

ICELANDIC CONNECTION



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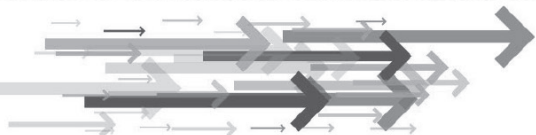
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ICELANDIC CONNECTION

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ICELANDIC CONNECTION



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ON THE COVER



From AM 738 4to an image of Bragi, the skaldic god of poetry in Norse mythology. Dated to 1670, housed at the Árni Magnússon Institute, Iceland.

Editorial

Pagan Tree Worship – Then And Now

by Elin Thordarson

Christmas has come and gone again. My artificial tree will be up until we are into the New Year, a practice that is pretty new to me since in the past I had insisted on dismantling the real evergreen right after Christmas was through. We're talking about a Boxing Day take down, dear reader. But now that sweeping up masses of needles every day and listening in dread to that tinkling of needles falling off the tree and into the wrapped presents below and wondering if this could start a fire (it can) is no longer part of my artificial tree life, I can enjoy the Christmas bulbs and twinkling ornaments a little longer. I



Barnstokkr

can get as pagan as I can for as long as I can. I can worship my Canadian Tire pre-lit Noma brand tree and the peace it brings into my home.

In *Germania*, published 98CE, Tacitus the famed Roman historian writes about the special place that trees hold in Germanic paganism and mythology. He writes: “The Germans do not think it in keeping with the divine majesty to confine gods within walls or portray them in likeness of any human countenance. Their holy places are woods and groves, and they apply the names of deities to that hidden presence which is seen only by the eye of reverence.” And philologist Rudolf Simek adds that to Germanic cult practices, “there were sacred woods long before there were temples and altars.” In Norse cosmology, the furthest northern extension of the cultures of the Germanic people, we have Yggdrasil. A sacred ash tree of immense and central importance to the Norse understanding of the origin and development of the universe. And the first human beings in Norse mythology, attested to in the Poetic Edda and the Prose Edda are said to be *Ask* and *Embla* (Old Norse: *Asmr* ok *Embla*), who were created from trees and whose names could likely mean ‘ash’ and ‘elm.’ However the translation of *Embla* to elm is problematic to many scholars as well (a study for another

time!) But let's take *Barnstokkr* as another example of the sacred importance of trees in ancient Norse belief and practices. *Barnstokkr*, from the *Völsunga Saga*, is the literal centre of King *Völsung's* hall, which is said to be "built around a tree, it bears 'fair blossoms,' and stretches through the roof of the structure." In *Landnámabók*, written in the thirteenth century, we find an entry for a skáld by the name of Þórir Snepill Ketilsson. "Þórir took possession of all of the whole of Fnjoskadal, as far as Odeila. He made his home at Lund (Old Norse for grove) and held the grove sacred.

Trees are without exception imposing living things. Known for their size or their age, there are particular trees on this fine earth that draw us humans close to them. Their haunting and ancient silence calls to us and fills our road trip photo reels in ways that are never rightly captured. Here in North America, what would we consider to be the most famous of the celebrity superlative trees? Could it be General Sherman? A giant sequoia located in Tulare County, California? It is, by volume, the largest known living single-stem tree on Earth at 84m. But Hyperion, a coast redwood, discovered only in 2006 in a secret and remote location of California's Redwood National Park takes the distinction of being the tallest living organism in the world, confirmed at 116m. The oldest living tree, in fact the oldest living non-micro-organism in the world, is a bristlecone pine that naturally goes by the biblical name Methuselah. Found also in California, Methuselah is about 4800 years old. Meaning that it was already 200 years old when the Sphinx was being built in Egypt, and an ancient 2000 years old as the Great Wall of China was constructed and about 4000 years old



Askand Embla 1919 Robert Engels

by the time the Vikings set foot on North American soil.

We still flock to these kinds of trees in order to try to attempt to fathom their size and age and power. Lone roadside trees mark the distances to our destinations. In ancient times we would have left offerings to the now nuisance crab apple trees in our backyards. We still drag evergreens into our homes as the pagan symbol of everlasting life that they are. We pile gifts under them as our ancestors did for them (but in our tradition, we gift them to our kin rather than the tree itself). We marvel at its beauty, its scent. We sweep up its needles and give it water. That is, until we tire of this and purchase an artificial tree to enjoy through the solstice, the secular and Christian holidays and into the New Year.

The Murder Oak: A Tale of Tragedy and Justice

by Glen Suggett, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba

Originally published in *Manitoba History* (Number 57, February 2008), by the Manitoba Historical Society. Republished with permission of the Champlain Society.



IMAGE COURTESY OF GLEN SUGGETT

Murder Oak as it appeared in 2006

The sandy ridges on the landscape south of Delta Marsh provide ideal growing conditions for bur oak, Manitoba's only native oak tree. While thousands of these bur oaks grow throughout the area, a lone oak, visible for miles, is unique. The "Murder

Oak," as it has come to be known, grows near a dirt road some three miles west of a modest farm that was very typical of those on the Portage Plains in the 1940s.

Among the many murder trials in Manitoba's past, the "Murder Oak" case of

September 1945 stands out. Not only does it illustrate the workings of the criminal justice system of the 1940s, it deals with a case based largely on circumstantial evidence that progressed remarkably rapidly from arrest to conviction to hanging. It took an unusual turn when an attempt was made at racial profiling to defend the accused.

The farm that brought the people involved in these events together belonged to Douglas L. Campbell, who had moved to Winnipeg to serve as the provincial Minister of Agriculture. He rented the farm to Wesley Owens and his wife Maxine, who lived there during the summers of 1943 to 1945. The Owens had two young children, a hired girl to help with housework, and a hired man to help with the farm chores. All lived together in the two storey house with the Owens family using the bedroom on the main floor. The hired girl and hired man each had a bedroom upstairs. The help had every Saturday night and every other weekend off, so on most weekends the Owens family had the house to themselves.

The hired girl was sixteen-year-old Pearl Dell from Portage la Prairie. She looked older than her years and spoke often of a boyfriend named Nick, who she had met at a dance earlier that summer and had gone out with several times. Pearl often spent weekends in Portage, either at her parent's home or with her older sister, who was married with her own home nearby. The hired man was 48-year-old Baldwin "Baldy" Jonasson, a bachelor born in Iceland who at the age of two

arrived at the Lake Manitoba Narrows with his parents. In winter, Baldy fished on Lake Manitoba and in summer he worked at farms in the Portage area. Unlike most Icelanders of the day, who prided themselves on their ability to read and write, Baldy was illiterate. However, he did own a car, which was more than most farm hands could afford, and he had a good reputation as a reliable farm hand. Few knew that, in 1927, Baldy had been convicted for assaulting a young girl.

Baldy and Pearl appeared to get along well through the summer of 1945. He frequently gave her a ride to Portage for the weekend and back to the farm on Sunday evening. It was one such Sunday night, 9 September, that Baldy went to Pearl's sister's house to give her a ride back to the Owens' farm. Monday was washday, and when she had left for the weekend, Pearl assured Mrs. Owens that she would be back by Monday morning to help with the wash. Monday came and went, but there was no sign of Pearl or Baldy.



