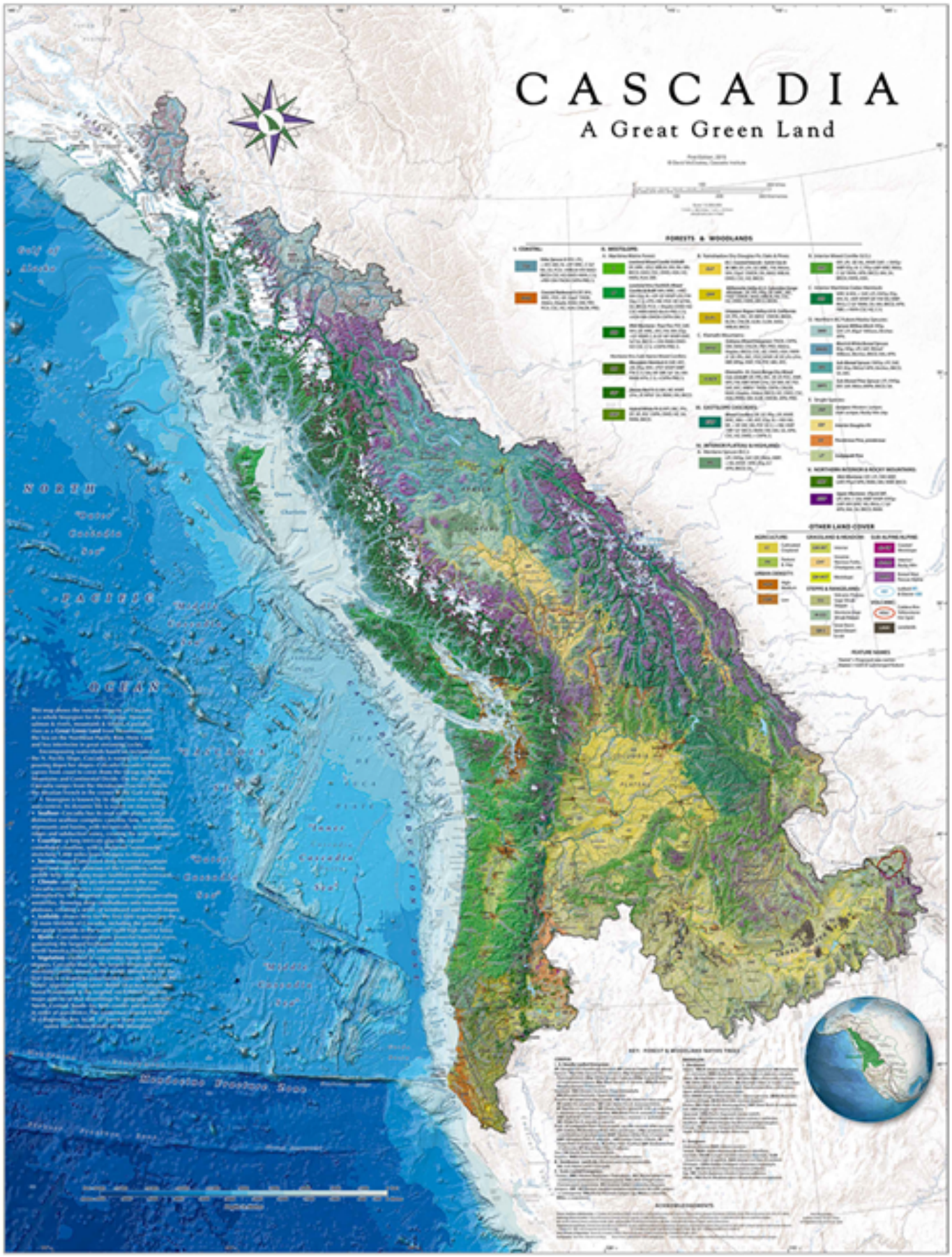
Theodore Roethke & the Birth of Cascadian Poetry

