land Bridge.*

*Overview of Aleut history and culture for the general reader by a specialist. Strong on archaeology and prehistory, but rather weak on Aleut social life and customs.*

Washington, DC : Govt. Print Off., 1900. wln74-010101


*Detailed 19th century report on Yupik Eskimo culture before it was extensively impacted by Euro-American contact. Much detailed description of artifacts and customs. Reprint edition has a new and useful 50 page modern introduction.*

Oswalt, Wendell H. *Alaskan Eskimos.*

*Focuses on the similarities and differences in the lifestyles of Alaskan Native Eskimos.*

Ray, Dorothy Jean. *Artists of the tundra and the sea.*


*History of the development of modern Eskimo ivory trade art in the Bering Strait region by the recognized authority.*


v.5: *Arctic* (David Damas, ed.)

v.6: *Subarctic* (June Helm, ed.)

v.7: *Northwest coast* (Wayne Suttles, ed.)

Washington, DC : Smithsonian Institution, 1978-1990. 77-17162

*Part of a twenty volume set providing an encyclopedic summary of the prehistory, history, language and culture of the native peoples of North America. The volumes listed are a good resource for information on native peoples of Alaska. Very extensive bibliographies in each volume.*

VanStone, James W. *Athapaskan adaptations: hunters and fishermen of the subarctic forests.*

*(reprint: Arlington Heights, IL: Harlan Davidson, c1974. win89-353268)*

*Standard introduction to Northern Athapaskans of Canada and Alaska by a well-known anthropologist. Includes historical review, history of European contact and the modern world.*
NATIVE CULTURES

NATIVE CULTURES Advanced-Level 3

Barbeau, Marius. Haida carvers in argillite.

Bigjim, Frederick Seagayuk, and James Ito-Adler. Letters to Howard: an interpretation of the Alaska native land claims.

Black, Lydia. Aleut art; unangam aquqaadangin, unangan of the Aleutian Archipelago.

Cole, Douglas. Captured heritage; the scramble for Northwest Coast artifacts.
Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1985. 84-40674 Relates the early history of the purchasing and collection of Native artifacts from the Northwest Coast Indians for museums and private collectors, the motivation, the ethnocentricity, etc.


De Laguna, Frederica. The archaeology of Cook Inlet, Alaska.
ALASKANA for LIBRARIES: a core list of books

Drucker, Philip. **Indians of the Northwest coast.**
Somewhat dated overview for the general reader. Covers the area from Oregon to Southeast Alaska. Strong on Native culture at time of historic contact, but weak on 20th century developments and lacking anything after 1950.

Duncan, Kate C. **Northern Athapaskan art; a beadwork tradition.**
Beadwork and costume ornamentation of sub-arctic Athapaskans; lavishly illustrated.

Emmons, George Thornton. **The Tlingit Indians.**
Edited with additions by Frederica De Laguna and a biography by Jean Low.
Major contribution to the ethnography of the Northwest Coast by Emmons, who spent the 1880's and 1890's with the Navy in Alaska; additions are made by De Laguna, a noted anthropologist, who studied the Tlingit culture.

Giddings, J. Louis. **Ancient men of the Arctic.**
Autobiographical account of his archeological activities in Alaska from circa 1940 to 1964. Written for the layman.

Gunther, Erna. **Art in the life of the Northwest Coast Indians.**
Exhibition catalog containing extensive ethnographic, historical and artistic information about individual specimens and categories of material.

Johnson, John F. C., comp. **Chugach legends: stories and photographs of the Chugach region.**
Social life, customs and history of the Chugach region. An earlier, out-of-print study, entitled *The Chugach Eskimo,* by Birket-Smith is more academic, but covers similar ground.

Jonaitis, Aldona. **Art of the northern Tlingit.**
Study of secular and shamanic Tlingit art, with an interpretation of the animal and other designs; includes information on Klukwan social life and customs.

Krause, Aurel. **The Tlingit Indians: results of a trip to the Northwest coast of America and the Bering Straits.**
Translation of one of the earliest scientific studies of Tlingit culture which still retains much validity. Original German edition published in 1885.
NATIVE CULTURE

Morgan, Lael. *And the land provides: Alaskan natives in a year of transition.*
Alaskan natives in a year of transition, with the settlement of the Native Land Claims.