02 JUN. 1993 131

SOURCE: LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

A muddy road leading to the Murder Oak

On Tuesday morning, 11 September, Jim Wilkinson, a neighbour, was leaving his yard in a horse-drawn wagon and saw something lying on the roadside. He drove up and discovered that it was Baldy, who was very weak and could barely speak. He had a blood-soaked bandage on his neck and a cut across his left wrist. Jim returned home to get his brother Art, who had a car. When Art arrived, Baldy said that he had an accident and his car was stuck in the ditch further down the road. They picked Baldy up and placed him in the back seat. Weak from loss of blood, he hoarsely whispered to Jim that Pearl was in his car – dead. Art drove to a nearby farm, which had a telephone, to summon the police. The Wilkinson brothers then took Baldy to the Portage Hospital.

Later, an RCMP officer heard Jonasson's version of events. He claimed that an accident had occurred west of where his car had been found. It had rained hard on Sunday and the roads were slippery. He had taken a corner too sharply and hit a culvert. Pearl's head had gone through the windshield, as had his own head. He removed a piece of windshield glass from her neck and she died in his arms without saying a word. He then got the car back on the road and proceeded towards the Owens place but he had become very weak and the car ran into the ditch. He spent Sunday night, all of Monday and the early hours of Tuesday morning in the vicinity of the car, alternately passing out and crawling to where Jim Wilkinson found him.

Investigators at the scene soon found inconsistencies in Baldy's story. The path taken by his car could be traced easily by following the imprint made by the car's tires in the soft mud. A hammer and some broken glass were found in a nearby pasture, blood stains were found on a gatepost, and a straight razor was discovered in the grass.

When the car was removed from the ditch, its windshield was found to be broken in two places, with most of the glass inside the vehicle. There was no blood on the windshield or on the dash – most was on the floor on the driver's side. Baldy did not have any injuries to his head that would suggest he had gone through a windshield. There were only two clean cuts – one to his neck and another to his wrist.

An autopsy was performed on Pearl Dell to determine the extent of her injuries and cause of death. Traces of mud were found on the inside of her thighs and there were some fine cuts in the toe of one shoe. She had suffered a blow to her forehead from a blunt object, such as a hammer, with sufficient in force to render her unconscious. Her throat had been cut twice by a sharp instrument, such as a straight razor. There were no injuries to her head that would be consistent with striking a windshield. None of the wounds had traces of glass in them. After reviewing the autopsy results and investigations at the scene, the RCMP returned to the hospital. When confronted with the evidence, Jonasson changed his story:

"I didn't quite know what I was saying when I told you before ... I had been to Langruth that day, and as it was raining, I wanted to get back early ... I went up to the pasture; I stopped to open the gate and shut it when I went through. I went over towards Wes' place and then the engine stalled. And we sat talking for a while and she said, "Let me see your hand," and then she cut my arm. I then went and cranked the car. I didn't feel it much at first. I turned the car around, and when I got out of the car to open the gate again she cut her throat and threw the razor out of my side of the car, as I had the door open. I then tried to go on with the car as she died right there. She had kicked the windshield out on her side. As I was turning to go east I ran into the culvert

and my head went through the windshield on my side, because I wasn't driving right, I guess; and that is when I cut my neck on the windshield. I tried to make Wes' place but went into the ditch."

The physical evidence did not support either of Baldy's versions. Had their heads gone through the windshield or the windshield been kicked out, it was unlikely that most of the glass would be recovered inside the car. Small fragments were found inside the pasture all the way to the point at which the car came to rest, suggesting that the windshield had been broken in the pasture and not at the gate where Jonasson claimed Pearl had kicked out the windshield. The blow to Pearl's head occurred before her throat was cut, and it seemed improbable that she could hit herself

over the head with a hammer and cut her own throat twice before throwing the razor out of the car. A coroner's inquest was convened where it was concluded there was sufficient evidence to charge Jonasson with the murder of Pearl Dell.

The Canadian justice system in 1945 dealt with serious criminal cases remarkably quickly by today's standards. The alleged murder occurred on 9 September and, upon completion of the investigation, Baldwin Jonasson was formally charged on 4 October. A preliminary hearing was held 16, 17 and 23 October, and Jonasson was



Baldwin Jonasson's car as it was found by the RCMP during their murder investigation

committed to stand trial. On 13 November, he appeared in the Court of Kings Bench to face a judge and jury. The case was heard before Mr Justice Adamson and a jury of twelve men. Mr. W. D. Card KC appeared for the Crown and Mr. H. D. Sparling represented the accused.

The trial took place over five days, from 13 to 17 November. The Crown presented its case first, calling medical witnesses, Pearl's father, the Owens, the Wilkinson brothers, and the policemen who had investigated the scene.

The first witness was Dr. G. P.

Armstrong who had examined Jonasson in the Portage District Hospital. He testified that Jonasson's wounds were caused by a sharp instrument rather than glass from a windshield. He also said that Jonasson did not have any other apparent head injuries that would be consistent with his head going through the windshield. Dr. George Hamlin was then called to testify about the wounds suffered by Pearl Dell. He stated that there were two marks to the vertebrae, indicating that there had been two cuts. When questioned about the possibility of suicide, he stated that it was not likely that the two wounds could have been self-inflicted. He had also examined the wounds suffered by Jonasson and had not found any traces of glass in the wounds. Dr. John Kettlewell, who performed the autopsy on Pearl Dell, was next called to the stand. He testified that she had suffered two wounds, one on the forehead above the right eye and the other on the neck. The wound to her forehead was crescent-shaped and

likely caused by a blunt instrument, such as a hammer, while the neck wound was inflicted by two separate incisions by a sharp instrument, one of which severed the jugular vein. He said that she likely died within two minutes of her throat being cut due to the massive loss of blood. He was unable to determine if she had been sexually assaulted.

Next, Maxine Owens and the father of Pearl Dell were called in turn to establish the relationship between the victim and the accused. Jim and Art Wilkinson testified regarding their discovery of Jonasson on the road and how later they accompanied the police during their investigation. There was no police tape cordoning off the crime scene on that occasion. It was actually Art Wilkinson who discovered the murder weapon while wandering around with the police. Jim Wilkinson testified in considerable detail about the whereabouts of various pieces of evidence, such as the razor, as well as testifying to

the absence of vehicle tracks in contact with the culvert under the road, which Jonasson had said was the cause of his accident. Art Wilkinson's testimony substantiated that of his brother and he described his discovery of the apparent murder weapon.

Wesley Owens was called to testify about his conversation with Jonasson when he visited him in the Portage District Hospital. Jonasson had related his first version of events to Owens during his visit and



SOURCE: LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

The murder weapon

then repeated it to the RCMP. Owens also testified that Jonasson kept a hammer in his car, similar to the one found in the pasture, but he did not recognize the razor as belonging to Jonasson.

The first RCMP officer called to the stand was Joseph Vachon, stationed in RCMP Headquarters in Winnipeg, who had been assigned to investigate the case. He was an eight-year member of the force at this time, specializing in fingerprints, photography and plan-drawing work. At the trial, he explained the details of various photographs he had taken of the crime scene and the map he had drawn showing the path taken by the car and the locations at which various pieces of evidence were collected. Also entered as an exhibit and discussed by Vachon, was the windshield, reconstructed from the pieces found inside the car. He described the route taken by the car and the absence of any evidence to suggest that the car had come into contact with the culvert under the road. In the course of his testimony, he incorrectly identified Jonasson's vehicle as a 1939 Plymouth coupe, when it was actually a 1937 Chevy coupe. However, no one seemed to notice the discrepancy. Although Vachon was identified as an expert in fingerprints, no fingerprint evidence was introduced at the trial.