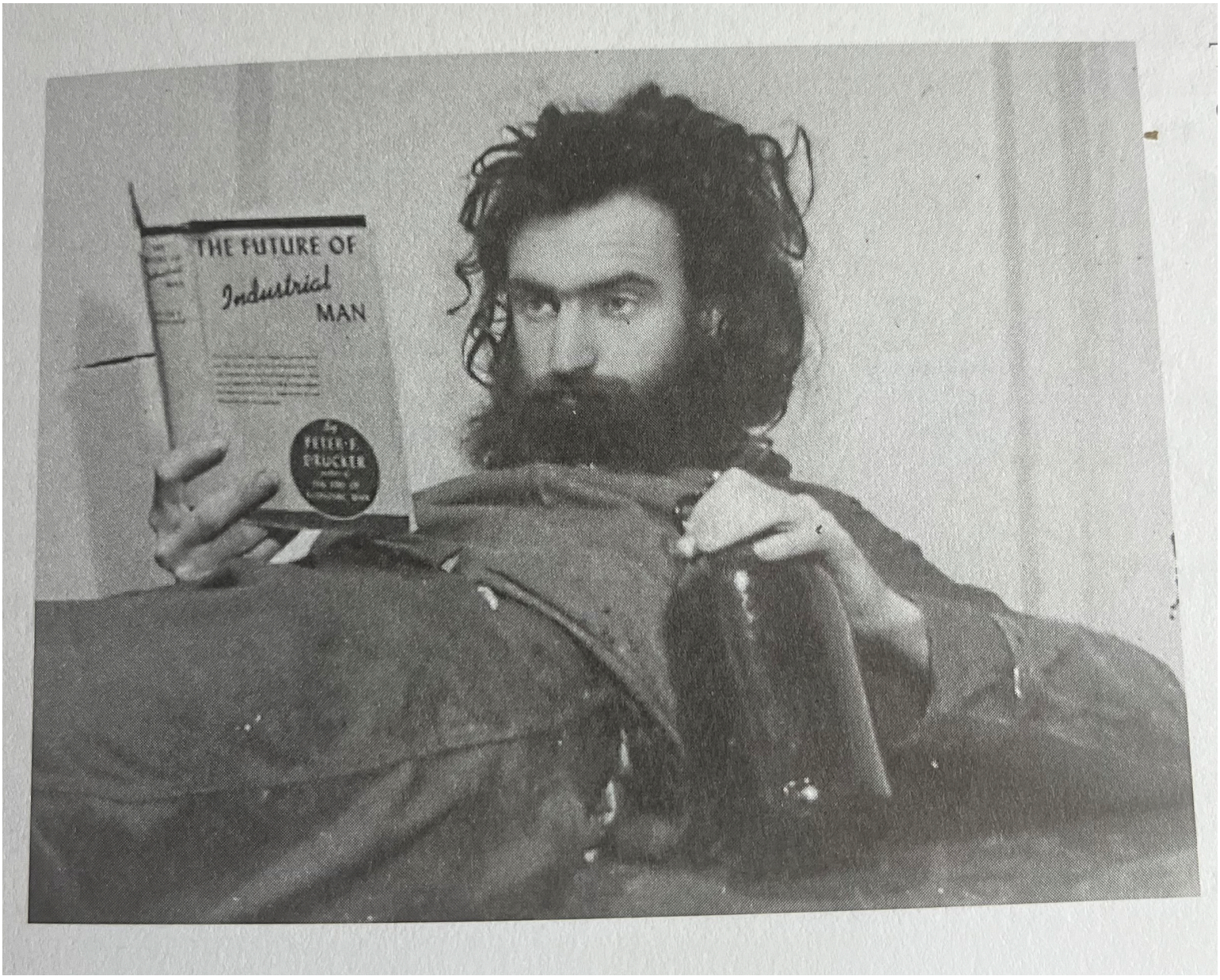
Presented at PAMLA Seattle

November 14, 2026

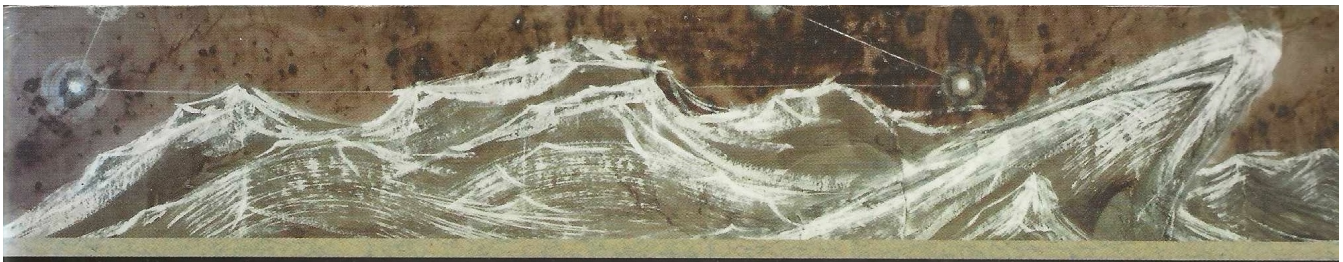
http://paulenelson.com/Poetics



McCloskey Map of Cascadia 2015



Glen Coffield

