

**University Archives and Records Center  
University of Pennsylvania**

REPORT OF LOREN EISELEY COLLECTION

By

CAROLINE E. WERKLEY

(Revised, September, 1978)

"Since my first experience with Daniel Defoe I have had an enormous appetite for books. I could read before I entered grade school and, in the early lonely years, I was an incessant haunter of public libraries. I read everything from the dime novels swapped by farm boys in the western towns, to treatises on the fauna of Africa borrowed from more erudite collectors."

- Loren Eiseley  
(Unpublished autobiographical note)

Holograph manuscripts of eighteen books authored by Loren Eiseley, the versatile writer who has been termed by an eminent literary critic "one of the most striking minds in contemporary science and literature,"<sup>1</sup> highlight the Loren Eiseley Collection which has been presented to the University of Pennsylvania by the author's widow, Mabel Langdon Eiseley. Approximately three hundred published articles, book reviews, and Introductions or Epilogues by Eiseley are also included in this Collection, as are interviews and articles concerning the well-known anthropologist-writer. This material will complement the Loren Eiseley Conference Room now being planned by the University in memory of one of its greatest scholars.

Over 5,000 volumes which Loren Eiseley had collected over the years, beginning when he was a young student, and two thousand or more valuable reprints will be available to researchers of Loren Eiseley's work and thought. The Loren Eiseley Conference Room, Eiseley's former office in the Anthropology wing of the University Museum, is being designed to hold not only his books and reprints but to display a few of his manuscripts, his many awards, a bronze bust of him executed shortly

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<sup>1</sup> Edmund Fuller, *The Wall Street Journal*, Thursday, December 18, 1975.

before his final illness, his collection of casts of early man, and a selection of Eiseley memorabilia. The remainder of the manuscripts and a group of personal files will be housed in the University Archives.

The catalogued manuscripts are placed with material associated with the composition of each of Loren Eiseley's books, from hastily scribbled, pencilled notes on small scraps of paper to the completed holographs, usually written in ink on yellow, lined, legal size paper. Some of the holographs are taken from old notebooks kept by Eiseley and these are on white, lined paper. Typed copies of the manuscripts, hand corrected by the author, as well as proofs and reviews, are a part of the Eiseley bequest to the University. The cataloguing of Eiseley's articles, reviews, and Introductions or Epilogues for books is now being completed. The file of each work will contain the periodical or notation of the book in which the production was published. Eiseley's poetry, which appeared in many journals from the early 1930's through 1978, is included in the cataloguing.

In the ancient, haunted eras of the past about which Loren Eiseley so often wrote and pondered there were no such things as books except the books of nature -- rocks, clouds, seas, storms, and the stars-- and Eiseley, the anthropologist, was well aware that for only a second in Time were there even any "men" to read this proto-literature. Since books were very important to him, he would not have wanted to be lost in the periods when, as he wrote so vividly, there were "gasping amphibian heads on the shores of marshes, with all about them the birdless silence of a land into which no vertebrate life had ever penetrated because it could not leave the water." Or in another time "in which great brainless

monsters bellowed in the steaming hollows of a fern forest, while tiny wraithlike mammals eyed them from the underbrush." Or when "finally there was a small gibbonlike primate teetering along through a great open parkland, upright on his two hind feet."<sup>2</sup> The trail of life led far backward; Loren Eiseley knew and understood this trail -- or at least as much of it as man, the newcomer on earth, is allowed to comprehend -- and revealed its wonders to his readers. Nevertheless he, who could easily go backward and forward in time in his mind, was happy that he lived in the world when books, representing thought in print, were available.

Most Eiseley readers believe that Loren Eiseley's first book was The Immense Journey, a work published by Random House in 1957 and still so popular that it is used in college classes throughout the country and even in high schools. Actually the first of Loren Eiseley's eighteen books is a small production written in 1913 by the little boy who would one day be an important author, naturalist, philosopher, anthropologist, ANIMAL AVENTURES [sic] Loren Eiseley lettered carefully as the title of his first literary creation, one that was to be the prelude to many others he would later produce concerning man, nature and the universe. Loren Eiseley was six years old when he composed his 4 1/2 by 6 inch booklet and pasted on its cover a photograph of a little girl with long curls standing beside a collie-type dog who was gazing up at her lovingly. A pink ribbon, probably the only color the young boy could find in his mother's sowing box, tied the pages of the booklet together. The last of four brief chapters, one titled "Animal Kindness," reveals that even as a

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<sup>2</sup>"The Fire Apes." in The Star Thrower, by Loren Eiseley, p. 94.

child Loren Eiseley had the understanding and affection, later to be so evident in his writing, for the dogs, cats, foxes, and other creatures which share man's world. Of a dog who barked at him, "I petted him and he did not bark anymore."

Among the published books authored by Eiseley there are two of which the general public may be unaware. One of these is The Brown Wasps, a volume of three essays published in 1969 by the Perishable Press, a private press well known for its excellent, limited editions. The edition of 236 copies of The Brown Wasps, features paper hand-made by both Walter Hamady, publisher of the Perishable Press productions, and the J. Barcham Green mill in Kent, England, with binding by Douglas Cookerell and Son, England. The illustrator is Jack Beale. This book was chosen as one of the Fifty Best Books of the Year by the American Institute of Graphic Arts in New York City, 1970.

An individual interested in the composition of chapter titles of one of Loren Eiseley's books might be intrigued to know that a handwritten portion incorporated in "The Brown Wasps," the lead essay in the above book, was originally titled "The Tree That Never Was"; that the second chapter, "Big Eyes and Little Eyes," had such tentative titles written on the manuscript as "Moon Travel," "The Night Side of Nature," and "Journey in the Dark"; and that the concluding essay, "Endure the Night;" was at one stage of its creation titled by Eiseley "Doorway to the Dark."

The other small, privately printed book authored by Eiseley is Man, Time, and Prophecy, published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich in 1969 as a special New Year's gift to friends of the publisher and author. Fortunately both of these books which an Eiseley collector would have difficulty securing have been reprinted in one of Loren Eiseley's most popular volumes, The Night Country. Man, Time, and Prophecy appears in the book under the chapter title

"The Chreamologue." Of the three articles which compose the book The Brown Wasps, "The Brown Wasps" retains the same title in The Night Country, "Big Eyes and Little Eyes" appears as "Big Eyes and Small Eyes,"<sup>3</sup> and "Endure the Night" has been changed to "One Night's Dying."

The Loren Eiseley Conference Room will have on the shelves all of the books authored by Eiseley, including foreign translations, books for which he wrote Introductions or Epilogues, and many anthologies which contain his work. Three posthumously published books will be included: a volume of poems, Another Kind of Autumn, prepared by Eiseley before his last illness, published by Charles Scribner's Sons in the fall of 1977; and The Star Thrower, an anthology of Loren Eiseley's pieces which he had planned and organized before his death. This book was composed of some chapters from Eiseley's earlier volumes, a selection of articles which had appeared only in periodicals, and a group of essays never before published. The volume was brought out in the spring of 1978 by Times Books, a division of Quadrangle/ The New York Times Book Co., Inc. The third book, which is to be published in the Spring of 1979 by E. P. Dutton, would have particularly pleased Loren Eiseley. It features an article written by him concerning material which he considered his most important contribution to the history of science, his discovery of information suggesting that Charles Darwin drew his idea of Natural Selection from the work of his friend Edward Blyth.<sup>4</sup> The tentative title of the book is Darwin and the Mysterious Mr. X: Theories and precursors of Evolution, With the exception of one article which was published in a Darwinian volume edited by Bernard Campbell and published by Aldine Publishers, all of the chapters in this book have appeared only in periodicals.

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<sup>3</sup> It was thus titled in its first publication in the magazine Gentry, Fall 1956.

<sup>4</sup> See: "Charles Darwin, Edward Blyth and the Theory of Natural Selection," Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, Vol. 103 (1959), pp. 94-158.

Two Eiseley "curiosities" will be among the books in the Loren Eiseley Room. One is an unauthorized first edition of Francis Bacon and, the Modern Dilemma published by the University of Nebraska Press, 1962. This "first" edition contained errors which Eiseley had not had the opportunity to correct. The edition was supposed to have been destroyed and so far as is known this book is the only remaining copy. Another officially corrected first edition followed this. The other curiosity resulted from a freak error on the part of the publishers, Frederick A. Praeger, New York, who brought out in 1957 a seventh edition of a book entitled The New Class, an Analysis of the Communist System, by Milovan Djilas, enclosed in the book jacket of The Immense Journey. The volume was distributed in this form to bookstores and copies were sold before the error was discovered.

Eiseley's personal hard cover first edition of Darwin's Century will doubtless be of interest to researchers because he used it as a working copy for the preparation of the paper edition of the volume and the book contains handwritten notes by him.

