

Cascadia as a Field of Action (Bioregional Poetics)

Presented at the 10th Cascadia Poetry Festival

October 10, 2026

at the Rainier Beach Community Club

<http://paulenelson.com/Poetics>

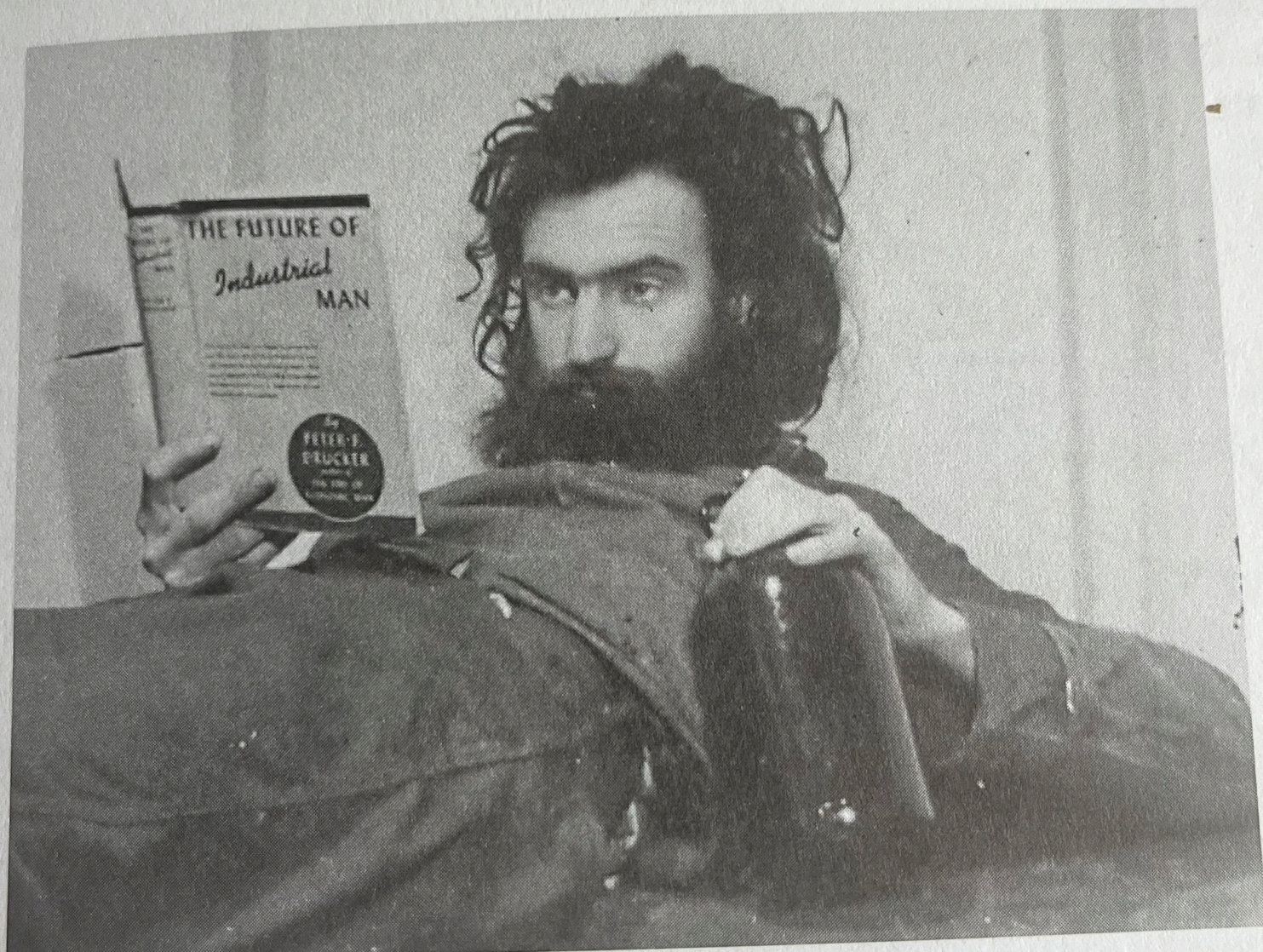


HERE ON THE EDGE

How a small group of
World War II conscientious objectors
took art and peace from the
margins to the mainstream

STEVE McQUIDDY







PENGUIN



CLASSICS

THE LITERATURE OF JAPANESE AMERICAN INCARCERATION

EDITED BY FRANK ABE AND FLOYD CHEUNG

<https://cascadiapoeticslab.org/2024/10/frank-abe-on-the-literature-of-japanese-american-incarceration/>)

32.