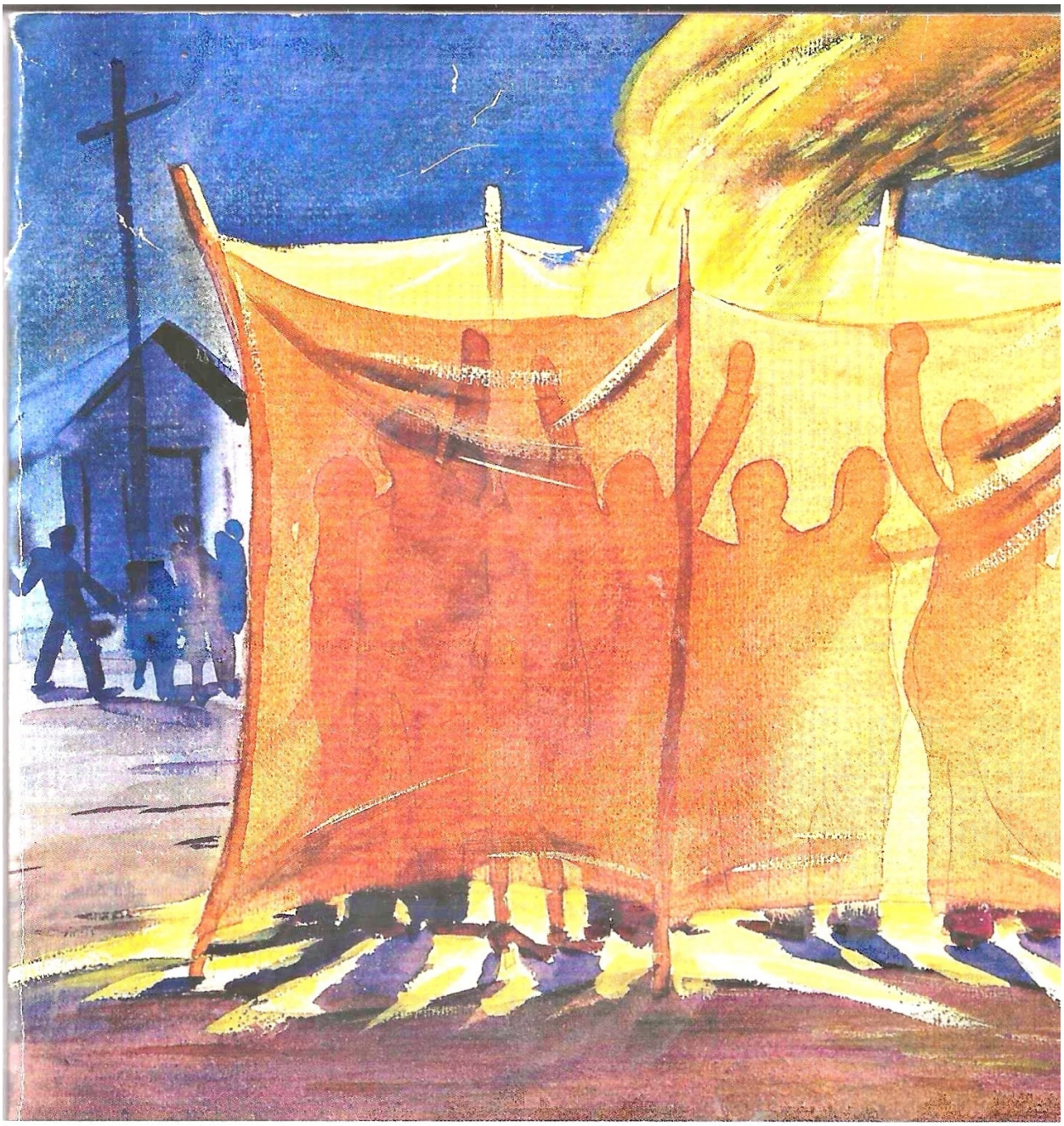


HERE ON THE EDGE

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

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,
Staunchly 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.