Of his writing Loren Eiseley has recorded in an unpublished "scrap": . . . "I am an inveterate walker with a great love for the wilder regions of the American West in which part of my youth was spent. Out of those memories, a little like Hudson's devotion to the South American pampas, many of my literary essays have been drawn. I am powerfully influenced by locale and, being geologically trained, a locale which may be projected

vertically in time. My mind is stuffed with stray teeth, mammoth bones, and the lost trails of Indiana and pioneers. It comes out in my writing perhaps because my people came west in the time of buffalo grass and ox teams. I write because all these things haunt me and because, in that sense, I am the voice of things other than myself."

Countless notes of prospective books and articles were in Loren Eiseley's files at the time of his death but he himself once wrote (in one of these notes):

"For everything written there are thoughts, notes, that no one will use if he has not done something with them. Notes that a writer collects are of no meaning to another, no one else could make the connections. Every time a great scholar dies something unique vanishes out of the universe, a way of thinking that will never be expressed again, [something] that a man was putting together in a unique pattern which expresses his own individual personality."

Books inscribed or dedicated to Eiseley by good friends or acquaintances hold great meaning for him. Several shelves in the Loren Eiseley Room will be reserved for such books. One volume which had a special sentimental appeal for Eiseley was Henry Fairfield Osborn's The Origin and Evolution of Life. On the Theory of Action, Reaction and Interaction of Energy. This was presented to him when he was only sixteen years old by his uncle, William Buchanan Price, who gave the young lad good advice in the book inscription:

"Got knowledge but with it got understanding.  
From your 'buck', Christmas 1923.  
W.B. Price."

Many years later the recipient of this advice, who by then had acquired both knowledge and understanding -- along with an unusual measure of fame--

dedicated his autobiography to Price, as well as to his paternal grandfather. One set of "Uncle Buck's" books which Eiseley kept was a 1909 edition of Speeches of William Jennings Bryan, Rev. and Arranged by Himself. With a Biographical Introduction by Mary Baird Bryan, his wife. The set was inscribed by Bryan to Price, a Lincoln, Nebraska, attorney active in state politics. If these seem strange volumes for an evolutionist to possess, since they were authored by the man later to be active in the Scopes trial, one must realize that Eiseley never forgot the kindness of his uncle who gave him financial aid for a portion of his college education.

An inscribed book that Eiseley valued, not only because of its subject matter but because of the inscription, was Sir Charles Lyell's The Geological Evidence of the Antiquity of Man, with remarks on theories of The Origin of Species by Variation. Although it is not a first but a second edition, this is completely overshadowed by the fact that the book was given to Eiseley by his good friend and professor, Frank G. Speck, an early Chairman of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania when Eiseley was a graduate student there. One of Eiseley's books, The Invisible Pyramid, was dedicated to Speck, whom he called "The Last Magician." Lyell's book was

"Presented to the personal library of young  
'Sir Chas. Lyell Jr.' alias Loren Cory [sic]  
Eiseley Bart., by his pupil Frank G. Speck."

A large selection of Speck's books and reprints are in Loren Eiseley's library and are signed by him.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>A reference to anthropological history at the University of Pennsylvania from Eiseley's files and now in the University Archives is a notebook kept by Speck, beginning in 1914, concerning early departmental meetings and other material. This was given to Eiseley personally by Speck, along with other Speck mementos.

Wright Morris, a long time close friend of both Loren and Mabel Eiseley, and himself a well-known author and winner of the 1957 National Book Award, presented Eiseley with several books. An inscription in Oliver Goldsmith's four-volume An History of the Earth, and Animated Nature is inscribed to Eiseley:

"one of the man kind from his friend Morris,  
-- one of the pie [Mabelia Eiseleyana] kind."

This would be unintelligible to an Eiseley researcher, but the inscription refers to the fact that Morris, who often dined with his good friends, loved Mabel Eiseley's banana cream pie. Another inscription by Morris is in one of his own books, Fire Sermon.

"This is for Mabel and Loren  
with Love and xxxxx Wright and Jo  
Jan. 9, 1972."

Morris' signature appears in other books in Eiseley's library as a result of purchase by Eiseley of these particular volumes. Morris' book The Works of Love is dedicated to Loren Eiseley.

Another close friend, historian David Hawke, inscribed his books to Eiseley and his wife and also dedicated one of his works to them. The Pulitzer Prize winning poet, short story writer and novelist Howard Nemerov, as well as famed science fiction writer Ray Bradbury, presented inscribed copies of their books to Eiseley. Bradbury wrote in his book Dark Carnival, 1947:

"For Dr. Loren C. Eiseley with envy and admiration for The Fire Apes, from Ray Bradbury Nov. 21st, 1949."

A portion of "The Fire Apes" was published in Eiseley's book The Star Thrower; the entire essay originally appeared in Harper's magazine many years ago.

Among others who inscribed books for Eiseley were naturalist Hal Borland; author-professor James Olney; social philosopher Lewis Mumford; He Graham Cannon, F.R.S.1 August Derleth; economist W.W. Rostow; Walter Hamady, poet, publisher, and art professor; poet John Hall Wheelock; biologist Edmund W. Sinnott; anthropologist Harry L. Shapiro; poet Archibald MacLeish (Eiseley had inscribed MacLeish's 1925 book of poetry, The Pot of Earth, "To Mabel for her birthday July 99 1929. There are no words ...."); Rex Stout, whose Nero Wolfe mysteries Eiseley always enjoyed; noted photographers Andreas Feininger and Douglas Faulkner -- Feininger also dedicated a book to Eiseley; Richard Shryock, former Librarian at the American Philosophical Society; historian Carl Wittke, one-time Dean at Oberlin College and later Vice President of Western Reserve University; Kenneth Heuer, Eiseley's valued editor and good friend; and Walter Ferro, illustrator of Eiseley's books The Invisible Pyramid and Another Kind of Autumn. Ferro's beautiful little twenty-copy edition of Sunflower was printed from his original woodblocks depicting the various stages in the life of a sunflower. This book delighted Loren Eiseley, who wrote in The Invisible Pyramid of a sunflower forest, and who grew sunflowers every

summer so that he could harvest the seed for the cardinals which he loved to watch and feed at his kitchen window.

C. Bertrand Schultz inscribed his book Loess and Related Eolian Deposits of the World, which he wrote with John C. Frye, to Mabel and Loren Eiseley. Eiseley, who early in his career was active in archaeological work in Nebraska, had dedicated a volume of his poems, The Innocent Assassins.

"To the bone hunters Of the old South Party,  
Morrill Expeditions 1931-1933,  
and to C. Bertrand Schultz,  
my comrade of those years,  
this book in memory of  
the unreturning days"

Schultz and Eiseley met when they were young students at the University of Nebraska and were co-authors of two early papers catalogued among Eiseley's articles. Schultz was also one of the speakers at the Convocation held in memory of Eiseley at the University of Pennsylvania November 7, 1977.

Many University of Pennsylvania colleagues inscribed books for Loren Eiseley. They include Philip Rieff, one of Eiseley's fellow Benjamin Franklin University Professors; Dr. Dale Coman, for whose book The Endless Adventure Eiseley wrote a Foreword; Jerry Mangione, author of many fine books, with whom Eiseley once taught a class in creative writing at the University of Pennsylvania; Charles Lee, who wrote a

poem for Eiseley's seventieth birthday and prophetically gave it to him several months early; Gaylord Harnwell, President of the University of Pennsylvania when Eiseley was Provost there; Wilton Krogman, Director, Philadelphia Center for Research in Child Growth; Anthropology department colleagues and good friends Ben Reina, Ward Goodenough, Anthony F.C. Wallace, and A. I. Hallowell; and Daniel Hoffman, eminent poet and member of the University of Pennsylvania English department. Hoffman inscribed his book The Center of Attention to Eiseley when Eiseley made a recording of his poetry for the Library of Congress in 1974, during which time Hoffman hold a special assignment there.

Loren Eiseley enjoyed owning books which bore inscriptions to persons other than himself from authors whose work he admired. He possessed not only one but two inscribed copies of Othniel C. Marsh's Dinocerata: a Monograph of an Extinct Order of Gigantic Mammals. The book itself, which weighs ten pounds, is gigantic in size and value. Both volumes are from a 500 copy, privately printed author's edition published in 1885, with the title page dated 1884, and contain fifty-six lithograph plates and two hundred woodcuts. One red leather bound quarto given to Eiseley by a friend was inscribed by Marsh to Junius Morgan, of the famous banking family. The other copy, more simply bound,

which Eiseley acquired "somewhere on Fourth Avenue" in New York, is inscribed to Dr. John S. Billings, Director, following the Civil War, of the Surgeon General's Library in Washington (now the National Library of Medicine), designer of Johns Hopkins Hospital, and creator of the New York Public Library. In Eiseley's library is a file containing many of Marsh's reprints, most of them signed by Marsh, who was a famous paleontologist of the last century and was associated with Yale University.

