Poetry Society of Alaska

Records of the Poetry Society of Alaska, 1958-1984

MS 87

2 boxes
1.1 linear ft.

Processed by: Staff
Revised by: Jacki Swearingen, March 2017

ACQUISITION: Nancy Schaufelberger, Poetry Society of Alaska Secretary, arranged for the transfer of the Society records to the library September 12, 1984.

ACCESS: The collection is unrestricted.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

PROCESSING: This collection has been described at the folder level. Original order maintained. Some items have been placed in Mylar, and all items placed into pH-neutral folders, and archival boxes.
HISTORICAL NOTE

In March 1962 the Poetry Society of Alaska was incorporated. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws based on those of the Poetry Society of Texas were adapted to meet Alaska's needs. Carol Beery Davis of Juneau was elected president and others chosen for the Charter board of directors were Richard T. Peter, Juneau, vice president; Phyllis Lesher, Juneau, Treasurer; Ethel C. Davis, Juneau, Corresponding secretary, Jean Harlow, Juneau and Margaret G. Mielke, Anchorage, members-at-large.

The organization had among its goals the desire to inspire, instruct and inform Alaskans about the basics of writing poetry and to stimulate the writing of poetry. Their quarterly publication STELLA BOREALIS provided information on Alaska poets, new works of poetry, information on publishing poetry, and poetry contests including society sponsored contests. Their Haiku poetry contest resulted in publication of the book HAIKU DROPS FROM THE BIG DIPPER. An outstanding achievement was their centennial publication ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF ALASKA POETRY. In 1981-82 The Society published a newsletter.

From the Society's beginning, World Poetry Day on Oct. 15 was recognized by proclamations of Alaska governors and a time for featuring a Festival of Poetry with an emphasis on the inter-relationship of the arts. The society sought grants to provide workshops and tours of major poets.

The society participated in the selection process for Alaska's Poets Laureate and the records include some material on this program in 1980-81.

The work and achievements of the Society were recognized by two awards received by the World Congress of Poets. On Sept, 10, 1984 the Society disbanded with the remaining assets donated to the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE


INVENTORY

Box 1
Folder 1  Articles of Incorporation/Bylaws; Certificates of Dissolution/Reinstatement. 1962-1979.

Folder 2  History of Poetry Society of Alaska.

Folder 3  Minutes of meetings. Includes Board of Directors, some reports and meeting notes. 1962-1980?

Folder 4  Treasurer's records. Includes a few reports; check records, statements. 1966-1984.
Folder 5  Membership correspondence and information.
Folder 6  Correspondence. 1962-1984.
Folder 7  Correspondence - American Poetry Archive, San Francisco, 1981-82. Concerns rental of archive videotapes.
Folder 8  Nomination for Alaska State Council on the Arts literary review panel. 1982.
Folder 9  Poet Laureate (Alaska) - Selection Committee’s Correspondence. 1980-1981.
Folder 10  Poet Laureate (Alaska) - Background data on nominees. 1981.
Folder 12  Grant requests - Greater Juneau Arts & Humanities Council. 1983.
Folder 14  Poetry readings, program sponsorships.
Folder 15  Poetry contests
Folder 16  Poetry festivals - Annual World Poetry Day Festival; Alaska, All-State Poetry Festival; Film Festival of World Poets, etc. 1966-1978
Folder 17  Interview with John Haines, Poet Laureate of Alaska: 1982
Folder 18  Newspaper clippings, photos, etc concerning. Poetry Society activities.
Folder 19  Mailing list for newsletters, support of Society activity, etc.
Box 2
Folder 1  Poetry society of Alaska, Incorporation Publications. Includes
HUNDRED YEARS OF ALASKA POETRY (1966)
ALASKA '76 (1976)
HAIKU DROPS FROM THE GREAT DIPPER (1973)

Folder 2  Awards received from the World Congress of Poets:
Nov. 12-15, 1973 Award of Appreciation from the Second World Congress of Poets held
Taipei; Republic of China (brass plaques on wood base);
June 23-27, 1976 Award from the Third World Congress of Poets held in
Baltimore (brass plaques in leatherette case.)

Folder 3  Poems, plays, and poetry booklets by other Alaska groups.

Folder 4  Poems; holiday and seasonal.

Folder 5  Miscellaneous - leaflets, information on the arts.

Folder 6  (Located in MS X-Oversize Map Case in Vault)
1. Poster: Richard Eberhart Reading…

2. AN ANTHOLOGY OF ILLUSTRATED POEMS NINE BY TWENTY-ONE
Nine posters by Twenty-One Alaskans by Fireweed Press-Juneau
(Located in MS X-Oversize map case in vault)
Sheila Nickerson’s PORTAL TRIAL/Dale DeArmond (missing)
Peter Keating’s SOMEWHERE/Dan DeRoux
Todd Boyd’s BARGAINS/Rie Munoz
Carol Beery Davis’s LIBERTY BELL/Diana Tillion
Carol Johnson’s ALASKA WATER/Diana Spear
Pat Monaghan’s WOODSWOMEN/Jim Fowler
Herb Marshall’s ASTRAL/A.J. Weimer
Diana Tillion’s SEMINAR/Diana Tillion
Billie Perkins Treant’s JUNEAU RAIN/Jack Quisenberry
(See also: NC1807.U5N5 Oversize for complete set)