Nelson, Richard K. *Hunters of the northern forest: designs for survival among the Alaskan Kutchin.*
Study of the place of boreal forest hunting among Northern Athapaskans. Based on work at Chalkyitsik, Alaska.

__________.*Hunters of the northern ice.*
Ice hunting on the Arctic Ocean with Eskimos from Wainwright Classic study of the importance of sea ice hunting in the Inupiaq Eskimo culture. Based on work at Wainwright.

__________.*Make prayers to the raven: a Koyukon view of the northern forest.*
Study of the Koyukon relationship with the natural environment, their culture and customs, their view of nature and their subsistence way of life. Based on work in Huslia and Hughes.

Ray, Dorothy Jean. *Aleut and Eskimo art: tradition and innovation in south Alaska.*
Standard overview of the origins, techniques and purposes of traditional and modern commercial art of these Native peoples. Has many photographs and descriptions of individual specimens.

__________. *Eskimo art: tradition and innovation in north Alaska.*
Comprehensive study of Eskimo arts and crafts, giving their cultural and geographic setting. Relates designs and materials to the Eskimo's way of life, religious beliefs and environment.

Senungetuk, Joseph E. *Give or take a century: an Eskimo chronicle.*
An Alaskan Eskimo writes an autobiographical account of the impact of white society on Natives.

Simeone, William E. *A history of Alaskan Athapaskans.*
"A history of Alaskan Athapaskans, including a description of Athapaskan culture and a historical narrative, 1785-1971."

Steinbright, Jan, ed. *From skins, trees, quills and beads: the work of nine Athabascans.*
"How-to" manual for making traditional Athabascan baskets, snowshoes, fishtraps, canoes and clothing.

Stewart, Hilary. *Looking at Indian art of the Northwest Coast.*
General introduction to Northwest Coast art, its components, design motifs and artistic conventions.
Editors’ note: A language dictionary or glossary for the language spoken in your area. Examples of those published by the Alaska Native Language Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks and Alaska native cultural organizations are as follows:

Badten, Linda Womkon, et. al. A dictionary of the St. Lawrence Island/Siberian Yupik Eskimo language.
(2nd prelim. ed.) 87-1283
The only basic dictionary for this small Yupik language group. Usefulness limited by number of Native speakers. Preliminary status suggests a final more complete dictionary may be published by ANLC sometime in the future.

Bergsland, Knut, comp. Atkan Aleut-English dictionary.
Anchorage: University of Alaska, National Bilingual Materials Development Center, c1980. 87-622595
Only available dictionary for this small Aleut language group. The "tentative" status of it suggests possible future revisions.

Sitka : Sheldon Jackson, c1976. win88-299535
Best available dictionary but limited to nouns. Libraries should also own Story's verb dictionary to be more complete.

Dunn, John Asher. A practical dictionary of the Coast Tsimshian language.
Best available dictionary. Based primarily on Canadian Tsimshian research rather than Alaskan Natives.

Fairbanks : Alaska Native Language Center, 1984. 84-623317
The best and most complete dictionary of Alaska's largest group of Native speakers. Includes Yupik to English and English to Yupik.

Fairbanks: Alaska Native Language Center, 1990. 90-31
Ahtna to English and English to Ahtna dictionary by the most knowledgeable authority. General usefulness limited by the small number of native speakers of this language.

_________. Dena'ina noun dictionary.
Fairbanks : Alaska Native Language Center, 1977. 78-624128
The best available dictionary. This Dena'ina is limited to nouns only and purchasers should be aware that a more complete dictionary including verb forms may be published in the future. General usefulness limited by the small number of native speakers of this language.
Kari, James, M., comp. (con't).

Deg Xinag: Ingakil noun dictionary.
Fairbanks: Alaska Native Language Center, 1978. w1n79-48790

A preliminary noun dictionary of Ingakil which is the best available. A more complete dictionary of the language, which includes verbs may appear in the future. Usefulness limited by small number of native speakers.

.Holikachuk noun dictionary. (preliminary)
Fairbanks: Alaska Native Language Center, 1978. win84-117120

Limited to nouns, this is the best available. Purchasers should be aware that a more complete dictionary of the language, which includes verbs, may appear in the future. Usefulness limited by small number of native speakers.