Upon completion of Vachon's testimony, Sergeant James Newman was called to relate his conversations with Jonasson and his investigation of the crime scene. In his cross-examination of Sergeant Newman, Jonasson's defence lawyer tried an unusual line of questioning by asking, "In all your experience as a police officer, how often have you prosecuted Icelanders for homicide?" Mr. Card, the Crown prosecutor, objected and Judge Adamson responded, "Objection allowed. What has that got to do with it?" So much for racial profiling.

John Mallow, also an RCMP officer,

was called to testify about the blood samples taken from Pearl Dell and Baldwin Jonasson. The science in this regard was fairly primitive at this time, but he could determine that Dell was type O and Jonasson was type B. He was unable to find blood on the hammer and was only able to identify Jonasson's blood on the razor.

Corporal John Watson with the RCMP then testified about his investigation of the crime scene with Sergeant Newman. He indicated that he had recovered several small pieces of the windshield at various points all the way from inside the pasture to the point at which the car came to rest. He also stated that the gate to the pasture was closed when they attended the scene. Jonasson had mentioned opening the gate to drive through after Pearl had supposedly cut her own throat, but he did not mention stopping to close the gate behind him before continuing on. There was also some discussion of the crank Jonasson said he had used to start the car in the pasture.



SOURCE: LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

Jonasson's car, a 1937 Chevy coupe

The crank was never found even though a thorough search had been made of both the car and the pasture.

Upon the conclusion of the Crown's case, Jonasson's lawyer indicated that he would like to make a motion. The jury was excused so that Judge Adamson could hear the motion in their absence.

MR. SPARLING: *I make a motion that your lordship direct the jury to bring in a verdict of acquittal on the grounds that the circumstantial evidence adduced by the prosecution does not reach the standard of certainty required by the law. The whole of the evidence in the case is circumstantial. No evidence has been produced that Baldwin Jonasson killed Pearl Dell with malice. I submit that there must be convincing proof that this was the case, before any onus rests on the accused at all. In the absence of that proof it would be dangerous. I submit the circumstances must not only be consistent with the guilt of the accused, but inconsistent with any other conclusion other than guilt. It would take a good deal to lead one to think that the accused would murder his friend for no reason whatsoever. No motive has been established or suggested. I submit that that fact alone would demand convincing proof that the accused voluntarily killed Pearl Dell. It is not for the accused to prove his innocence, even though killing by him has been established; it is for the Crown to prove that he not only killed her; I submit the Crown must prove beyond reasonable doubt that Pearl Dell didn't commit suicide. The accused's explanation may be true.*

THE COURT: *Which explanation?*

MR. SPARLING: *Of suicide. Can there be any doubt at all of his condition of mind when he gave his first explanation? In addition to the exhausted condition he was in, one of the doctors said he could not fictionize. Well, his story was so ridiculous in view of the circumstances that it is indicated that he himself was unfit to make a statement, and*

if he couldn't fictionize, his statement was not true. The Crown haven't established how she received the blow on the forehead; it could still be antemortem, and could still be self-inflicted. I submit that every supposition not itself improbable which is inconsistent with his innocence should have been made. There is no ownership of the lethal weapon and self defence is not an improbable proposition.

THE COURT: *Self-defence?*

MR. SPARLING: *It is a possibility. He has made two or three statements.*

THE COURT: *But he has never suggested that it was necessary to kill her in order to preserve his own life.*

MR. SPARLING: *That is a possibility my lord.*

THE COURT: *I suppose all things are possible.*

Judge Adamson dismissed the motion and said that even though the evidence was all circumstantial, he would leave it to the jury to decide the case. He said "That is the value of a jury. Men of everyday experience and knowledge come here; they know what happens and doesn't happen in the ordinary affairs of life. It is thoroughly a matter for the jury."

Mr. Sparling's tactic, which may have proven effective in a courtroom today, had little effect on the court in 1945. It appeared from his subsequent defence of Jonasson that he had been counting on his motion for acquittal to carry the day and was not well prepared to carry out a thorough defence of his client.

Sparling first called an expert witness, Dr. Trainor, a Winnipeg pathologist, in an effort to dispute the findings of the autopsy. Dr. Trainor testified that it could have been possible for a person to hit themselves with a hammer and then cut their own throat twice before losing consciousness. However, his testimony did not stand up well under cross-examination. Sparling then called Mary

Homes, a cousin of Jonasson's to testify as to his good character and establish that he had not shaved while staying at her house the weekend of Pearl Dell's death. The implication was that if he had been in possession of a razor, he would have used it to shave himself. He then called John Devine, an employee of Moore's Taxi in Winnipeg, for his expertise on windshield glass. His testimony did little to support Jonasson's claims that Pearl had kicked out the windshield on her side and that his side was damaged when his head went through it. Next, a former employer of Jonasson's was called to confirm his good character. This line of questioning went nowhere as well. Then, Sparling called Jonasson to the stand to testify on his own behalf. In a questionable move, after trying to establish Jonasson's good character, he asked Jonasson about his previous charge of criminal assault in 1927. He then went on to question Jonasson about his version of events the night of Pearl Dell's death. Jonasson denied that either the hammer or the razor was his and said that Pearl had committed suicide.

Mr. Card then had the opportunity to cross-examine Jonasson. He asked him several questions related to his trouble in 1927 mentioned by the defence, making sure the jury understood that he had been convicted for indecent assault on an eight-year-old girl. Card then

went on to expose the improbability of Jonasson's versions of events the night of Pearl's death. Jonasson answered most of Card's questions with "I don't know" or "I don't remember." Card would repeat a statement made by Jonasson and then query "is that true?" to which Jonasson usually responded "as far as I know" even when there was an apparent contradiction. The prosecutor then asked Jonasson about the hammer recovered in the pasture. In response, Jonasson claimed that he had lost his hammer earlier in the summer and while the hammer in the court looked like his, it was not his.

Card then turned to the condition of the victim's body. "There was mud on Pearl's thighs and above her dress. "How would mud get on her thighs?" he asked Jonasson. "Did you have your hands on her that night?" It was a damning accusation in the form of a question,



It does not fit. An unidentified man assisted police by demonstrating the unlikelihood that Jonasson's throat was cut when his head went through the windshield.

hitting its mark with the jury regardless of Jonasson's quick denial. The jury could now assume a motive and piece together the events of that night for themselves. Jonasson had made advances that were resisted. He hit her with the hammer to knock her out and then cut her throat to keep her quiet. Upon coming to his senses, Jonasson had tried but failed to commit suicide. Following Card's blistering cross-examination of his client, Sparling abruptly announced that the case for the defence was concluded.

In his charge to the jury, Judge Adamson dealt with the issue of the Crown's case being based on circumstantial evidence. There were no witnesses and Jonasson denied responsibility for the death of the young woman.

Now, the accused is charged that he Baldwin Jonasson Between the 8th and the 12th of September, 1945, at the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie, in the Central Judicial district, in the Province of Manitoba, murdered Pearl Dell. I think it is sufficient for our purpose in this case to define murder in this way; if the offender means to cause the death of the person killed, that is murder. It is very simple, isn't it? If the offender means to cause the death of the person killed, it is murder. Every homicide is prima facie murder; if one person kills another, prima facie it is murder. If one person kills another the law presumes that he intended to do so. Everyone is presumed to intend the natural consequence of his act. No question of drunkenness or provocation or self-defence arises here, so I say to you that if you find that the accused, using a lethal weapon, caused Pearl Dell's death, he is guilty of murder as charged.

