

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

**Guide to Collection**

**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 Leshner, 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**

Records of the Poetry society of Alaska, 1958-1984, include publications, newsletters, books, and correspondence.

## **INVENTORY**

### **Box 1**

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| 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 11 Proclamations (Alaska governors) re Poetry Day in Alaska. 1958-1979.
- Folder 12 Grant requests - Greater Juneau Arts & Humanities Council. 1983.
- Folder 13 Grant requests - Alaska State Council on the Arts. 1977-1978. Includes details of the Pulitzer Prize poet, Richard Eberhart's Alaska tour, Alaska All-State Festival of Poets 1978, etc.
- 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.
- Folder 20 Poetry Society of Alaska, Inc. Publications - STELLA BOREALIS 1968-1978 (incomplete)
- Folder 21 Duplicate copies of Poetry Society of Alaska, Inc. Publications - STELLA BOREALIS 1968-1978 (incomplete)
- Folder 22 NEWSLETTER. 1981-1982. Note: Summer 1982 features interview with Poet Laureate John Haines

**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)*