Lawrence, Erma, comp. Haida dictionary.
Fairbanks: Society for the Preservation of Haida Language and Literature/ the Alaska Native Language Center, 1977. 78-101871

Most complete dictionary by authorities of the Haida language. Usefulness limited by small number of native speakers of the language.

Leer, Jeff, comp. A conversational dictionary of Kodiak Alutiiq.
Fairbanks: Alaska Native Language Center, 1978. wln82-235909

Best available Alutiiq dictionary. Intended primarily to assist in teaching the language. Usefulness limited by small number of native speakers.

MacLean, Edna Ahgeak, comp. Inupiallu tannillu uqalunisa ilanich = abridged Inupiaq and English dictionary.

Best available dictionary by Inupiaq language authorities of the most geographically extensive Native Alaskan language. Recommended for most libraries. Inupiaq is the language most English speakers are referring to when they inquire into the meaning of "Eskimo" words.

Peter, Katherine, comp. Dinjii zhuh ginjik nagwan tr’iltsail - Gwich'in junior dictionary
Anchorage: National Bilingual Materials Development Center, 1979. wln83-23304

Most complete "preliminary" dictionary of Gwich’in Athapascan. Usefulness limited by small number of Native speakers of the language.

Story, Gillian L., comp. Tlingit verb dictionary.
Fairbanks: Alaska Native Language Center, 1973. win79-9370

Best available dictionary, but is limited to verb forms of the language. Should be used in conjunction with H. Davis noun dictionary of Tlingit for the most complete access to Tlingit
Editors' note: The Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Alaska Fairbanks has many publications on Alaskan subjects such as cooking, gardening, health, clothing, crafts, log cabin building, etc. Contact them for a list of titles that might be useful.

Editors' note: One or two good wall maps of Alaska and the Polar Regions are recommended; for example: U.S. Geographical Survey: Map E compiled in 1973, revised in 1987, Shaded relief edition (scale: 1:2,500,000).

Collection of 22 essays on the many aspects of Alaska, the last frontier and a wilderness under siege; selections by Sigurd Olson, John Muir, John Haines and Anne Morrow Lindbergh, among others.

Tips on where to go and how to bag big game in Alaska.

. How to catch Alaska’s trophy sportfish.
Techniques, bait, lures and color identification guide; includes chapters devoted to fishing various species and trip planning.

All kinds of applied and natural science information: northern lights, lunar eclipses, earthquakes, insulation, as they pertain to Alaska. Excellent index.

Reardon, Jim. Alaska mammals.
Well-illustrated guide to sea and land mammals.
ALASKANA for LIBRARIES: a core list of books

Freeburn, Laurence, ed. The silver years of the Alaska canned salmon industry: an album of historical photos
(vol. 3, no. 2 of the Alaska Geographic) Pictorial work on history of Alaska salmon canning industry in years before statehood.

Choose one of two wild flower guides White or Pratt:

White, Helen A., ed. Alaska-Yukon wild flowers guide
Large color photographs, black and white drawings, descriptions and common location of many wild flowers found in this region.

or

Pratt, Verna E. Field guide to Alaskan wildflowers.
Subtitled "A Roadside Guide"; this book is similar to the above, with photographs and illustrations. Specifically details the plants found along Alaska's roads. Additional information includes guides to other miscellaneous trees and ferns, blooming time charts and locations of outstanding areas for viewing wildflowers. Arranged by color of the flowers, with indices.

Armstrong, Robert H. Guide to the birds of Alaska.
A classic Alaska bird identification book, with color photographs, paintings and a biogeographic map. Contains descriptions of 437 species of birds known to be found in Alaska.

Barry, Mary J. History of mining on the Kenai Peninsula.
Early mineral exploration and early pioneer gold seekers of this area of Alaska.

Berry, William D. William D. Berry; 1954 -1956 Alaskan field sketches.
Wonderful drawings of Alaskan animals, birds, plants and vistas by one of Alaska's own naturalist artists.

"Inventory of the placer mines and prospects of Alaska, their history and geologic setting. "

27
Cooking Alaskan.
"How Alaskan cooks use Alaskan foods. Recipes and information on 1500 home-grown or -bred items."

Davidson, Art. In the wake of the Exxon Valdez; the devastating impact of the Alaska oil spill.
San Francisco : Sierra Club Books, 0990. ISBN 0871566141; 89-29294
An account and analysis of the tanker disaster which includes interviews with residents, oil industry personnel and government officials.