Now, one other thing, gentlemen, I wish to tell you which is a question of law; in this case the entire evidence, I believe – no, I should not say the entire evidence – a very large part of the evidence is circumstantial.

Perhaps you might say it is all circumstantial. Now, when may a judge or a jury convict upon circumstantial evidence? Before you can convict the prisoner—find the prisoner guilty you must be satisfied that not only that those circumstances which you find to be established are consistent with his having committed the act, but you must also be satisfied that the circumstances or facts were such as to be inconsistent with any other rational theory or explanation; you must not only be satisfied that the circumstances or facts are consistent with his guilt, but you must be satisfied that they are inconsistent with any other rational explanation. To put it another way: Where the evidence adduced by the Crown is what is commonly described as circumstantial, the jury should be brought to realize that they ought not to find as established against the accused any other fact beyond a reasonable doubt than because the guilt of the accused is the only reasonable explanation of the fact as established by the evidence. It has been said that there is no motive here; that no motive has been disclosed. Whether there is no motive or whether there is not is a question of fact, and that is a question for you. You have heard the theory advanced by the Crown, which brings in a certain sex angle. Whether or not that is the case, is a question for you; whether there is anything in that—a question of fact or conclusion from the fact—for you. But I should say this, that if you find that there is no motive you should be very careful in analyzing the evidence before convicting, especially on circumstantial evidence.

On 17 November 1945, after lunch and about an hour of deliberation, in less time than it had taken the judge to summarize the evidence of the case, the jury advised the court that it had reached a unanimous verdict. The final moments of the proceedings were recorded as follows:

2:13 pm Jury Returns.

2:19 pm Judge takes his seat.

CLERK OF THE COURT:



SOURCE: LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

Baldwin Jonasson at the time of his preliminary hearing, his throat still bandaged.

Gentlemen of the jury, have you agreed upon your verdict? If so, who shall speak for you?

FOREMAN of the jury rises.

CLERK OF THE COURT: *How say you, do you find the prisoner guilty or not guilty?*

FOREMAN: *Guilty.*

CLERK OF THE COURT:

Gentlemen of the jury, hearken to your verdict as the Court records it; you say you found the prisoner guilty; if so, so say you all.

JURYMEN GENERALLY: *Guilty.*

THE COURT: *Gentlemen of the jury: You have discharged what I am sure was a very disagreeable task, and I am glad to say you have discharged it very conscientiously. On behalf of all, I have to thank you. You*

are discharged.

Mr. CARD: *I move the sentence of the court.*

THE COURT: *Prisoner, stand up. Have you anything to say? The jury have found you guilty of murder; have you anything to say before sentence is passed upon you?*

BALDWIN JONASSON: *I am not guilty.*

THE COURT: *The jury have found you guilty; there is no alternative for me but to pass upon you the sentence which the law prescribes: The sentence of the Court is that you be taken to the gaol for the Eastern Judicial District in the Province of Manitoba, at Headingly, and that you be there confined as the law requires, until*

Friday the 8th of February 1946, and that on that day, between the hours of 12:45 in the forenoon and 8 o'clock in the forenoon you be taken from the place of confinement to the place of execution, and that you be there and then hanged by the neck until you are dead, and may God have mercy on your soul.

Jonasson's lawyer launched an appeal, but it was denied. Several letters written by members of the Icelandic community and a petition signed by residents of the Narrows area were sent to the Prime Minister and Minister of Justice requesting that Jonasson's sentence be commuted to life in prison. The authorities were not swayed by these appeals.

Shortly after midnight on Friday, 8 February 1946, as scheduled, Baldwin Jonasson was led to the gallows in

Headingly Gaol. To the end he proclaimed his innocence. Regardless, the sentence was carried out as specified and he was hanged by the neck until he was dead. He would not be the last person to be executed in Manitoba; eight more men would be led to the same gallows until the very last execution occurred in 1952.

Was an innocent man executed? The judge and jury did not think so. There was no evidence presented of fingerprints on either the hammer or razor and the analysis of the blood and other evidence on the body was crude by today's standards. However, the jury believed Jonasson was responsible for the death of Pearl Dell because there was no other plausible explanation for the circumstances. No one will ever know what really happened that night in 1945, but it ended with the death of a young woman. Five months later, the matter came to a conclusion with another death in another place. The case was closed forever.

The pasture where Pearl Dell died is now a barley field, and the road remains seldom traveled. Standing vigil to this day is the only surviving witness to the crime, a lone oak tree, known ever since as the Murder Oak.

Capital Punishment in Manitoba

The "Murder Oak" case is one of only 52 in Manitoba where capital punishment was meted out. On 6 September 1845, a Saulteaux named Capinnesweet was executed by the Hudson's Bay Company for murdering another Saulteaux. Better known was the execution by firing squad, on 4 March 1870, of Thomas Scott by the provisional government of Louis Riel. Manitoba's first execution took place on 26 August 1874 when Joseph Michaud was hung for murder. The last execution was carried out on 17 June 1952 when Henry Malanik was hung for the murder of a policeman.

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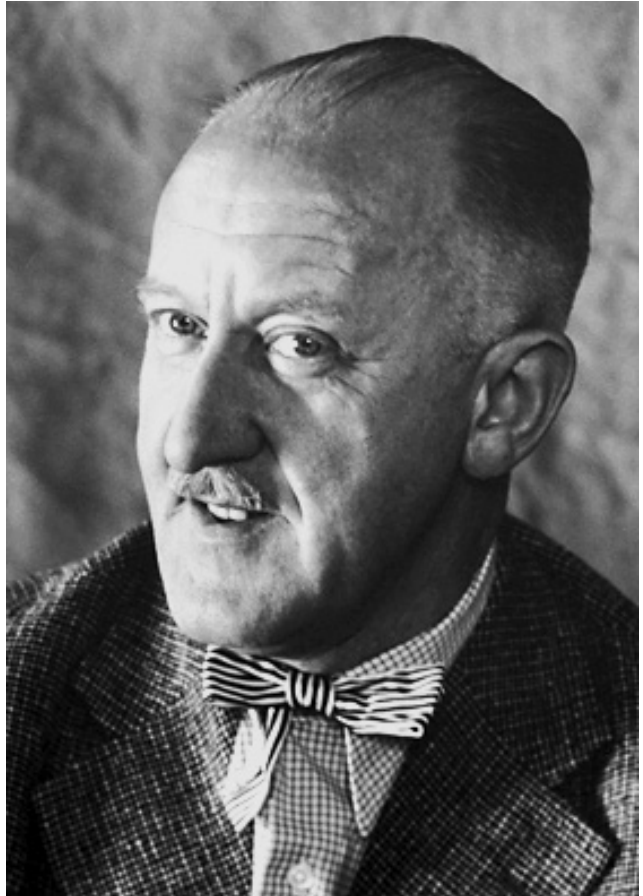
Hiding In Plain Sight – The Laxness Files

by Chay Lemoine

For almost twenty years I had the privilege of researching and writing about Nobel Prize winning Icelandic novelist Halldor Laxness. By obtaining declassified files, I contended that Halldor Laxness was the victim of literary blacklisting because of his political associations under the auspices of the FBI. Utilizing the Freedom of Information Act, I spent years requesting, appealing, changing tactics – hitting all the federal agencies that I felt harbored information that could complete the narrative of Halldor’s literary exile.