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

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

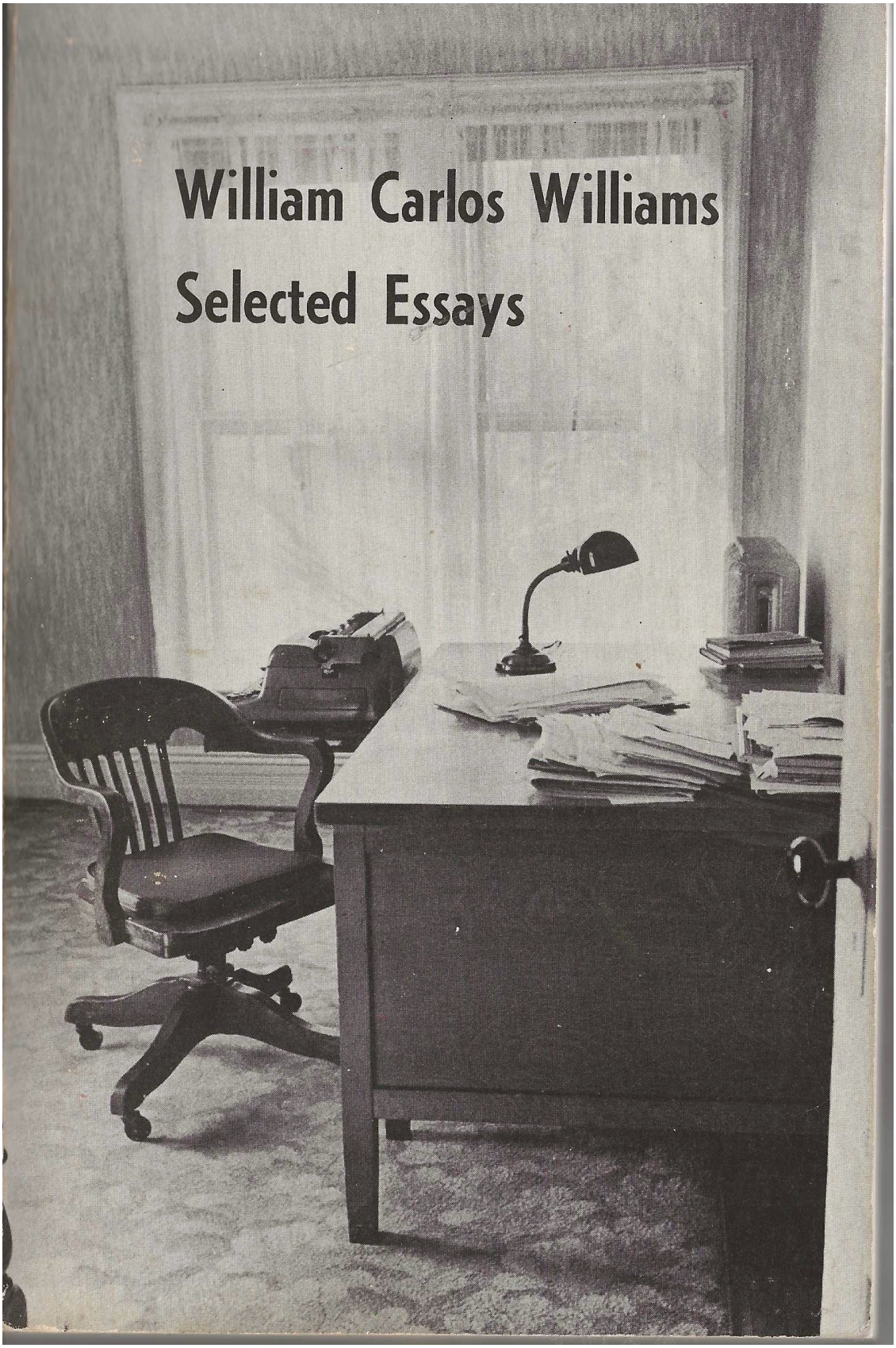




Image clockwise from top left... Jerry Heiserman, Allen Ginsberg, Bobbie Louise Hawkins Creeley, Warren Tallman, Robert Creeley Charles Olson, Don Allen, Philip Whalen, Thomas Jackrell.