Among authors' signatures in books in Eiseley's library are those of H.M. Tomlinson, in a 750 copy edition of 1930 of C. E. Montague's A Writer's Notes on His Trade, with an Introductory Essay by Tomlinson; George Santayana, in a fifteen-volume, 1,940 limited edition of The Works of George Santayana, 1936; T. F. Powys, in a special edition of Unclay, 1931; George Moore, in A Story-Teller's Holiday (two volumes) from a 1928 edition limited to 1250 sets; Leigh Hunt, in an 1850 first edition of his book The Autobiography of Leigh Hunt, with Reminiscences of Friends and Contemporaries, Volumes I and II; and Walter De La Mare in Desert Islands and Robinson Crusoe, with decorations by Rex Whistler. This 1930 first edition, limited to 650 Copies, was also signed by Eiseley. Another signed De La Mare first edition is The Connoisseur, and Other Stories.

The signature of author Joseph Leidy, the founder of paleontology in the United States in the last century and a University of Pennsylvania professor for whom the Joseph Leidy Laboratory of Biology at Penn is named,

appears in an 1869 first edition of Leidy's The Extinct Mammalian Fauna of Dakota and Nebraska. Including an Account of Some Allied Forms from other localities, together with a Synopsis of the Mammalian Remains of North America. A Leidy signature is on the title page of J. C. Nott's and George R. Gliddon's Types of Mankind: or, Ethnological Researches, based upon the Ancient Monuments, Paintings, Sculptures, and Crania of Races, and upon their Natural, Geographical, Philological and Biblical History. This was the original Philadelphia edition published in 1854 simultaneously with the first London edition. Still a third Leidy signature is in one of Eiseley's copies of Charles Darwin's A Naturalist's Voyage. Journal of Researches into the Natural History and Geology of the Countries Visited During the Voyage of H.M.S. Beagle Round the World, Under the Command of Capt. FitzRoy, R.N. Eiseley, who did not often write in his books, has made pencilled notes on the back page of this volumes.

Thomas Henry Huxley's Evidence as to Man's Place in Nature, an 1863 first edition signed by Edward Clodd, a 19th century scientist, has Clodd's marginalia in the volume, as well as nine clippings which Clodd inserted, a memoir by Clodd on Huxley from the Daily Chronicle of 1 July 1895, and Huxley's obituary from the July 1, 1895, Times. More clippings are tucked away in Edward Smith's The Life of Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society, with some notices of his friends and contemporaries, (1911). The clippings are from Nature (June 1920). The Westminster Gazette of August, 1911 (a review of the book), and The Library, October 21, 1911 (also a review of Smith's book). Attached to a page is a letter from William D. Hooker to Daydon Jackson, secretary of the Linnaean Society, concerning the author's dedication to Hooker. Eiseley himself liked to slip mementos

into his books. One of these found in a copy of Eiseley's The Invisible Pyramid is a receipted bill dated April 1, 1891, from Charles Scribner's Sons to a customer who had purchased a first edition of Andrew Lang's Books and Bookmen for \$5.00 and a first edition of Lang's Lost Leaders for \$2.50.

Eiseley's various books in the fields of science and literature reflect his lifelong interest in these areas. A researcher who studies Eiseley's bibliography, which will also be in the Eiseley Collection, will note that his published material began with both science and poetry. Among Eiseley's earliest anthropological publications, which can be seen in the Archives when their cataloguing has been completed, were "Index Mollusca and Their Bearing on Certain Problems of Prehistory: a Critique," published by the Philadelphia Anthropological Society in 1937; "Pollen Analysis and its Bearing Upon American Prehistory: a Critique," published in American Antiquity, 1939; and "Archaeological Observations on the Problem of Post-Glacial Extinction," in American Antiquity, 1943.<sup>6</sup> Loren Eiseley's general field was human evolution and he was extremely active in the investigations of early man in America. One of his first entries into science writing for the layman was "The Long Ago Man of the Future." published in Harper's magazine in 1947, followed by several articles of a similar type in that journal and in

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<sup>6</sup> It amused Eiseley that when he was a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford in 1961-62, he was questioned by an "Oxford Don," as he noted in an unpublished poem, "Oxford, I Think," concerning his professional publications. "I am Just learning," replied the author of the many scientific publications credited to him through the years.

others. A group of these essays later formed chapters in his first published book The Immense Journey, and some of these earlier pieces were a part of The Night Country, published in 1971.

At the same time, early in his career, that Eiseley was producing numerous scholarly articles concerning anthropology and archaeology, he was constantly writing poetry. Much of his verse in the thirties and forties appeared in small literary journals but was also published in such nationally prominent publications as Poetry, The Literary Digest, The American Mercury, and The New York Herald-Tribune Books.

"I sent poems to other magazines and placed a sizeable number in respected but non-paying literary periodicals such as Voices, The Midland, and others. It was more thrilling to receive a check from Poetry: a Magazine of Verse with an accompanying note on blue paper, in her own hand, from the editor Harriet Monroe.<sup>7</sup>

Eiseley's youthful devotion to poetry is revealed by a few scribbled lines of verse on one page of a class notebook dating back to his student days at the University of Nebraska. Next to the verse is written chidingly and jokingly by a fellow student who was later to become Loren Eiseley's wife, "Remember, this is a history course." Many years later in 1972, Eiseley, by then long famous as a scientist and author, dedicated his first book of published poetry, Notes of an Alchemist, to:

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<sup>7</sup>From "Accomplishments: Account of Student and Creative Career," in application prepared and submitted by Loren Eiseley to the Guggenheim Foundation.

MABEL LAMON  
My wife of many years  
in appreciation of a devotion  
which cannot be spoken about  
save to say it exists  
as a flower exists  
having come unbidden  
into an unexpected world  
to a quite common man

Various books were inscribed to Mabel Langdon by Eiseley when he was young, and several volumes in his collection are inscribed by her to "Larry," as Eiseley was called in his youth. Many of these books are first editions which time has made valuable and most of them are poetry. Both Loren Eiseley and Mabel Langdon wrote poetry for The Prairie Schooner, a literary journal published by the University of Nebraska, in which appeared the first work of many persons who would later become prominent in the world of literature.

One of the most touching inscriptions to Mabel from Larry was in a 1939 edition of Cavender's House by Edwin Arlington Robinson.

"This to Mabel so that when life is somewhat more dusty than it is now she may remember the wood lilies - and how we hid above Salt Creek when it was all dappled sun-gold and leaf shadow. And having remembered that far she will think kindly of Glitter Wing the blue dragon fly so generous that he allowed his dinner to escape alive - probably because its taste was singularly unedifying! Remember Glitter Wing, like us betrayed by summer, his destiny to forsake the sun-paths and shiver to a pinch of jewelled dust at the first touch of frost. Remember Glitter Wing - his dust was jeweled!  
Larry."

Eiseley received early recognition for his poetry, which is fairly unusual for young poets. Besides publication in journals, his poetry was mentioned in an Index of poets and poems published in American magazines in Braithwaite's Anthology and Yearbook of American Poetry for 1929, the 17th annual issue. One poem of Eiseley's, "October Has the Heart," was also listed in Moul's The Beat Poems of 1942, London, Jonathan Cape, 1943. This poem, which was included in The Star Thrower, originally appeared in The Prairie Schooner in 1942; thus it has travelled a long way over the years. A short story, "The Mop to K.C.," first published in The Prairie Schooner, was placed on the Honor Roll for the O. Henry Collection of Beat Short Stories for 1928, when Eiseley was only twenty-one years old.

The Loren Eiseley Collection includes several books from the 1920's with Eiseley's signature. Among them are a first edition of Don Marquis' Arcky and Mehitabel, Stephen Vincent Benet's John Brown's Body, and Henry Williamson's The Village Book - this contains a letter written to Eiseley from Williamson. Eiseley was much more likely to sign books which he owned in his earlier years of collecting than in his later life. When he once gave a set of Thomas Hardy's The Dynasts, signed by Hardy, to the Rare Book Department at the University of Pennsylvania, he was asked to add his own signature because it would increase the value of the volumes. Later books in which his signature appears include John Hunter's two-volume Essays and Observations on Natural History, Anatomy, Physiology, Psychology and Geology, with an Introductory lecture by Richard Owen, 1861, which has the book plate of W.C. Osman Hill, a leading British primatologist of this generation. Inserted in this book in the facsimile handwriting of John Hunter.