I did receive much information that proved that J. Edgar Hoover began the Laxness witch hunt. But there were missing files and one page that I felt was essential. After years of dead end searches several years ago, I decided to call it a career. I had published numerous articles in Iceland, Canada and the United States, featured in the documentary *Anti-American Wins Nobel Prize* and I made some good friends during in my search. I packed up my research papers plus some rare books and donated these to Gljufrasteinn, the Halldor Laxness Museum.

After a sixteen-year absence I took advantage of a late-night impulse and



Halldór Laxness in 1955

PHOTO: PUBLIC DOMAINE

booked a trip to Iceland to visit friends and to buy as many bottles of Lysi as an American can legally carry out of the country. When I mentioned to the curator of Gljufrasteinn that I will be visiting Iceland she asked if I would like to speak and take part in a question-and-answer

session. There is no greater honor. I felt as if I was going to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. I of course immediately accepted.

I am aware that there are some that call into question the existence of the files or even that Halldor was blacklisted. The latter attack shows an ignorance of the Red Scare era in the United States. For some, history was made to be rewritten. It is in view of these arguments, and the fact that it would provide for interesting conversation during my talk, that I decided to pull out copies of the research material and see if there was more I could do to find the missing Laxness files

In 2004 when actively trying to gain access to the FBI files on Halldor I received some files that were seen for the first time and proved just how far the United States government was willing to go to enforce its political agenda. I was told that there were files that were not from the FBI and those files would need to be reviewed by the said agency. (I was not told the agency). I surmised that the missing files were from the CIA. The CIA refused to honor my request for the files.

There is no doubt that there is something of interest in those files that I was denied access. When I received the original declassified FBI files in 2004, I received a call from the State Department asking me if I was “a journalist or an academic”. I was flattered to be called either, but I claimed to an “academic”. The State Department official asked what I was going to do with the files, and I explained they were going to be included in my Master’s Thesis but they arrived too late. I admitted I hadn’t even opened the envelope yet. It was on a flight to California where I was going to start a short consulting job that I first read the recently declassified files on Halldor. For the next several years I tried to gain access

to the denied material.

After repeated requests, in 2007 in a letter from the CIA, it was acknowledged that the missing files were from the CIA and that I was denied access. I was told that the files were being sent to the State Department for review. In September of 2007, I received a letter saying that one page of the documents would jeopardize National Security. There was no appeal allowed on files that have a security risk, so there was no need to pursue that page any further. But there were other documents in Halldor’s file, and these were not classified as a National Security risk.

So, in 2008 I sent a request for help to Senator Barak Obama, the senator for my district. His office was kind enough to assist me in my search – and his office was also turned down. In 2010, I assumed I had a friend in the White House and contacted Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s office. Perhaps I did have a friend, as the office took the time to place a phone call and asked me how they could help. I explained what I wanted and a week later I got another call saying that the CIA refused to release the files. I inquired if I could “ask a question regarding the files”. She tentatively agreed. I asked if the National Security one page file contained a name which could not be released. She said “yes”. In the years of searching, Senator Dick Durbin’s office also agreed to assist. I made phone calls to the offices of FBI FOI officials in the attempt to talk to them directly. It was years of frustration and denials.

In 2017 after the election of Donald Trump. I felt that the lack of “intellectual vigor” of the administration would possibly allow me to see those files. So, I filed yet another Freedom of Information Act request with the State Department. I was not surprised to hear that there

were no files that had any information on Halldor Laxness. I was told that if the files are over 25 years old, they may have been sent to the National Archives. So, I filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the National Archives. The official from The National Archives wrote a long and very informative letter. Finally, I received a response that showed an interest in assisting me. He told me that there were some old documents with Halldor's name on them, but they were declassified long ago and not covered under the Freedom of Information Act. I could request them, but I recognized the file number as items of no interest.

After my planned visit to Iceland and my decision to revisit my research material I reread the letter from The National Archives. After years of receiving form letters, cursory responses written in governmental language, the letter from the National Archives seemed especially illuminating. The archivist was telling me that the files were not there. I was not paranoid enough to think that the files were destroyed. They were just not transferred to the National Archives. After the "national security page" was removed from Halldor's files the additional files would be reviewed and then placed in the category of unclassified if the information was not sensitive. If that was the case the files were still in the State Department.

If the files were reviewed and declassified, then they should be readily available in the State Department Reading Room of declassified documents. The reading room is an online data base of some declassified files. I typed in "Halldor Laxness". Five files appeared. I thought at first that this search may be connected to all Icelandic files, so I typed in "Iceland" and got two entirely different files. I typed many different key words,

including key words that seemed to be connected to the files showing in the Halldor search. These files showed up nowhere else. All of the files that appeared in the Halldor Laxness search were CIA files and all of them were referenced to Halldor Laxness. I felt confident I had found the missing documents.

I read over the files and found that Halldor's name does not appear in any of the files. But a unique feature of the files was that they have one very important point in common; they all refer international clandestine activities. The files start in 1945 and end in 1949. Each file is a progression of how foreign espionage evolved. The files read like a short handbook of international espionage or reconnaissance. What first came to mind was the old *Mission Impossible* television series with top secret files and disintegrating tapes. I can imagine the file being thrown on the desk of Mr. Phelps with the caveat "your mission should you decide to accept it". The first file is an interesting document from J. Edgar Hoover.

The Hoover document is date September 21, 1945. On September 20, 1945, Truman asked the Secretary of State to develop an international intelligence program. Hoover wasted no time and the next day he dashed off his request. In this document to the Attorney General Tom C. Clark, Hoover petitions to have international clandestine operations designated under the auspices of the FBI (and no doubt under Hoover's control). Hoover states in the document:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has in operation in the Western Hemisphere an intelligence plan based on simplicity of structure and flexibility of operation which has functioned efficiently, secretly, and especially since prior to Pearl Harbor, and has proved

its adaptability to world-wide coverage by the effectiveness of its operation in the Western Hemisphere field.

Under the "Points for Consideration" section Hoover states, "Foreign and domestic civil intelligence are inseparable and constitute one field of operation."

He uses Communism as an example of following the threat internationally. Hoover may have thought that Attorney General Clark would have rubber stamped this suggestion as he did to so many of Hoover's wiretapping requests. But the other documents show that there were different options considered.

The next document dated October 25th discussed the combining the Army and Navy intelligence. The idea was to have an international intelligence program under the supervision of the Secretaries of the Army and Navy. This document is followed by a document dated December 15, 1945. This document reads as if the Army and Navy intelligence solution was creating some conflict regarding jurisdiction and budgeting.

The following document is dated August 14th 1946. This document is of interest as it discussed the problem of the placement of military attachés in the consulates and the role these military attachés would play in world of international espionage. Should these military attachés be given the authority to conduct clandestine activities? Would other countries ask for the same arrangement at the embassies in the United States? Should these attachés be allowed to collect non-military intelligence? On the surface it would seem that the conflicts referenced in document had resulted in moving international espionage to a single agency.

The previous document brings to mind one of the first FBI declassified files I received written by Jack D. Neal, Chief

of Foreign Activity Correlation dated September 5th 1947, to J. Edgar Hoover. The document states "Our legation in Iceland has requested us to inform them of the average monthly remittances Mr. Laxness has received in 1946 and thus far in 1947 for the sale of his book in the United States through the book-of-the-month club". This document ended with "If we obtain further information on Mr. Laxness, we shall forward it to you".