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



Mary Norbert Körte & Your Humble Narrator

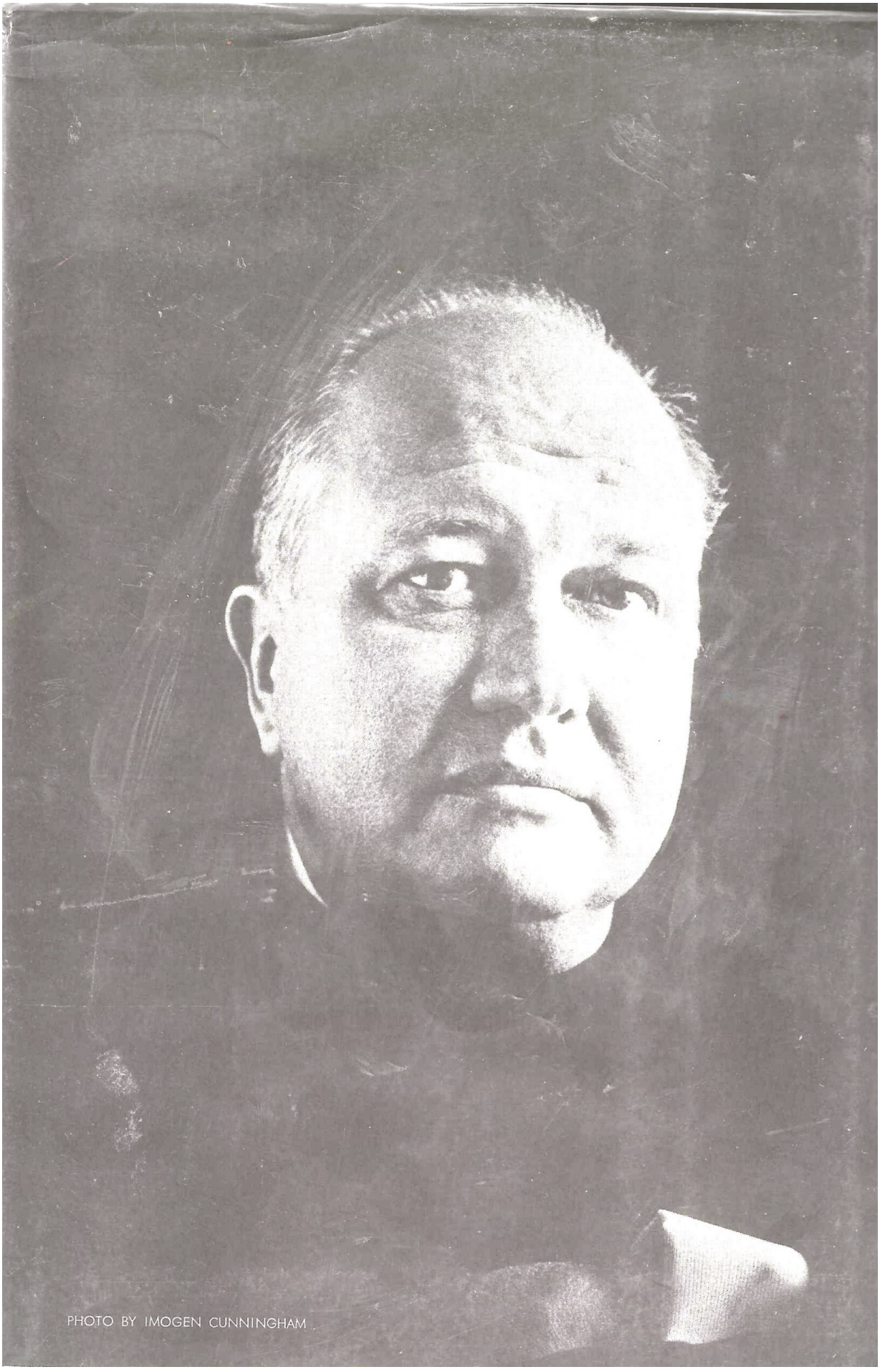