Still other Eiseley-signed volumes are a first edition of F. Wood Jones' Arboreal Man, 1916; Henry Fairfield Osborn's Proboscidea, a two-volume set from an edition of 675 Copies, edited by Mabel Rice Percy, published on the J. Pierpont Morgan Fund by the Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History, 1936-1942; a 1760 copy of William Derham's Select Remains of the Learned John Ray, M.A. and F. R. S., With His Life; a two-volume first edition of Memoir and correspondence of the late Sir James Edward Smith... Ed. by Lady Smith, London, 1832; and The Stone Age of Mount Carmel: the Fossil Human Remains from the Levallois-Mousterian, Vol. II (Report of the Joint expedition of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem and the American School of Prehistoric Research in Association with the Royal College of Surgeons of England, 1929-1937), authored by Eiseley's good friend Theodore D. McCown, and Sir Arthur Keith, 1939.

It is particularly fitting that Eiseley's signature is in Henry Fairfield Osborn's Cope: Master Naturalist: the Life and Letters of Edward Drinker Cope. With a Bibliography of His Writings Classified by Subject; A Study of the Pioneer and Foundation Periods of Vertebrate Palaeontology in America, 1931. The remains of Professor Cope were given to the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania by the Wistar Institute, which had inherited them early in this century from the now long defunct Anthropometric Society to which Cope willed them. For many years Cope's skeleton reposed in Eiseley's office in an old cardboard carton. Eiseley had a sentimental feeling for his ghostly lodger and sometimes he and a special guest who shared Eiseley's regard for "old bones" would drink a toast to Cope when lunching in Eiseley's office. A photograph of Loren Eiseley with his bony friend appeared in the Smithsonian magazine, August 1975.

In addition to his signature in many books in his collection, Eiseley at one time used a bookplate featuring a bison, skull. This was designed for him around 1946 by artist Shirley Moskowitz. According to Mabel Eiseley, the design was probably chosen because of Eiseley's work on certain Folsom sites in the West. Eiseley always kept in his office the long-horned skulls of two extinct bison which were decorated during the Christmas season with tinsel and holly, a custom that would have amazed the bison when they were trampling heavily about the earth.

Eiseley's interests over the years were broad and his collection was not built with the idea of the monetary value of a volume, although rare books always pleased him, but of its value to himself, the book lover. "Years of hours" were spent browsing in old book shops in Philadelphia, New York, or in towns which Eiseley visited during his many lecture engagements around the country. He was much in demand as a speaker at colleges and universities; thirty-six hoods and citations represent the honorary degrees that he received from academic institutions. A selection of these scholarly tributes to Loren Eiseley's achievements will be displayed in the Loren Eiseley Conference Room.

Some of the volumes that Eiseley had acquired over the years by his incessant haunting of bookshops include the following that particularly appealed to him: a scarce 1895 first edition of Sir Archibald Geikie's Memoir of Sir Andrew Crombie Ramsay. With Portraits; an 1851 first edition of Philip Henry Gosse's A Naturalist's Sojourn in Jamaica; an 1841 first edition of W. Cooke Taylor's The Natural History of Society in the Barbarous and Civilized States: an essay towards discovering the origin and course of human improvement; an 1839 edition of Thomas Dick's Celestial Scenery; or, The wonders of the planetary system displayed; and Christian Huygens' The Celestial Worlds Discover'd: or, Conjectures concerning the Inhabitants, Plants and Productions of the World in the Planets. Corrected and enlarged, 1722, second edition, with five folding copper plates. "It's not improbable that the rest of the Planets Have their Dress and Furniture, and perhaps their inhabitants too." wrote the author of Celestial Worlds, revealing that man has long been interested in what lay "in the heavens." One helpful little volume in Eiseley's collection is H. S. Boutell's First Editions To-Day and How to Tell Them, published in Philadelphia by J. B. Lippincott in 1929. This contains handwritten notes in the back of the book by Loren Eiseley concerning first editions,

Eiseley was exceedingly fond of the work of Sir Thomas Browne and had several volumes by and about this seventeenth century writer and physician, including one from a 1929 Kelmscott edition of 210 copies printed in London on handmade paper. Nevertheless he did not share Sir Thomas's suggestion in his Religio Medici to have a synod established to "reduce learning to a few and

solid authors, and condemn to the fire" all that did not receive its imprimature - as ridiculous a suggestion to a book lover interested in "everything" as Schopenhauer's advice "Learn not to read," or Emerson's comment never to read any but "famed books," and never one that is not at least a year old. Who, then, would read Loren Eiseley's own newest publication?

Sometimes special books were given to Eiseley by readers whom he had never met but who had loved his work. A well-known London neurosurgeon with whom he had long corresponded sent him, during his last illness, a scarce 17th century edition of one of the works of John Ray, the first great English biologist: Miscellaneous Discourses Concerning the Dissolution and Changes of the World, Wherein The Primitive Chaos and Creation, the General Deluge, Fountains, Formed Stones, Sea-Shells found in the Earth, Subterraneous Trees, Mountains, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, the Universal Conflagration and Future State, are largely Discussed and Examined. London: Printed for Samuel Smith at the Prince's Arms in St. Paul's Church Yard, 1692.

Another time a reader of his books sent Eiseley a two-volume set entitled The Medals of Creation by Gideon Mantell, one of England's early 19th century paleontologists whose chief claim to fame was his discovery and description of the first dinosaur to be found in England. The donor said the set had been hidden away in his barn, and that he thought Eiseley might like to have it.

Eiseley's book collection was also enriched from a lecture at one of the southern colleges when the President of that college, at whose home Eiseley was an overnight visitor, placed a copy of The Cloud of Unknowing

on the bedside table of his guest. Eiseley told his host the next morning how much he had enjoyed reading the volume well into the night, and the gentleman presented it to him with his thanks for Eiseley's appearance at his college. A Book of Contemplation the Which is called The Cloud of Unknowing in the Which a soul is oned with God is a treatise written anonymously by a mystic of the 14th century. Six manuscripts of it are in the British Museum, four from the 15th century on vellum and two from the 16th century on paper. Eiseley would have liked one of the vellum copies but was delighted with the sixth edition published in 1956 in London.

As is true of most book lovers, if Eiseley was interested in the work of an author, he wanted everything by and about that author that he could possess. There are countless books in his collection by the English naturalists W.H. Hudson, Richard Jefferies and Gilbert White,<sup>8</sup> as well as by New England's Henry David Thoreau to whom Eiseley has often been compared. Eiseley wrote an Afterword, "Thoreau's Vision of the Natural World," for the book The Illustrated World of Thoreau, Words by Henry David Thoreau, Photographs by Ivan Masson, edited by Howard Chapnick, Grosset and Dunlap, 1974. This piece was reprinted in Eiseley's book The Star Thrower.

Philosopher George Santayana is represented by many volumes, as are evolutionist Charles Darwin, literary essayists Ralph Waldo Emerson and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and the early English scientists Sir Thomas Browne and Francis Bacon. A Bacon work much loved by Eiseley is a 1640 edition of The Advancement of Learning mentioned by Eiseley in his book The Man Who Saw Through Time. "It is crinkled with age and touched by water, and its

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<sup>8</sup> Bibliography of Gilbert White, by Edward A. Martin, is signed by Cornelius Weygandt and dated by him 1900. Philadelphia born Weygandt, at one time a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, was a well-known writer whose books included works concerning early Philadelphia.

pages are marked by the rose of a creeping fungus," wrote Eiseley.

"...There are pages so blackened that one thinks inevitably of the slow way that the fires in the brain of genius run on through the centuries..."

The famous English poet W.H. Auden, who authored an excellent review of Eiseley's book The Unexpected Universe,<sup>9</sup> stated that Eiseley's obvious ancestors, as both writers and thinkers, were Thoreau and Emerson, "but he often reminds me of Ruskin, Richard Jefferies, W.H. Hudson . . . I would not have expected someone who is an American and a scientist to have read such little-known literary works as the Vóluspá, James Thomson's The City of Dreadful Night, and Charles Williams's play Cranmer. . . ."

Auden possibly did not realize that Eiseley read "everything" but he must have known that Eiseley read The Wizard of Oz, from which he quoted in The Unexpected Universe. A nice edition of this is in Eiseley's library and he would only smile if a learned scholar protested its inclusion and say, as he did in The Unexpected Universe, that "The whole story of humanity is basically that of a journey toward the Emerald City, and of an effort to learn the nature of Oz, who, perhaps wisely, keeps himself concealed."