It would not be unreasonable to replace the word "legation" with the word "operative" because it was obvious that in this situation the officials in the Icelandic embassy were spying on an Icelandic citizen in order to malign him for political purposes.

What I view as the most important document is dated 12/20/1949. Under the heading Assumptions parameters are given for international subversive activities.

2. That responsibility for these operations be not susceptible to public or direction attribution to the President or to individual cabinet members.

3. That authoritative controls exist to insure that in peace or war covert operation shall be restricted to projects which are clearly and directly in furtherance of national policy.

1. Covert operations of a political, economic and psychological character, which by their nature remain truly covert and which are employed abroad to influence developments favorable to the United States...

After reading the documents I had to make some unsubstantiated inferences. Because these files had a direct relationship with the declassified files from the FBI, were from the CIA, and were currently in the State Department it was likely I had found some answers. I also had some questions. When were they

placed in Halldor's file? And why were they placed in Halldor's file?

For obvious reasons I doubt the files were placed there one at a time. I believe that they placed there after 1949 after Iceland had joined NATO. The first three documents seem to show the evolution of international espionage after the war. The final document shows the justification for the lack of governmental oversight for the activity.

The question of why they were placed in Hallor's file takes more speculation. But the inferences are clear. According to historian James Miller in his article "Taking off the Gloves: The United States and the Italian Elections of 1948" the CIA actively influenced the outcome of the Italian election about the same time the Laxness documents were created.

The U.S. intervention in Italy's internal affairs took place in three stages. In the first (January to May 1947), American policymakers decided to commit a greater share of U.S. economic resources and political prestige to the person and programs of De Gasperi, the leader of the Christian Democratic party (DC), in an effort to break the deadlock within the Italian government and to promote essential reforms... At the beginning of the final stage (January to April 1948), public opinion polls predicted a Communist election victory, and the United States mounted an intensive and effective program of overt and covert action to defeat the Left (Miller 36-37).

The United States began its study on how to influence the political ideology of Iceland as early as July, 1947. Although not in Halldor's files I did find a file declassified State Department file (declassified in 05-2013) dated July 11, 1947 titled "Study of Possible Extension

of US Aid to Iceland" (before the official beginnings of the CIA but apparently "borrowed" by the CIA since it is classified as one of their declassified documents). The document is lengthy (27 pages) and contains fears similar to what the United States had regarding Italy. Under the heading The Communist Movement the CIA document states:

One of the most significant and disturbing factors in the Icelandic political situation is the increase in strength and influence of the communist party (p. 4).

Under the heading "Specific:"

Because of the strategic importance of Iceland as a potential naval and air base the US considers Iceland to be vital to its security. Consequently, the specific objective of the US is to render permanent the present temporary arrangement, or an expanded one, but to deny the same to any unfriendly power. It is therefore desired to insure preservation of American's long range strategic interests (p. 11).

Like Italy the CIA sought an economic "commitment".

To prevent a sudden collapse of the living standard and consequent political unrest which might adversely affect US objective in Iceland, it may be necessary for the US to extend aid to Iceland over the next two or three years (p. 18)

Like Italy there were fears of a Communist political victory if the economy was not bolstered.

The chief beneficiary would be the Icelandic Communist Party, which would gain added strength in the country as a whole and would exert considerably greater influence in the government... (p. 20)

And also, like Italy there was a push

to endorse the policies of a particular political personage and party. Under the heading The Stefansson Government.

The present Government, headed by a Social democrat and supported by the Conservative (business interests) and Progressives (farmers and cooperatives), is a desirable combination for US interests (p. 23).

Although Halldor's name was not mentioned in this document there is a reference to the fears the United States had of Icelandic intellectuals.

The University is a focal point of intense nationalism, of Communist sentiment among certain intellectuals, and thus frequently a center of anti-American objectives (p. 14).

Whether any or all of the economic and political manipulations as outlined in the document were put in place, I have no idea. Was there overt and covert action in Iceland as outlined in the justification CIA 1949 document? To use the language of the many Freedom of Information Act letters I received over the last twenty years "I cannot confirm or deny that United States had CIA operatives in Iceland between 1947-1949".

I must admit to feeling uncomfortable going over these files. The academic scholar is cautious. But sometimes it gives way to common sense, and I am forced

to admit that the United States was manipulating Iceland's young, and fragile political system with direct and indirect economic methods so that it would serve its own political agenda in much the same way the CIA interfered with the election in Italy. That's not a brave conjecture since there are documents to prove this was an objective. The new documents reviewed tell me that the CIA felt comfortable engaging in whatever machinations needed in order to further the political goals of the United States. Whether the fears of the United States were real or imagined they justified their action.

Iceland was no Italy. It had no army and had not lost a war. Its value was that it was geographically significant. What exactly took place in discussions between the United States and Iceland from 1947 to 1949, until Iceland joined NATO? It is easy to cast the United States as the lone villain in this tale of international political intrigue. But I am curious as to what role the Icelandic leaders played in cementing a political responsibility on its people that took decades to reshape.

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Uncle Jon and John Diefenbaker on the Front, 1916

by Joe Martin

I first met John George Diefenbaker in early 1957. I was a 20 year-old member of the United College (University of Manitoba) Conservative Student Federation and he was the newly elected Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada. The occasion was the Winnipeg South nomination meeting.

There was a large crowd but I worked up my nerve at the end of the evening to introduce myself to the chief and to ask him if he knew my Uncle, who happened to be his postman in Prince Albert (I was cautious because Uncle Frank was known to exaggerate). Mr. Diefenbaker responded, ‘What was his name?’ Timidly I responded ‘Frank Einarsson.’ ‘Yes,’ Mr. Diefenbaker said, – ‘and I knew your Uncle Jon – We sailed to Europe together. He was a brave man who was killed at Passchendaele.’ I was awed. I did not know.

In the spring of 1965 Mr. Diefenbaker was ‘going through some old files’ and found a small snapshot of Uncle Jon, himself and Allan

MacMillan (figure 1) which he mailed to Uncle Frank. I have seen this picture since then, notably at the Diefenbaker Canada



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOE MARTIN

Figure 1. Picture sent by Diefenbaker, 1966: Uncle Jon, Hugh Aird, Diefenbaker.

Centre in Saskatoon, but the location and date of that snapshot was never clear.

Who were these young men? Uncle Jon and Dief had met in the 196th Western Universities Battalion. They sailed to the U.K. from Halifax in September, 1916 on the *S.S. Lapland* as part of the Officers Draft to the Canadian Military School. The ship docked in Liverpool in early October. On arrival in England Battalion members were absorbed by the 11th Reserve Battalion.

I knew a fair bit about my Uncle from his military personnel records and because there is a charming, if not entirely accurate, mini-biography of him in *Minningarrit Islenskra Hermanna*, the Memorial Tribute to North American Soldiers of Icelandic Origin and Descent that was published by the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of the Imperial

Order Daughters of the Empire in 1923.

Jon was the first Canadian born member of our family, born in what was then the Assiniboia district of the North West Territories, since 1905 the Province of Saskatchewan. The family had arrived there only weeks before his birth from northern Iceland via the Dakota Territory. The settlement was called Lögberg, or Law Rock, adjacent to a larger Icelandic settlement, Thingvalla, or Plains of Parliament. The two settlements were north of the village of Churchbridge.