SADA MURAYAMA

LOYALTY

I am a citizen—
 Let no slander
 Slur my status.

In the other war,
 I stood with countless others
 Side by side
 To fight the foe.
 My arm was just as strong
 My blood fell
 As bright as theirs
 In defense of a new world
 More precious far
 Than any tie of land or race.

If in this holocaust
 It be decreed
 My loyalty be tested
 By submission,
 What is the difference
 If the end be same?

My reason may be tested—
 Not my heart.

O, what is loyalty
 If it be something
 That can bend
 With every wind?

Steadfast I stand,
 Staunchedly I plant
 The Stars and Stripes
 Before my barracks door,
 Crying defiance
 To all wavering hearts.

I am a citizen—
 I can take
 The bad with good.

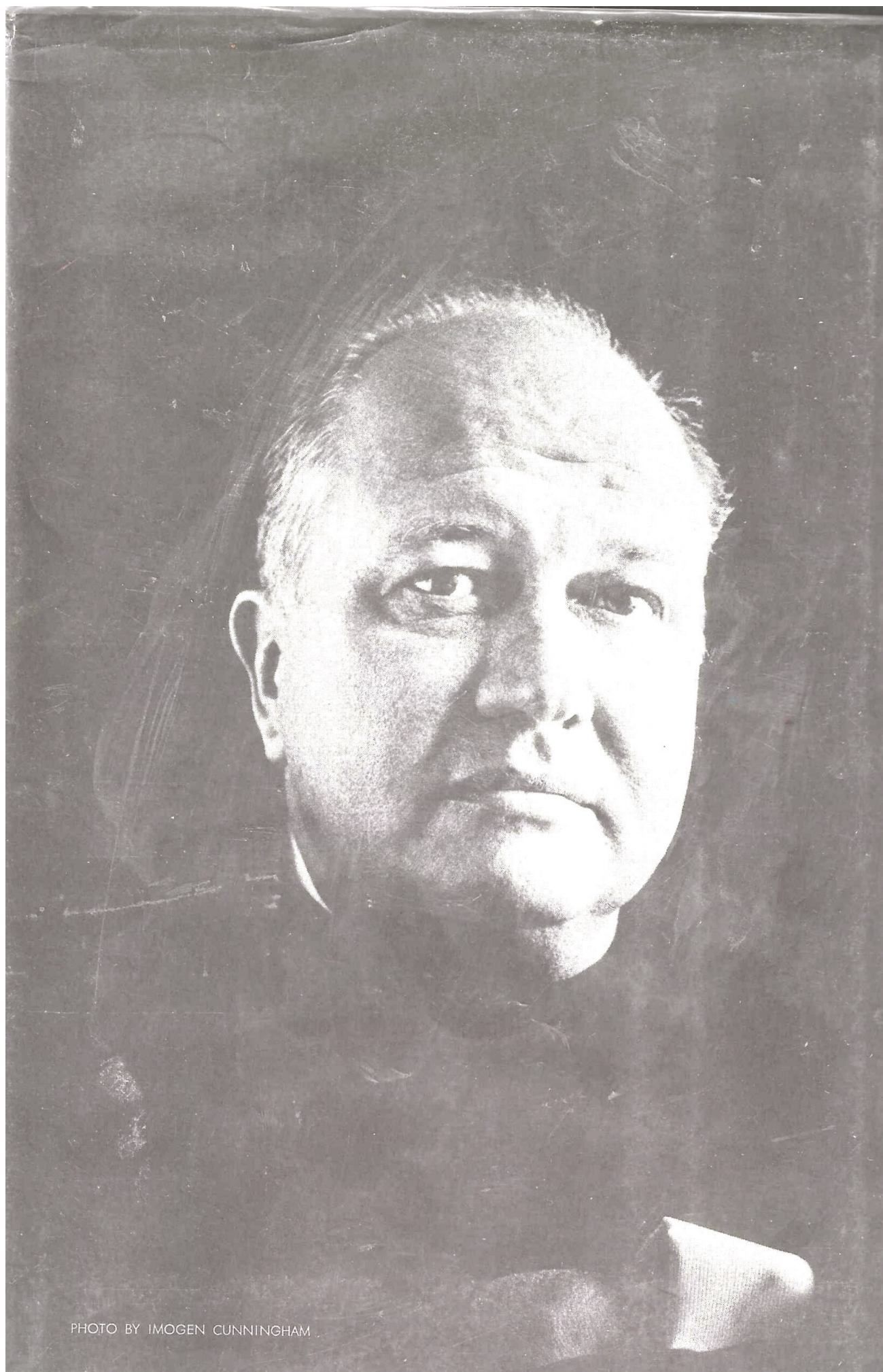


PHOTO BY IMOGEN CUNNINGHAM

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/69393/the-poem-as-a-field-of-action>

The Far Field

The last poems of a major American poet

THEODORE ROETHKE



The Line Has Shattered

Vancouver's Landmark
1963 Poetry Conference



a film
by
Robert McTavish



These poets didn't have
the answers.

They had the questions.

Music by The Al Neil Trio



Image clockwise from top left... Jerry Heiserman, Allen Ginsberg, Bobbie Louise Hawkins Creeley, Warren Tallman, Robert Creeley Charles Olson, Don Allen, Philip Whalen, Thomas Jackrell.