What every watcher of the Northern Lights (Aurora) might want to know. Broad discussion of what is known and unknown about the Aurora.

Guild, Ben. The Alaskan mushroom hunter's guide.
Well-illustrated guide with access by both scientific and popular name; includes recipes.

Kessler, Doyne W. Alaska's saltwater fishes and other sea life; a field guide.
Color photos, black and white illustrations, and text detail 375 species of Alaskan marine life. A good, quick identification guide.

Comprehensive, heavily illustrated accounts of all freshwater fishes.

Anthology of nature writing, 1741 to the present; authors include missionaries, explorers, native Alaskans, miners, scientists -- 48 in all --who relate to the land in different ways.

Simmerman, Nancy. Alaska's parklands, the complete guide.
Descriptions, illustrations, photos and maps of all parks, monuments, rivers, refuges, and forests.

Viereck, Leslie A. and Elbert L. Little, Jr. Alaska trees and shrubs.
Excellent identification guide to native woody plants in Alaska. Many easy-to-use pen and ink illustrations.

Wynne, Kate. Guide to marine mammals of Alaska.
Excellent identification guide, with fine colored illustrations, information on size, behavior, habitat status, and human interaction. (Libraries in Coastal communities should consider as Basic - Level 1.)
Anderson, Barry C. **Lifeline to the Yukon; a history of Yukon River navigation.**
Development of the riverboat transportation system of the Yukon River; extensive black and white and color photographs; written by a "riverboat fan".

Brooks, Alfred Hulse. **Blazing Alaska's trails.**
Collection of essays on geography, geology, climate, flora, and early inhabitants by one of the most knowledgeable Alaskans of his time.

Browne, Belmore. **The conquest of Mount McKinley.**
Pioneer climbs of Mt. McKinley; logistics, preparation and execution in the Alaska of 1906-1912.


Caras, Roger A. **Monarch of Deadman Bay; the life and death of a Kodiak bear.** Boston: Little, Brown, 1969.

Clifford, Howard. **Rails north: the railroads of Alaska and the Yukon.**

Connor, Cathy L., and Daniel O'Haire. **Roadside geology of Alaska.**

Davis, T. Neil. **Energy Alaska.**
Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, c1984. ISBN 0912006072; 83-51414 "A summary of what is known about the energy resources of Alaska."

Dyson, George. **Baidarka: the kayak.**

Gabrielson, Ira Noel and Frederick C. Lincoln. **The birds of Alaska.**
NATURE, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY

Anchorage : Office of History and Archaeology, Alaska Division of Parks, 1977. 77-154839
   An excellent book with which to begin exploration of Alaska’s mining past and present, listing
   basic books and research sources.

Hunt, William R. North of 53; the wild days of the Alaska-Yukon mining frontier, 1870-1914.
   Tales of the men and women, saints and sinners who participated in the gold rushes of Alaska
   and the Yukon.

Lopez, Barry Holstun. Arctic dreams: imagination and desire in a northern landscape.
   A tribute to the Arctic region, its natural history, exploration and development.

Ramsey, James. Winter watch.
   Author’s account of nine months spent alone at a small log cabin located in the northwestern
   Brooks Range above the Arctic Circle, ”testing himself against the solitude”.

Ricketts, Edward Flanders, et. al. Between Pacific tides.
   ”Detailed account of the habits and habitats of the animals which live on the shores and in the

Roppel, Patricia. Fortunes from the earth: an history of the base and industrial minerals of
Southeast Alaska.
   Restricted to Southeast Alaska; a history of mining for minerals other than gold, including
   silver, nickel, molybdenum.

   Written by the man who mapped and photographed Asf. McKinley, making it his life’s work.

Weeden, Robert B. Alaska, promises to keep.
   Classic analysis of people and natural resource issues in Alaska and the new choices which
   can be made to develop new relationships between Alaskans and the land.

Williams, Howel, ed. Landscapes of Alaska: their geologic evolution.
   Heavily illustrated geologic and geographic survey of Alaska; includes good maps. Excellent
   overview of all regions of the state.

Young, George Orville. Alaskan-Yukon trophies won and lost.
   Account of a hunting trip to Alaska and Yukon for big game, conducted in the "grand"
   manner.
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