Jon, like his siblings, completed his education in Winnipeg, graduating with a BA from Wesley College, University of Manitoba in 1914 and became an articling law student in Saskatchewan. In February 1915 he joined the Canadian army and received permission to support the establishment of the 223rd (Scandinavians) Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. The 223rd was one of two Nordic Battalions created to encourage young men of Nordic descent to enlist. At the same time he was recruited for the 223rd he was attending officer school and completing studies for both the Lieutenant and Captain grades. Then he became part of the 196th Western Universities Battalion. Each of the four Western Universities had one company, and they trained at Camp Shilo in Manitoba before leaving for Europe.

In the fall of 2014, I visited the Menin Gate at Ypres in Belgium with my wife, son Jon and grandson Erik to attend the memorial service held at 8:00 p.m. every day except Christmas. I wanted to see my Uncle's name on the memorial, one of 6,000 soldiers whose bodies were never recovered after the battle of Passchendaele. It was a memorable experience. A few months later I was startled to read in *Lögberg-Heimskringla*, the English language bi-weekly Icelandic Canadian paper an advertisement placed by a student at the



Figure 2. Found in 2015. L-R: Uncle Jon, Hugh Aird, Diefenbaker.

University of Iceland looking for photographs, letters and artifacts of Icelandic Canadians in the First World War. I was surprised because Iceland was neutral during that conflict – there was a great deal of hostility to the idea of participating in any European conflict.

I gathered our artifacts together and sent a package. We had a fair number because not only Jon but also Uncles Johannes (Joe) and Villi (Bill) served. In my research, I came across a snapshot almost identical to the one Diefenbaker had sent us in 1965, taken in the same place with Dief and Uncle Jon but the 3rd person was Hugh Aird, also from Saskatoon, but not Allan MacMillan (figure 2).¹ Aird was a friend of Dief's from the University of Saskatchewan. By using a magnifying glass I could see that Uncle Jon had a 223rd (Scandinavian) hat badge.

The student turned the results of his/her research into an exhibit in Reykjavík, "To Pluck a Flower in This Peculiar Place" and I visited it in late June 2015. It brought tears to my eyes. I was so impressed with the exhibit that I approached my friend Arni Thorsteinson and together we arranged for the Manitoba Museum to receive the exhibit and create its own display in the fall of 2018.

In preparing my notes for the presentation at the Manitoba Museum I



Figure 3. Found in 2018: Hugh Aird, Diefenbaker, Uncle Jon.

came across a third snapshot of Uncle Jon and Dief. Hugh Aird was again identified in this picture (figure 3). It was taken in front of a haystack but could not tell where and when the picture was taken.

I contacted my friend Tim Cook, the

¹ Diefenbaker referred to Aird and MacMillan as his "brother officers." See Denis Smith, *Rogue Tory: The Life and Legend of John G. Diefenbaker* (Toronto: Macfarlane Walter and Ross, 1995), 22.

distinguished military historian at the Canadian War Museum, for guidance. He steered me in the right direction and I was able to compare Uncle Jon's and Dief's records. Sure enough, they were both posted to Shorncliffe Army Camp in Kent which was used as a staging post for troops destined for the Western Front. Diefenbaker never served on the front. Injured and then severely ill, he was declared medically unfit to serve and was sent back to Canada in the winter of 1917.

Given those facts it was clear that all three pictures were taken in the United Kingdom, not in France. It was in late 1916, just before Mr. Diefenbaker was sent home.

So, the mystery was solved. Allan MacMillan was killed at Vimy Ridge in

April 1917. Uncle Jon, as Diefenbaker well remembered, was killed at Passchendaele in October 1917. Mr. Diefenbaker lived and went on to become Prime Minister of Canada.² Lt. Hugh Aird survived the war also, but I have not been able to determine what happened to him.

Joe Martin has just retired as Director of Canadian Business History in the MBA program at the Rotman School of Business at the University of Toronto. He is President Emeritus of Canada's History Society and currently serves as Founding President of the Canadian Business History Association. His most recent book is From Wall Street to Bay Street: A Comparative History of the Financial Systems of the US and Canada (with C.P. Kobrak) (University of Toronto and Rotman School of Management, 2018)



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² Diefenbaker's military personnel file has been digitized and can be found on the Library and Archives of Canada site: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=288501>

The Goodman Writer's Grant

Do you have a complete or near-complete manuscript that you dream of having self-published? Maybe you have a personal five year goal to get your novel finished or your writing published? Then this is for you, my dear writer friend.

The Goodman Writer's Grant was established in 2021. This is a \$4000 grant administered by the Canada Iceland Foundation and offered through the journal *Icelandic Connection*, who have made up a selection committee.

The third of five awards will be given out in 2023. The 2021 prize has been awarded to Katelyn Parsons and the 2022 award went to Dustin Geeraert.

The grant's aim is to assist an emerging writer whose intention is to publish a work of writing. It will be offered every year for the next five years, ending in 2025.

Your work must be written in English. You can write in the form of your choice (novel, treatise, collection of poems, historical documentation, etc.). There are no criteria around word count, but the writing should be of a length appropriate to the format and content. If the work is longer than a novella, it is suggested that you submit a representative chapter for the application. Your work must be unpublished at the time of application and you should provide clear intentions of the publication plans for the piece. The work may be



PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER JOHN BUCHAN

complete or incomplete, but if incomplete, you should provide sufficient content to clearly demonstrate the character of the finished work. Lastly if selected, yourself, the grant recipient, should be prepared to provide acknowledgement of the grant's support upon publication.

Icelandic Connection will be accepting submissions for the 2023 award until Friday, October 1, 2023 at 4 PM CT, with the award recipient being notified by December 1, 2023. Please fill out the application form provided on the *Icelandic Connection* website and forward your completed application form and writing submission via email to editor@icecon.ca.

This grant would not be possible without the generous support of Dr Ron Goodman.



PHOTO: PUBLIC DOMAIN BY MARCO VERCH PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER, FLICKR

Iceland Forest

Unforeseen Results

by Kevin Jon Johnson

Near the end of his life in the summer of 1948 Ludwig Wittgenstein, one of the greatest thinkers of the twentieth century, left the stuffy atmosphere of Cambridge to live and think philosophy at Rosro in Ireland. He had taken a particular interest in viewing the different kinds of birds along the west Ireland coast at Killary: Northern Divers, Puffins, Oyster Catchers, Curlews, Cormorants and Terns. He also enjoyed feeding the more common chaffinches and robins. These latter became so tame that Wittgenstein would feed them from his hand at the kitchen window. He then

left, and his tamed robins and chaffinches became easy prey to the local cats: an unforeseen result of his benevolence.

In this we can see a tragic irony, but the work by Pröstur Eysteinnsson to tree Iceland once again contains a comic irony, a positive unforeseen result. Iceland, one of the worst examples in the world of deforestation, lost its original forests over a 1,000-year period to the grazing of sheep, cattle, swine, and horses. A kindness to the grazing livestock, in the end, destroyed the forests, a tragic, unforeseen result.

Frost heaving and storms in the winter

now endanger the thin vegetation and topsoil that remains; the soil becomes exposed and begins washing or blowing away. Pröstur sees his mission as growing more forests and better forests in Iceland, to make the land more productive and better able to withstand the pressures that we put on it.