Nine Visits to the Mythworld

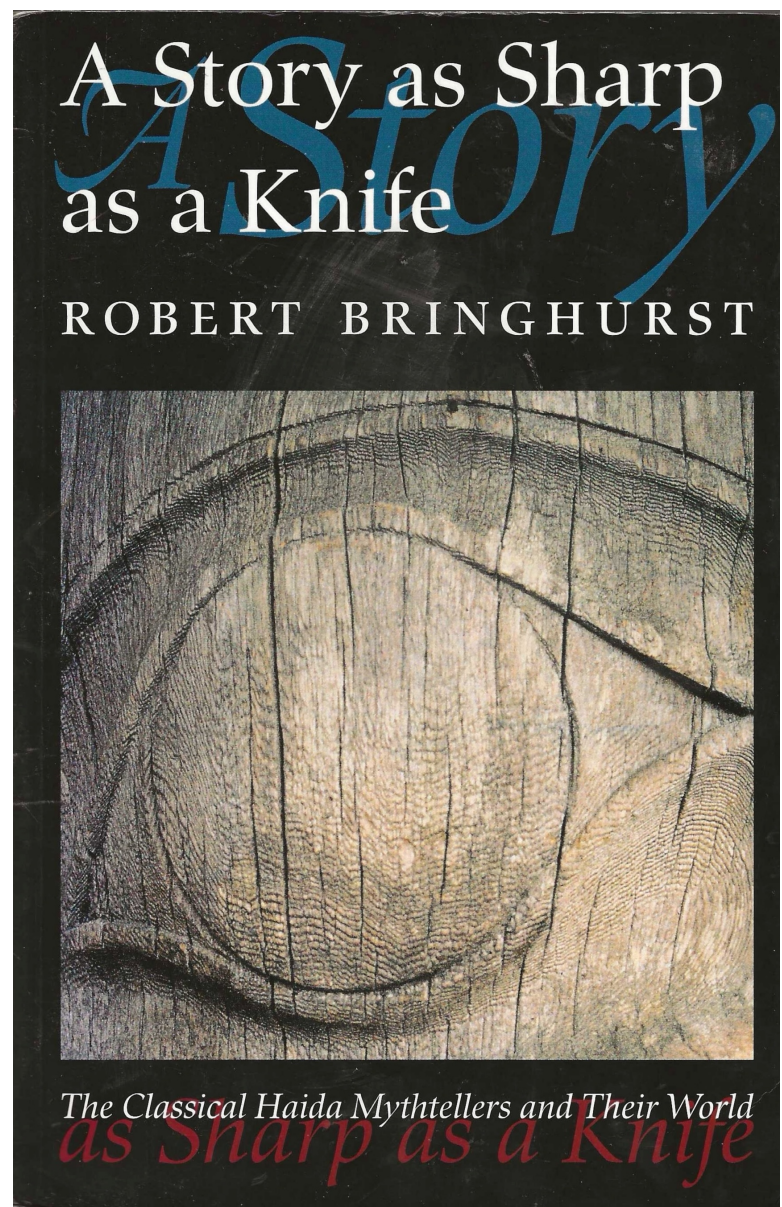
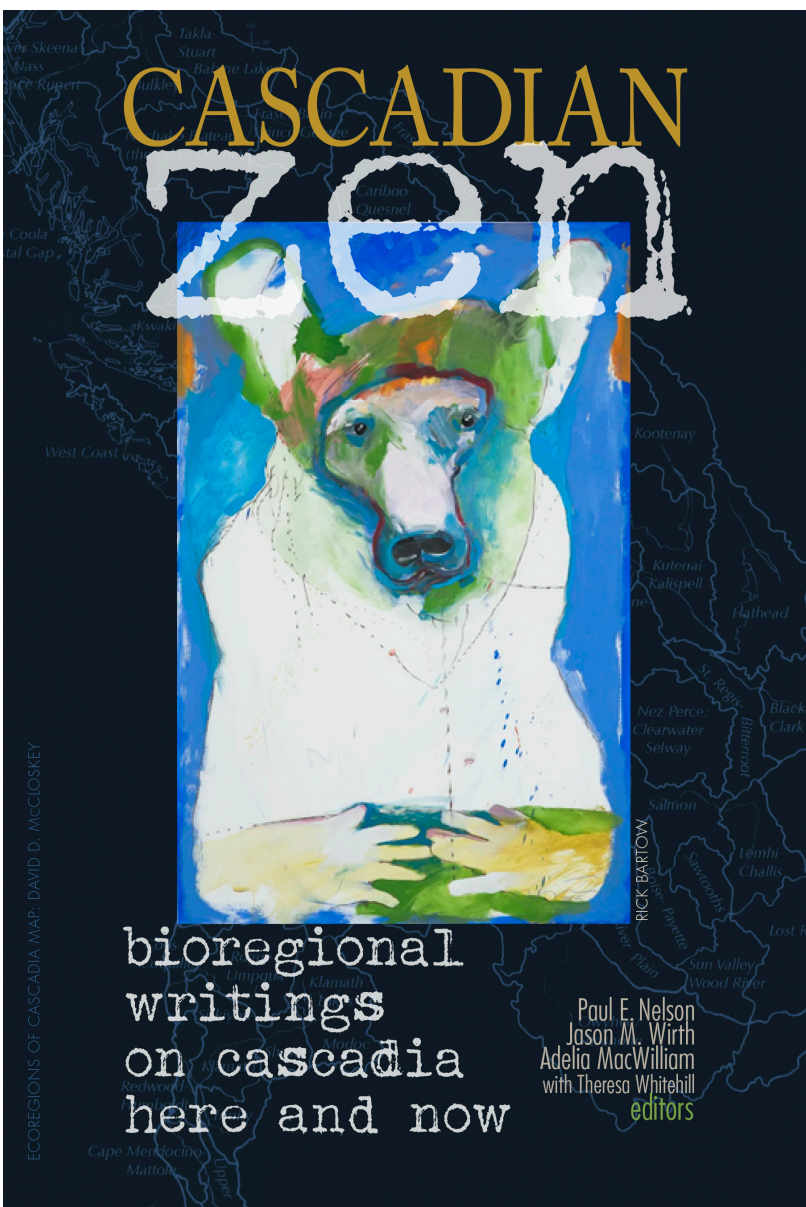
G H A N D L *of the Qayahll Llaanas*



Translated from Haida by Robert Bringhurst

Visits to the Mythworld

<https://paulenelson.com/bioregional-poetics-by-jim-dodge/>



<https://paulenelson.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/Bill-Ray-Creation-Myth-Poem.mp3>