Although Auden never inscribed a book for Loren Eiseley, he did dedicate a poem to him ("Unpredictable but Providential") which appeared both in The New Yorker magazine and The London Times Literary Supplement. Eiseley, in return, inscribed a poem "And As For Man" to Auden in his second book of poetry, The Innocent Assassins. Eiseley's account in The Unexpected Universe of playing with a young fox charmed Auden, who would probably also

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<sup>9</sup>"Concerning the Unpredictable." The New Yorker, 1970.

have enjoyed seeing Eiseley's large collection of books on natural history, which includes works on everything from dragonflies to lions.

Eiseley contributed generously to various organizations which aided wild or domestic animals and one of his awards is the Joseph Wood Krutch Medal given him in 1976 by the National Humane Society. In the same year he received the prestigious Bradford Washburn Award in Science from the Boston Museum of Science (a gold medal and \$5000) for his contributions to the public understanding of science.

Although Eiseley's varied collection includes many books on religion, a childhood incident revealed that he and God were not always on good terms. In 1923, when he was sixteen years old, he wrote a paper entitled "Whiskers" for his English class about a dog he owned and loved who was killed by a pack of dogs belonging to a neighboring farmer.

"I remembered what the big folks said about heaven and was content until I learned that church people didn't seem to think animals went to heaven. I was terribly hurt at this and I don't believe I've ever had as good an opinion of God's judgment since."

Eiseley's teacher wrote on the back page of the essay that she liked it, which shown that Miss Wyman of English V had good judgment even if Loren Eiseley thought God did not. Certainly the incident did not stop Eiseley from including the study of religious works in the Everything that he pursued. He received many letters from ministers of various denominations, several of whom had quoted from his books in their sermons. The eminent John Haynes Holmes of the Community Church in New York wrote Eiseley in 1962 that he had used The Firmament of Time as the subject of a sermon at his

church. A Boston minister used The Unexpected Universe as the base for a sermon he delivered on "The Unexpected Christ." One Methodist minister in Oklahoma named his little dog "Eiseley" after the man whose books had given him much pleasure. Eiseley was a friend of the Reverend John G. McEllhenney, pastor of the Ardmore United Methodist Church, and possessed an inscribed copy of one of his books. He was also a close friend of long time University of Pennsylvania Chaplain Dr. Stanley Johnson, who conducted Eiseley's funeral service in 1977. Both of these ministerial friends visited Eiseley regularly during his fatal illness.

A large old-fashioned family Bible which had belonged to the Coreys, Eiseley's forebears on his mother's side, and from whom he received his middle name, will be placed in the Loren Eiseley Conference Room. The Bible, which Eiseley always kept in his home office, contains family records and many old photographs of Eiseley's ancestors. Eiseley dedicated his book The Night Country to his grandmother, Malvina McKee Corey,

"Who sleeps as all my people sleep  
By the ways of the westward crossing"

Milo Corey, Eiseley's grandfather, to whom the poem "The Birdhouse," in The Innocent Assassins, was dedicated, "rumbled like cyclone weather" when asked to make a birdhouse for his grandson's birthday, but

"...came up with a Victorian home,  
windows, porticoes and all . . ."

The little boy who received the wooden masterpiece could not build Victorian birdhouses, but the man who grew from him could and did build with words scenes from times much more ancient than the Victorian period. Milo Corey's wonderful birdhouse is long since lost. The "buildings" created by Milo's grandson are certain to have a happier future. Of The Star Thrower, Ray Bradbury, in a publicity quotation for the publisher of this book of Eiseley's, wrote that "It will go to the Moon and Mars with future generations."

A man of sentiment, Eiseley had kept in his library over the years a few books of his boyhood, such as Black Beauty, The Water Babies, and Jules Verne's Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea and From the Earth to the Moon. These last two were given to him in 1919 by a member of his family and are signed with his name and address. Eiseley remembered The Water Babies into his adult life and quoted from it in a scholarly article, "Fossil Man and Human Evolution." written for The Yearbook of Anthropology, 1955, edited by W. L. Thomas and sponsored by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. Of his childhood books, Eiseley wrote in an interview in November, 1967:

"One thing which touches me deeply in my memories of my parents is that, although we were poor, I was allowed a little library of my own, and that there entered into our household a warmth from the ownership of books such as each of us should cherish and grow old with. With all due recognition of the great libraries which have served me well through the years, nothing has strengthened the love of books in my heart so much as the little handful of personally owned volumes which first opened to me the doorways of the world."

The childhood books will be in the Eiseley Room, as will be the last book Eiseley ever purchased, Patrick Matthew's On Naval Timber and Arboriculture, with critical notes on authors who have recently treated the subject of planting. This volume was an 1831 first edition, bound in half green morocco. Eiseley's interest in the book was a result of his general fascination with Darwiniana, of which

there is an excellent selection in the Loren Eiseley Room. Eiseley was well known as a Darwin specialist. His own book, Darwin's Century, published in 1958, is still considered a classic in its field and is often cited by other authors writing about Darwin. The first and only edition of Matthew's exceedingly rare work anticipated Darwin's theory of evolution. In the Historical Sketch to Darwin's The Origin of Species Darwin admitted that Matthew's work on Naval Timber "gives precisely the same view on the origin of species as that propounded by Mr. Wallace and myself in the Linnaean Journal, and as that enlarged in the present volume . . . He clearly saw the full force of the principle of natural selection."

Other books in the field of Darwiniana in the Eiseley Collection include those by both Charles and Erasmus Darwin; Thomas H. Huxley; Sir Charles Lyell; Alfred Russel Wallace; Richard Owen; Chauncey Wright; St. George Mivart; Georges Cuvier; Asa Gray; J. Stanley Grimes; Georges Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon; Jean-Baptiste Pierre Antoine de Monet, Chevalier de Lamarck; Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker; and Robert Chambers. Eiseley has noted in a book catalogue listing of the first American edition (1846) of Chambers' Explanations: a sequel to "Vestiges of the natural history of Creation, - "have in leather in good condition."

Eiseley had a special interest in Wallace, who came upon the idea of natural selection after Darwin had formulated his theory of it but before Darwin had published his work on the subject following years of research. Eiseley was one of the speakers when the American Philosophical Society Library joined with the Friends of the University

of Pennsylvania Library in a program and exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of the publication in 1859 of Charles Darwin's On The Origin of Species. Wallace is represented in Eiseley's collection by two first editions, an 1875 two-volume work, The Geographic Distribution of Animals, and an 1898 copy of The Wonderful Century, Its Successes and Failures.

A very important item in the Darwin collection is an 1818 first edition of William Charles Wells' Two Essays: one upon Single Vision with Two Eyes: the other on Dew. A Letter to the Right Hon. Lloyd, Lord Kenyon and an Account of a Female of the White Race of Mankind, part of whose Skin resembles that of a Negro; with some Observations on the causes of the differences in colour and form between the White and Negro Races of Men. With a Memoir of his Life. This is the original and only edition of this book which contains in the "Account of a Female, etc." a theory of natural selection. The only book in Eiseley's library by Edward Blyth, mentioned earlier in this Report, has the unspectacular title Catalogue of the Birds in the Museum Asiatic Society, Calcutta: Printed by J, Thomas Baptist Mission Press, 1849.

In the same Wheldon and Wesley catalogue from England listing the Matthew book which Eiseley purchased, several titles have been checked by Eiseley, either as books which he wished to order or as a record of the most recent prices of some of the volumes already in his

library. The word "Me" is written beside The Origin of the Human Skeleton, by Robert Broom, 1930; The British Oak its history and natural history, by M.G, Morris and F. H. Perring; Trees of the British Isles in history and legend, by J.H. Wilks; and Essai sur les glaciers et sur le terrain erratique du bassin du Rhone, by J. de Charpentier. The notation against this last title has been crossed through. Eiseley had evidently decided that for 110 pounds he could bear to live without the book, or perhaps he discovered he already had it in his library. He has noted "have" of the following books: Antarctic Penguins, a study of their social habits, by G. M. Levick, 1914; Birds in town and village, by W. H. Hudson, first edition, 1919; Concealing-Coloration in the Animal Kingdom, by G.H& Thayer, with 16 coloured plates and 140 other illustrations; More Letters of Charles Darwin, a record of his work in a series of hitherto unpublished letters, edited by F. Darwin, 2 volumes, 1903, "scarce," the original printing; and five other volumes. The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland, with seven coloured title-plates, privately printed, Edinburgh, 1906-1913, "very scarce," was merely checked while Eiseley made up his mind about the 350 pounds price, and probably remembered the other two books on trees in the catalogue opposite which he had already written "Me."

The above treasure-filled book catalogue has been placed in Loren Eiseley's library next to his Patrick Matthew volume as a reminder to those who will read his books of the happy hours that Eiseley

spent poring over the catalogues that streamed into his office from England, the United States, and other countries. The booksellers were obviously well aware that Loren Eiseley was a good customer who wrote "Me" after many of the volumes listed in their catalogues.