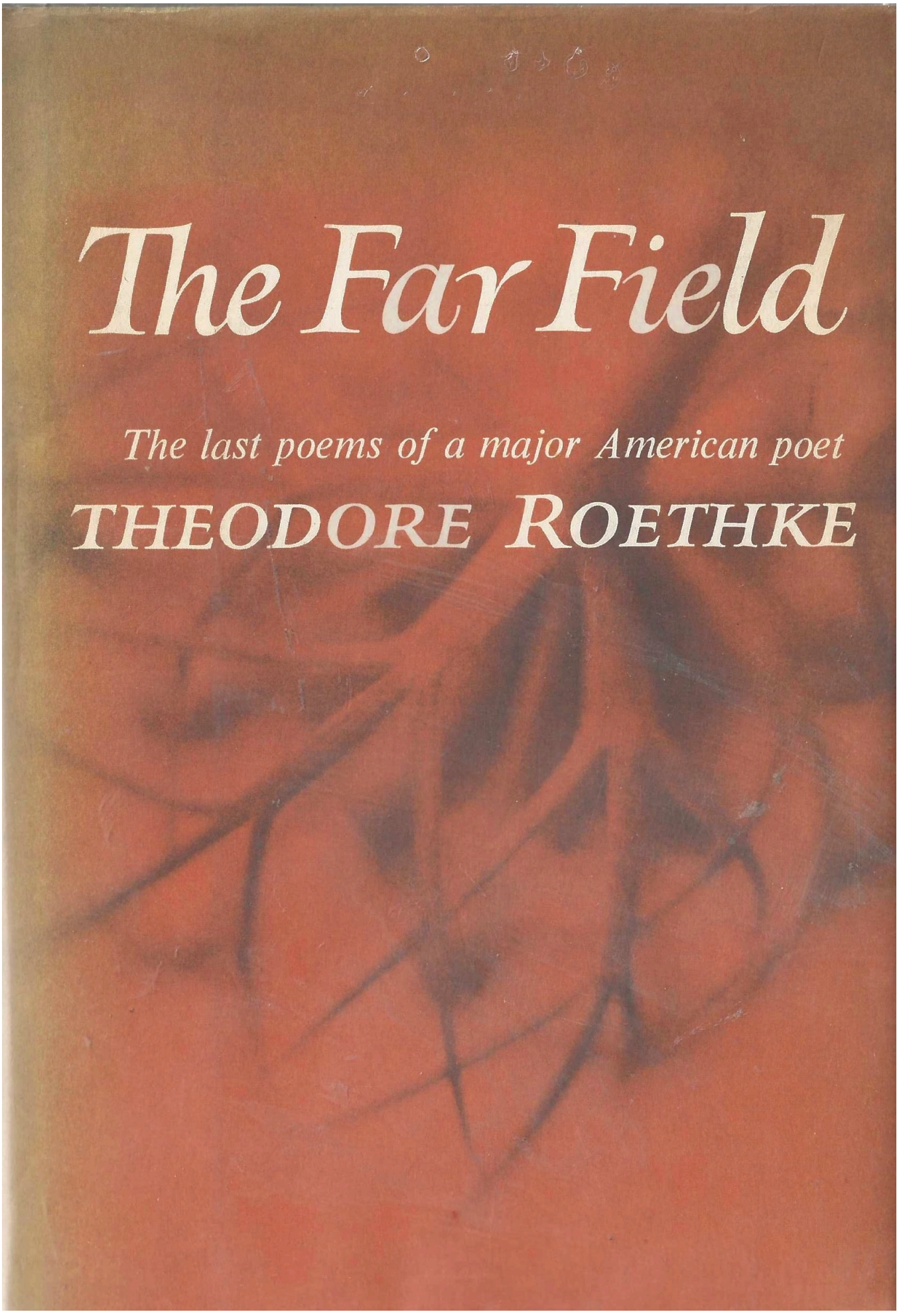
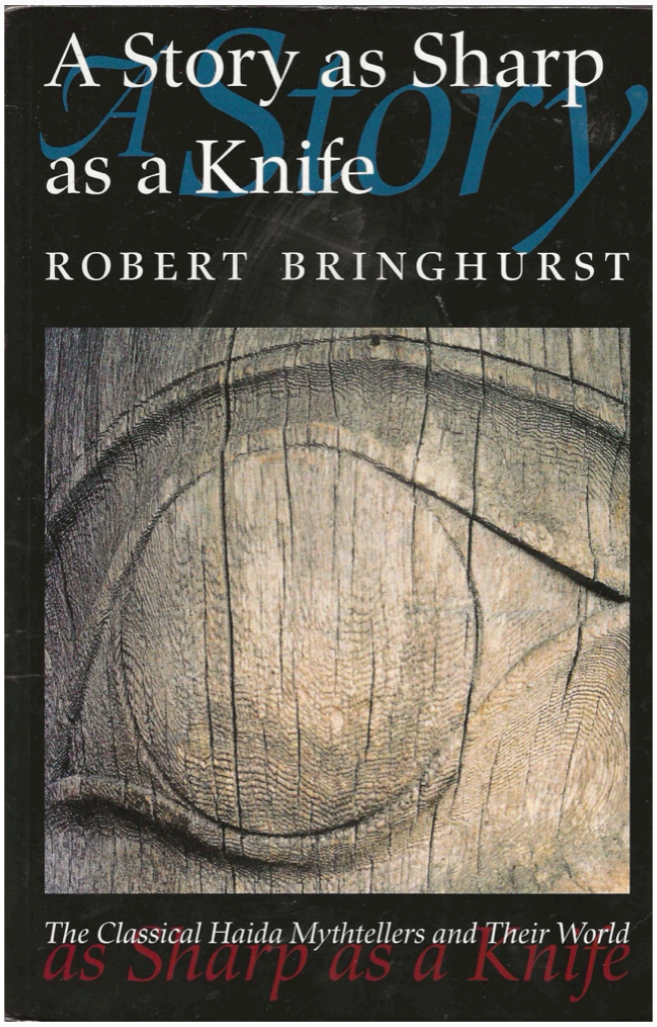