Book catalogues, incidentally, were among Loren Eiseley's favorite reading. If he had been able to do so he would have followed in the footsteps of the greedy 19th century English book collector Sir Thomas Phillips who ordered books on a prodigiously large scale. Bookseller Thomas Thorpe prepared many of his book catalogues for Sir Thomas alone. "I have enclosed the list of numbers you requested," a bookseller wrote Sir Thomas in 1834. "They mark four thousand nine hundred and nine pounds and consist of 498 volumes and 471 lots unbound." Eiseley, unlike Phillips, who was noted for buying books he never unpacked, would not have been able to resist opening the cartons of books and somehow managing to inspect them. He had libraries located in three separate places: his office in the University Museum; his home, where books crept from study to long hallway, bedroom, living room and dining room; and in an apartment adjoining his and Mrs. Eiseley's owns which was rented for the express purpose of being filled with his constantly growing collection of books.

The book catalogues always made Loren Eiseley recall the many treasures he had missed by ordering certain volumes for the University of Pennsylvania library. He had written thousands of acquisition cards over the years, a fact which is known to many "old timers" at Van Pelt

and especially to retired members of the Acquisitions department. Also, at the personal request of Dr. William E. Lingelbach, one-time Librarian of the American Philosophical Society, Eiseley searched for volumes to form the nucleus of the Darwin-Lyell correspondence in the Library's collection. In later years as he perused incoming book catalogues he always noticed the great increase in prices and would sigh over what he had ordered for the University of Pennsylvania or the American Philosophical Society or for the library at Oberlin College, where he was at one time Chairman of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. He had once ordered a book with a fore-edge painting for Oberlin's library instead of for himself and he never forgot it. Even in his later years, "for the fun of it," he still examined a 1953 Bernard Quaritch book catalogue and wished that he had ordered for himself a 1656 first edition of John Tradescant's Musaeum Tradescantianum: Or, A Collection of Rarities. Preserved at South-Lambeth Neer London, a volume which then sold for \$78.40. In red leather binding gilt, gilt edges, it had portraits of the two Tradescants, a shield of arms by Hollar, and even then was rare. The Tradescant collection was the first cabinet of natural curiosities formed in England and ultimately became the nucleus of the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford.

Eiseley seemed to remember every book he had ordered. Once when a title on an acquisitions card of thirty years ago for Oberlin

College was read to him (he had brought with him to Philadelphia a carton of copies of many of his book orders at that institution), he immediately responded with the name of the author and the book catalogue in which it had been listed. He also remembered the colors of the covers of most of the books he owned and when he was working at his home and called his office requesting that a certain book be brought to him, he would describe it, and correctly -- "it has green covers, is fairly thick, and is on a shelf about as high as my shoulder, near the front window." Although Van Pelt would doubtless have called this an unorthodox way to request a book, the method worked unfailingly for Loren Eiseley.

Eiseley took great pride in his acquisitions work for the libraries at the three institutions where he had been a professor during his academic life. In the files in Archives marked "Interviews with Loren Eiseley and Articles Concerning Him" are two articles referring to his hobby as librarian. Although Eiseley was an anthropologist, author, naturalist, and philosopher, he would also have liked to have been a great scholar-librarian of the old school. He would not have been on good terms with the computers in modern libraries at all but he would have walked frequently through the stacks rescuing books that he knew to be scarce or unobtainable and send them up to the Rare Book department. Also, since he had such a protective feeling about books, regarding them almost as people, he would probably never have wanted them touched except by hands as loving as his own. Eiseley would have understood the remark of American bibliophile Edward Newton in his book End Papers:

"I found a man rubbing his dirty hands over a fine copy of Blake's Songs of Innocence and assuring another that it must be lithographed because it was colored! My first thought was to kill this man, but, realizing that he might be dear to some one, I let him live."

One of the first things Eiseley did when he became Provost of the University of Pennsylvania was to raise the salaries of the library personnel and also to secure a grant which would provide for binding many volumes in bad condition. A letter to Eiseley from Jesse Mills, the then Assistant Director at the University Library, written upon Eiseley's resignation as Provost, reads:

"I do want to say two things: one, you have been a most excellent Provost; and, two, I want to thank you sincerely for what you have done for this Library during your term as Provost and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you did for me personally."

In reply, Eiseley told Mills that

"The Library as an institution is one of my pets, and . . . the Penn Library in particular has a hold on my affections because of the persons, like your self, who impart their own vision and understanding to make it more than a repository of books."

Libraries had been places of enchantment to Loren Eiseley from the time when he was a young boy. One of his favorite recollections of his childhood was of travelling in his coaster wagon to the Lincoln, Nebraska, public library and pulling the book-filled wagon home. "The City Library, in fact, became a kind of second, if not almost literally a first home," he wrote in an unpublished biographical note. He kept

a photograph of the old Lincoln library on his office desk as a reminder of his coaster-wagon book expeditions.

Of a scholar's personal library, Eiseley wrote, again on one of his "scraps,"

"These are the places where the mind, moving among the strange disparate litter of the Universe, whips out invisible tentacles, drawing in these elements and combining them into new and sometimes wonderful concoctions which, in their turn, will be passed on to the shelves of other men. There they may lie for a century, or two centuries, for five centuries, until some other radiant mind picks them up and rearranges them once more. Books are like the spores that a strange fungus exudes in the night. Many are lost but others lie waiting in dark corners for the fertile moment to come again."

Standing boldly on the library shelves of Loren Eiseley, the scholar, along with science, philosophy, Sir Thomas Browne, Francis Bacon and Charles Darwin, are two books that Eiseley would wish to have there, although a visitor to the Loren Eiseley Conference Room might wonder at their inclusion in the domain of scholarship. One is A Garland of Weights: Some Notes on Collecting Antique French Glass Paperweights for Those Who Don't, by Frank J. Manheim. Exquisite color photographs of bewitching paperweights decorate almost every page. Baccarat carpet-ground, Clichy Millefiori on snow white carpet-ground, Saint Louis Bouquet in a Basket -- even the names of these wonderful

objects that fascinated Loren Eiseley are melodious and beautiful. He owned no French paperweights such as those portrayed in this book but he would have liked to, and he did have a small collection of glass weights, including a charming, very old one given to him by his wife, that glittered strangely among the petrified wood, ancient flaked arrowheads, shells and extinct animal bones that were scattered about his home.

Another book that gave Eiseley pleasure to study was The Collecting of Guns, edited by James E. Serven. The man who was so well known as a naturalist and animal lover -- he was interested in wolves, bears, bees, deer, lions, beavers, almost every animal one could mention -- would never have used a gun but, like the paperweights, these weapons fashioned so expertly of wood and metal by the ingenuity of a craftsman had a beauty that intrigued him. He did possess and treasure, because they were marvelously made, a Pepper-box and a Colt revolver, two old guns that were given to him by a friend for whom he helped evaluate the books in her husband's library. In an unused, handwritten Preface originally intended for his book The Night Country, Loren Eiseley Says:

"I write in the study with a cavalryman revolver lying in the desk drawer. Sometimes I take it out and touch it for it came from the Battle of the Wilderness. I clean it for a dead man who used it well, as the worn firing cylinder shows. My uncalloused desk-trained hand can scarcely hold and aim the ancient weapon without wavering. Some where in the dark the man in the blue coat must smile."

It was not strange that an anthropologist who studied the hunting customs of men who had once owned the arrowheads and other weapons that he himself had dug out of the earth would admire the beauty of a modern weapon. Part of him, as his readers know well, was always far back in time when a man without a weapon was helpless against the tiger, the lion, and even his fellow men. Eiseley has written in an unpublished autobiographical note, "I have to admit that I can batter out of flint a reasonable facsimile of a Stone Age handax."

James Hahn, nephew of Eiseley and now the owner of Eiseley's Guns, says of them: "The Colt revolver was of particular interest to Loren, as it is a later and more refined model of the repeating arm first used by the Rangers in their invasion of Mexico, and was reported in historical perspective by Webb. The hammer on this gun was frozen when Loren received it, and he gave it a resounding thump with some household item and set it working once more. The Pepper-box was a more genteel weapon and is usually associated with trite lovers' quarrels, opera assassins, and hansom cabs. Mat Dillon wouldn't have been caught dead with one. The gun was an effective arm for dispatching a local rowdy or two by a sheriff in a saloon in the Old West. Loren loved all of this history and the innovative technology that went with it."