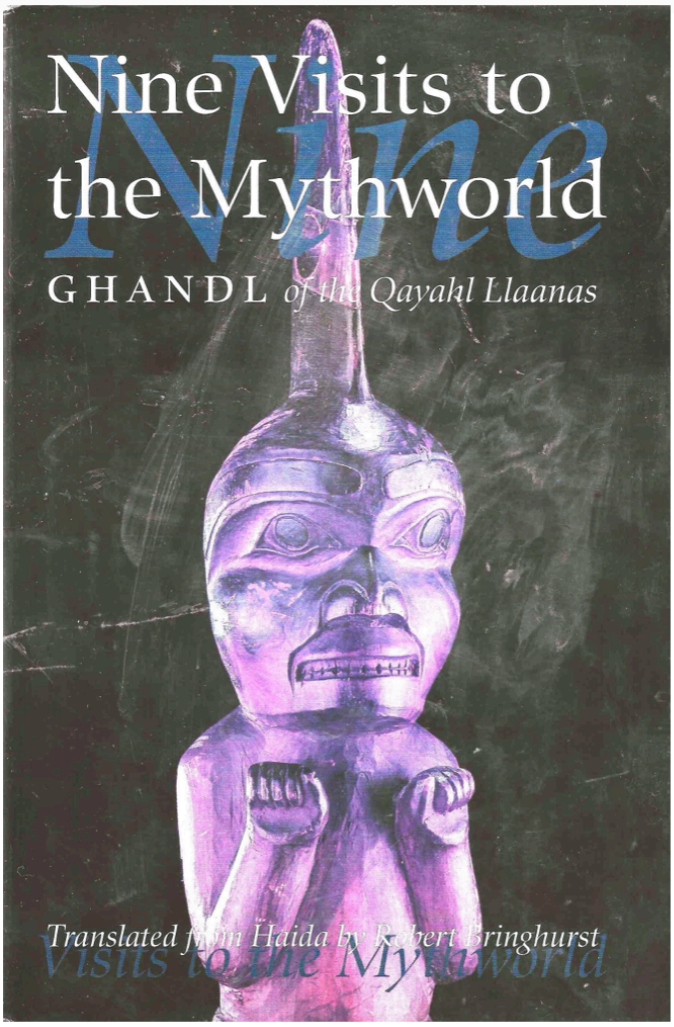
PHOTO BY IMOGEN CUNNINGHAM

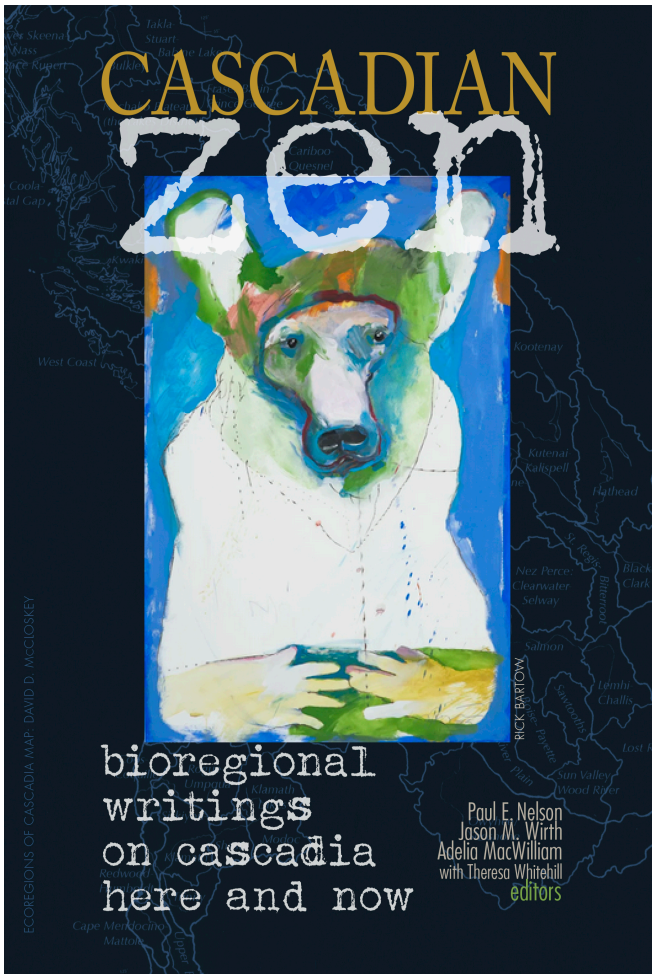

The Far Field
The last poems of a major American poet
THEODORE ROETHKE



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


A Story as Sharp as a Knife
ROBERT BRINGHURST
The Classical Haida Mythtellers and Their World


Nine Visits to the Mythworld
GHANDL of the Qayahl Llaanas
Translated from Haida by Robert Bringhurst


CASCADIAN
zen
bioregional writings on cascadia here and now
Paul E. Nelson
Jason M. Wirth
Adelia MacWilliam
with Theresa Whitehill
editors
RICK BARTOW
ECOREGIONS OF CASCADIA MAP: DAVID D. McCLOSKEY