Loren Eiseley was well acquainted with literature of the west and much of the Westerniana in Van Pelt Library was ordered by him. Among the memorabilia that will be on the shelves in the Loren Eiseley Room will be

two toy metal soldiers that Eiseley had saved lovingly from his childhood days, and a photograph of his grandfather Eiseley in a Civil War uniform. Charles Frederick Eiseley was a cavalryman in the Grand Army of the Republic and also a member of the first legislature in Nebraska Territory, as Eiseley noted in the dedication to his grandfather and to his "Uncle Buck" in his autobiography, All the Strange Hours.

Eiseley enjoyed the physical beauty of books as he did their contents, which in common to book lovers, although physical beauty might have a different meaning to an anthropologist than it would to a layman. One book in Eiseley's library that he especially favored was History of Mankind, by Prof. Friedrich Ratzel, translated from the second German edition by A. J. Butler. The books in the three-volume set, published in 1896, have gilt-stamped boards and spine and many beautiful coloured plates. Eiseley also admired a first edition by Franz Boas, The Social Organization and Secret Societies of the Kwakiutl Indians, published by the Smithsonian Institution in 1897. This has marbled boards, edges, and end papers, gilt-stamped spine, and coloured plates. A special two-volume set was George Catlin's North American Indians, Edinburgh, John Grant, 1926. The volumes contain 320 plates engraved from the author's original paintings and are gilt-stamped on the front cover, with gilt-edged top pages.

One of Eiseley's favorite volumes from the standpoint of both physical beauty and interest to him was an 1897 copy of Fridtjof Nansen's Farthest North; Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration of the ship "Fram" 1893-96 and of a fifteen month's sleigh Journey by Dr. Nansen and Lieut. Johansen. The book has gold-stamped boards, with a map of the North Pole regions in the map pocket. Other "beautiful" books include Indian Antiquities, Vol. IV, by Maurice Thomas, printed for the author in London in 1794; an 1855 copy of John C. Warren's Description of a Skeleton of the Mastodon Giganteus of North

America, which has a coloured illustration on the frontispiece and many wonderful plates; and an 1811 copy of George Puttenham's The Arte of English Poesie. Inserted in the front of this book in a reprint from Publisher's Weekly of November 20, 1926, which reads: "the beautiful title page of a rare Elizabethan volume makes an attractive decoration for Drake's current catalog." One small book which Eiseley liked to handle was a 1900 copy of The Confessions of Saint Augustine in Ten Books from an edition brought out by the Chiswick Press in London, printed on Japanese vellum and bound in full parchment, The title page was designed by Lawrence Housman, illustrations designed by Paul Woodroffe and engraved on wood by Miss Clementins Housman. There were only thirty copies of this edition.

Eiseley was a dedicated preserver of books and had many of his rebounds often in linens. One, edited by Charles Murchison, was an 1868 two-volume set, Palaeontological Memoirs and Notes of the Late Hugh Falconer, A.M., M.D., etc.... Vol. I: Fauna antiqua Sivalensis; Vol. II: Mastodon, Elephant, Rhinoceros, Ossiferous Caves, Primeval Man and His Contemporaries. Other books that Eiseley had bound for him include W. H. Hudson's The Naturalist in La Plata, 1892, in which is enclosed a clipping from the year 1881 concerning the history of Bertram's Botanical Gardens; and Rev. Samuel Stanhope Smith's An Essay on the Causes of the Variety of Complexion and Figure in the Human Specie; to which are added, Strictures on Lord Kaim's Discourse, on the Original Diversity of Mankind, 1789. This volume was signed by James Arthur Meigs. In the front of the book Eiseley has placed a clipping about Dr. Charles D. Meigs, graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (medicine, 1817). In his handwriting he notes that the clipping is from the Inquirer, October 22, 1962, Rembrandt

Peale's Account of the Skeleton of the Mammoth, a non-descript Carnivorous Animal of Immense Size, Found-in America, London, 1802, rebound, has been catalogued as "valuable." One of Eiseley's favorites that he had rebound in 1966 was an 1856 copy of Grandville's Scenes de la Vie Privée et Publique Des Animaux, Vignettes par Grandville, etc., published in Paris. Grandville was a famous illustrator, and the book, Mabel Eiseley says wistfully, was originally hers, but her husband so admired the illustrations in it of the many insects dressed in costumes that gradually, in the way some books do, the volume moved over to Eiseley's shelves, particularly after he had it rebound.

A group of reprints from the Bulletin of the Geological Society of China, Peiping, was bound in 1946 for Eiseley. The reprints concern material associated with the discovery of Sinanthropus pekinensis and begin with Davidson Black's "Preliminary Notice of the Discovery of an Adult Sinanthropus Skull at Chou Kou Tien." (1929). Black wrote the first report on the discovery of the Sinanthropus material and it was he who gave the ancient fossil, popularly called Peking Man, its scientific name. In addition to the above material, Eiseley owned several copies of Palaeontologia Sinica, published by the Geological Survey of China, which contained articles by C. C. Young, 1932; M. N. Bien, 1934; P. Teilhard de Chardin, 1939; and Pei Wen Chung, 1931 and 1939. All of these individuals were prominent for their work with Sinanthropus material,

Many reprints or journals in Eiseley's collection include those from his friends and acquaintances in the field of anthropology and the other sciences, not only from his colleagues in the Department of Anthropology at Penn but from others around the world; Phillip V. Tobias, of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, who always remembered

Eiseley with a Christmas card which sometimes gave him information referring to important discoveries; Elwyn Simons, who sent him a cast of a mandible of Gigantopithecus bilospurensis, as well as his reprints; Sir Arthur Keith; L.S.B. Leakey; W.W. Howells; Dr. Charles Aring; Tilly Edinger; Alfred Kroeber; Dr. William Goody, English neurosurgeon; William L. Straus; Theodore D. McCown; Hallam Movius; Sherwood L. Washburn; G.H.R. von Koenigswald; Robert Broom; Raymond Dart; and William Duncan Strong, whol Eiseley wrote, "lured me into anthropology as a major subject."

"The Problem of Man's Antiquity: an Historical Survey," Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History) Geology, London, 1964, is inscribed from Kenneth P, Oakley. In the article, following a drawing of the Foxhall jaw, Oakley has noted "After Eiseley." Eiseley, in 1943, had published a paper, "A Neglected Anatomical Feature of the Foxhall Jaw," in Transactions Kansas Academy Science, Vol. 46. The man who loved marvels did not hesitate to marvel "at the statistical chances involved in the discovery of an individual with triple mental foramina at Foxhall."

Eiseley acquired by purchase or gifts from friends many reprints and pamphlets, some of which are signed by their authors, from the earlier part of this century and into the past one. Among them are: H.V. Vallois' "Los Pygmées at L'origine de l'Homme," Revue Scientifique du 15 juin 1938; "Memoir on the Extinct Species of American Ox," by Joseph Leidy, from Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, Vol. V., accepted for publication Sept., 1852; "The Dependence of Science upon Religion, a Discourse Delivered at the Dedication of Manning Hall, The Chapel and Library of Brown University,

February 4, 1835," by Francis Wayland, D.D.; "On the Origin of Savage Life," opening address read before the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool, Oct. 6, 1873, by Albert J. Mott;<sup>10</sup> "Contributions to the Comparative Myology of the Chimpanzee," by Burt G. Wilder, Boston Journal of Natural History, 1861, inscribed by the author to Asa Gray; and a number of papers by Edward Drinker Cope, including "On the Extinct dogs of North America," from the American Naturalist, 1883, and "The Artiodactyla," also from the American Naturalist 1888 and 1889. Titles or even the tables of contents of reprints or pamphlets in the mid or early eighties were often handwritten, as was Leidy's,

Eiseley wrote copious notes on early man and one metal card file alone contains numerous cards with information concerning such specimens as Aitape Skull, Australopithecus africanus, Cohuna skull, Dryopithecus, Eoanthropus dawsoni (Piltdown), Florisbad skull, Africanthropus njarensis, Homo sapiens, Homo haidelbergensis, Keilor skull, Megalanthropus, Homo modjokertensis, Homo neanderthalensis, Sinanthropus pekinensis, and an alphabetically to the Talgai skull. He has noted on some of his Sinanthropus cards that the information on them came from conversations with Franz Weidenreich in 1941. Eiseley met Weidenreich that year when both were at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. He admired Weidenreich's papers on Sinanthropus,<sup>11</sup> owned most of them, reviewed one, and, after Weidenreich's death, wrote his

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<sup>10</sup> Eiseley quoted Mott in his article "Easter: The Isle of Faces" in The Star Thrower, remarking that "Mott's published lecture ... struck some universal chord in the make-up of the human mind. It touched the love of mystery that lies in us all."

<sup>11</sup> An undated "Suggested List of Reading for a Course in Human Paleontology" prepared by Eiseley includes Weidenreich's "The Skull of Sinanthropus pekinensis; a comparative study on a primitive hominid skull," in Palaeontologia Sinica, New Series D, No. 12, Whole Series No. 127, pp. 1-484, 1943. Eiseley had noted that the volume represented Weidenreich at the height of his powers and was the most thoroughgoing anatomical study of any fossil human crania which was then available.

obituary for the American Journal of physical Anthropology (June 1949).

In Eiseley's collection of casts of early man that will be placed in the Loren Eiseley Conference Room, the most important, perhaps, are casts of fragments of the very valuable first *Sinanthropus* skull found in 1929 at Chou Kou Tien. The casts were made in China under Davidson Black's direction and may be some of the finest ever produced of one of the *Sinanthropus* fossils. All of the *Sinanthropus* fossil material disappeared in 1941 as a result of wartime activities. Another significant item in Eiseley's collection is a set of thirteen water color drawings of the *Sinanthropus* mandible and skull fragments. They are enclosed in a manila folder unmarked by name but saying only "Sent to me [This is not Eiseley] by Davidson Black in 1929." It is quite possible that these might be one of a very few sets of such drawings of the skull. Eiseley purchased many reprints from libraries of various scientific institutions and these drawings may have been among them. Letters in 1930 and 1931 from Davidson Black to F.O. Barlow, an Englishman who was considered by leading scientists all over the world to be the most expert producer of casts in his day, mention such sets of water colors.<sup>12</sup> They were painted by an artist under Black's direction; one set was sent to Barlow in the Spring of 1930 and was displayed at the British Museum,

Attached to this paper is a report of the "Barlow File" which

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<sup>12</sup>These letters are in the Eiseley Collection.

contains correspondence from the years 1924 through 1951 between Barlow and prominent paleoanthropologists referring to the discoveries of important fossil material. This correspondence includes letters from Sir Arthur Keith, Robert Broom, Davidson Black, L.S.B. Leakey, Raymond Dart, G.H.R. von Koenigswald, Kenneth P. Oakley, Grafton Elliot Smith, J.S. Weiner, D.A.E. Garrod, Eugene Dubois, William King Gregory, J.H. McGregor, Arthur Smith Woodward, W.E. Le Gros Clark and numerous other leading Scientists. The Barlow File, with business correspondence and old catalogues issued by R.F. Damon & Co., was sent to Eiseley for his personal use in 1952 by Barlow's daughter, who specified in a letter to him that he was free to use it in any way that he wished. Eiseley, as the first President of the American Institute of Human Paleontology,<sup>13</sup> had visited Barlow in England during 1951 to purchase his business (R.F. Damon & Co.) for the Institute, an acquisition which was financed by a grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation. By decision of the Institute, the newly purchased casting program was brought to the University Museum, and Eiseley, Curator of Early Man there, served as director of the project for the first year,

All the while, among discoveries of *Sinanthropus* in Loren Eiseley's Collection, a long-time tenant of the office which will become the Loren Eiseley Conference Room gazes about him majestically and, perhaps, with a little amusement. The bust of *Sinanthropus pekinensis*, or, as he is now called, *Homo erectus*, has seen much change over the years,

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<sup>13</sup>Organized in 1949 by a few prominent anthropologists in the United States, See article by T.D. Stewart reprinted from *Science*, July 9, 1954, Vol. 120, No. 3106, for history of this organization (attached to Barlow File Report).

undoubtedly knows all the secrets of everything in the office, - even the name of the individual to whom the water colors were originally sent -- has observed Loren Eiseley in many moods, has peered over his shoulder as he composed some of his work, and probably is scornful of the attention that was paid to Professor Cope's bones, so much younger than his owns. He accepts the fact that the Room will be, as is only fitting, a memorial to its former occupant who possessed historical material concerning his own ancient origins, and could tell visitors to the Room a thing or two about his early life if he could open his plaster mouth, or wanted to. He also knows that he will remain in the Conference Room as a "guardian," and presumes that a strand of tinsel decorated with a silver bell will be placed around his neck during the Christmas seasons as it was for so many years.

Loren Eiseley's correspondence files reflect his relationships with scholars in many fields and include letters from his early days, when he was especially active in his profession of anthropology, to later periods when he had formed friendships with persons prominent in the area of literature. This correspondence will be in the University Archives. A selection of the letters will also be on display in the Eiseley Room.

Loren Eiseley's "fan" mail concerning his books and articles always brought him pleasure and he felt that he had countless friends whom he knew only by their correspondence. He received letters telling him that there were "Loren Eiseley groups" in the letter writer's community where Eiseley's work was eagerly discussed, and notes from professors

in various colleges informing him that one or more of his books were used in their classes. Students from all over the country wrote to him for advice concerning their careers and Eiseley was never too busy to help them. He always remembered his own student days and the help and advice he had been given by his good friend and teacher, Frank Speck, and others.

Many persons who wrote to Eiseley asked if they could come to see him and talk with him, and a stream of visitors dropped by whenever they were in the Philadelphia area. Eiseley was always particularly touched when he received a letter from "fans" who lived miles from book stores or libraries, and he always wondered how news of his work had reached them. One eighty year old gentleman wrote that he lived far from civilization, with a horse, a dog, and Eiseley's books. Loren Eiseley, who often became personally involved with his letter writers, worried about what would happen to the horse and the dog when his eighty year old correspondent became seriously ill or died.

Photographs of Loren Eiseley, either alone or with other individuals, will be displayed in the Eiseley Room. Many of the single photographs of Eiseley will be those by Eiseley's favorite long-time photographer and friend, Frank Ross, whose portrayals of him usually appeared on the jackets of Eiseley's books. The two men were fond of each other, and possibly because of this close relationship Ross was able to record on film the many Eiseleys that existed in the one man.

"I have survived the disguise of a teacher," Eiseley wrote in his poem "A Hider's World" from Another Kind of Autumn, although he was not only an inspired and inspiring teacher but played many other roles in life, as do all mortals. It is amazing that Ross did not somehow do the impossible, record the Eiseley who admitted that he lived "in the fern forest of all time," with hands "not hands but dragon claws . . . present with the gorgosaurs ...."<sup>14</sup> This picture, however, only Eiseley the writer could project, and doubtless it is recorded on the film of the minds of many of his readers.

A quart fruit jar containing two mud skippers will be on one of the memorabilia shelves. The mud skippers have been in the various offices occupied by Eiseley at the University since 1954, when they were given to him by his friend Ward Goodenough, now Chairman of the Department of Anthropology, a post which Eiseley held for several years, beginning in 1947 when he first came to the University of Pennsylvania. Before the fish lived in a pickled condition in the jar, they skipped about New Britain in Papua New Guinea. Eiseley immortalized them in The Immense Journey as the fish that climbed trees. Another item on the memorabilia shelves will be the ancient skull of a Greek "girl" that Eiseley was fond of and which had rested for years in his office on a piece of rather dirty cotton. He was sure, for emotional reasons, that she had been beautiful, and in addition she had a metopic suture, which is beautiful to an anthropologist.

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<sup>14</sup> "In the Fern Forest of All Time I Live," The Innocent Assassins, by Loren Eiseley, p. 92,

There is one book in the Loren Eiseley Conference Room that seems out of place. It is not in the literature section where visitors will think it belongs but nestles against Loren Eiseley's boyhood books, his Jules Verne, his Black Beauty, his Treasure Island. In spite of its seemingly wrong placement on the shelves, this old-fashioned looking book with gilt edges and gilt-stamped front cover and spine is exactly where it should be. It is the Shakespeare volume that belonged to Loren Eiseley's father, the Clyde Edwin Eiseley "who lies in the grass of the prairie frontier but is not forgotten by his son."<sup>15</sup>

Nor will Loren Eiseley, whose grave is shadowed by the branches of an immense horse chestnut tree and a delicate dogwood, be forgotten by the many readers for whom he wrote on time, nature, and the antiquity of man.

Eiseley himself knew that

“...whatever I am I will  
last long, long-lived, sleeping in the sun  
of lost millennia . . .”<sup>16</sup>

'Dr. Eiseley was one of the great gentle spirits of 20th century America," observed a reviewer of Eiseley's book The Star Thrower. "His reputation as a writer continues to grow, as it did with appropriate geologically slow, quiet irresistibility over 20 years before his death and it seems a gathering consensus that if our manic century has produced an heir-apparent to Henry David Thoreau, Dr. Eiseley is it. The Thoreau mantle, woven of cockleburs and astonishing scientific dreams, is one that he would have worn with modest pride."<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup>Dedication in The Immense Journey, by Loren Eiseley.

<sup>16</sup>“In the Fern Forest Of All Time I Live," The Innocent Assassins, by Loren Eiseley.

<sup>17</sup>Bob Lancaster, The Philadelphia Inquirer, Sunday, July 9, 1978, p. 14-G.