Pröstur Eysteinnsson plants about three million seedlings each year. With climate change and milder winters, many of the Siberian larch planted in the 1950s have begun to die, so work began to develop new types of trees. Eysteinnsson produces the seeds he needs in Iceland made of genetically well-adapted materials. He uses seed orchards in greenhouses to grow the selected seedlings. The greenhouses produce easy to plant containerized seedlings.

Eysteinnsson remains optimistic for forestry in Iceland. People call him and ask if he has wood for a wall, cladding for a summer cabin, or wood for a pagan church, and he responds in the affirmative. The forests grow better than anyone thought possible. People say, "Hey, this is something worth having!" Even only one decade ago, Icelanders did not think this way about having forests in Iceland.

In 1912, as a protégé of Bertrand Russell, Ludwig Wittgenstein took his friend David Pinsent on a holiday to Iceland, fully paid by Wittgenstein's father, one of the wealthiest men in Austria. They took a boat from Edinburgh, setting off from Leith on the *Sterling* on 7 September. The five-day journey across a rough sea, left both David and Ludwig sick or ill at ease. A journey inland on Icelandic horses took ten days, after a short stay in Reykjavik.

Wittgenstein, ahead of his time in philosophy, also early saw the benefits

of a vacation in Iceland. To finish his philosophical work in 1948, Wittgenstein chose Ireland, but Iceland and Norway also presented themselves as plausible candidates. Wittgenstein had a house especially built for himself in Norway after 1913.

"If a lion could talk, we could not understand him," so goes a famous aphorism by Wittgenstein. Ludwig was such a lion, and perhaps his ideas, critical of modern science, have not had a fair hearing in the philosophical circles, especially those in North America influenced by the writing of WVO Quine, who could see no clear dividing line between philosophy and science.

People will not remember Wittgenstein for having tamed robins and chaffinches, and so inadvertently making them easy prey for Irish cats. We may remember him for his foresight in visiting Iceland as a vacation spot, and for his healthy skepticism about modern Science. We may remember Pröstur Eysteinnsson as the man who brought forests back to Iceland, with the comic unintended consequence of making Icelanders appreciate the value of forests in their lives, and the reclamation of land long suffering under the burden of deforestation. Unforeseen results when comic, have much to commend them, especially those espousing a greener future.

The details on Pröstur Eysteinnsson are derived from the National Geographic Short Film: Iceland is Growing New Forests for the First Time in 1,000 Years. Much of the content on Wittgenstein derives from Ray Monk's biography: Ludwig Wittgenstein: The Duty of Genius.

Icelandic Festival of Manitoba 2022 Intermediate Prose Competition Winner

Lovely

By Susan Marks

“Lovely María, your hair is like molten gold!”

“Pretty María, your eyes are as green as emeralds!”

“Gorgeous María, your hands are as dainty as lace!”

Lovely María looked out on the sea as these words echoed in her mind.

The sea was thrashing, strong, terrible. Past the drop-off, where it deepened by many leagues, the waves broke on the underwater cliffs. The water was a dull, grey blue, and the tips were white, and María looked down at her hair and saw that the tips were white there, too.

People said that the white tips made her hair all the more gorgeous, but they did not seem to realize that the tips were there because of their adoration. That when they followed her, shouting praises, proclaiming their love, trying to kiss her blushing cheeks, they did not allow her time for rest, or joy, or any thoughts beside the proposals she would endure the next day. They did not seem to realize that white hair comes from exhaustion and grief, and that María was full of both of those things.

María was only fifteen. She thought of the coming years, when her beauty would only grow stronger, and the thought caused her stomach to roil. Lovely María

looked out on the sea, then she looked at the boat at her feet. She lifted her gaze back to the waves and thought that if she tried hard enough, she could get past the drop-off, and row all the way to the place where the sorcerer dwelled.

María had met Fossegrimmen by the stream, far from the village where the water cascaded down in tumbling falls, and he had been sitting there, bare-skinned, his long, white-blond hair wet with mist but blowing in the wind, tuning a lute so skilfully that though there was no song, it was beautiful. She had realized, then, what it is to know love. And she realized, too, that she was not the only one too beautiful for this world.

With Fossegrimmen, María had realized that what she liked best was to weave, and out of the long grass growing by the river, she wove baskets and bonnets and bracelets. With Fossegrimmen, she found that the bitter taste of crowberries was delightful.

With María, Fossegrimmen found that he did not need to lure any more young women to his waterfall with his music, because with the one sitting beside him, he was content. With María, Fossegrimmen found that he was not the only one who felt that beauty is loneliness in disguise.

Fossegrimmen had told her of an island in the sea where an elf dwelled. He told her that the elf was a sorcerer and could travel between the Nine Worlds. As his soft lips moved, she heard him speak of Alfheim, where everyone possesses beauty like hers, and that if she could get to that island in the sea, she would finally belong.

So María was here, on the shore of the churning sea, waiting for Fossegrimmen to come. She had waited a long time already, and she thought that perhaps he had gone ahead of her, to guide her.

María knew that it was not long before someone would find her and break her solitude, so she climbed into the boat and began to row.

As the waves lapped against the rough wooden prow, she admired how old and ugly this boat was. She was just thinking that she would row in this little dory every day when she got to Alfheim, when she heard a faint, "María!"

Her ears perked and she followed Fossegrimmen's voice. It led her through the crashing waves at the drop, and out into the open sea, and each time he called her name, the joy inside her grew, though the salt crusted on her skin and her wet hair chilled her scalp.

When María saw a mountainous shape on the horizon, she pushed her aching muscles harder. When she realized that the shape was not an island but draugr, a huge, barnacled man clutching a harpoon in his fist, she hesitated, but Fossegrimmen's voice guided her there, so she followed.

As María drew ever closer, she saw that Fossegrimmen's voice was guiding her there because his hand was struck through with the harpoon of the giant figure. She tried to stop, choking back the sobs that came to her as she saw her love

trapped and hopeless, calling out to her in his desperation, but by now she was too close, and the draugr swung a huge arm through the sea, overturning her small boat.

María screamed, but her mouth was filled with seawater, stinging her throat and her eyes. She swam to the surface, though her soaked woollen skirt tried to pull her down, and saw the draugr's solid frame, wide shoulders hung with seaweed, hollow eyes and white skin, wrinkled from his ages in the water. She saw a ghostly smile mar his face as he sent another wave toward her, this time flinging his harpoon, and Fossegrimmen, with it.

María caught Fossegrimmen's uninjured hand and felt its icy skin. She grasped it and did not let go, but as she begged to Thor to protect them, draugr's harpoon dragged them down, down, down, and María did not let go of Fossegrimmen's hand. She thought of how on the seabed, her body would bloat, and her skin would turn paler, and her golden hair would fall away. She would no longer be Lovely María.

But on the bottom of the sea, perhaps her and Fossegrimmen could be ugly together.

Author's Note

The mythology used in this story is Norse, ancient Icelandic and Scandinavian. In case you are unfamiliar with the terms I use, this is a brief guide. The draugr is an undead spirit that roams the sea with a greed for treasure. Fossegrimmen is another water spirit, though he dwells in freshwater, playing a lyre and luring girls and women to their death. The greatest part of the Norse myth is the Nine Worlds, one of which is Alfheim, the world of the elves, mentioned in this story, while another is Midgard, the world of the humans.

Icelandic Festival of Manitoba 2022

Poetry Contest Winner

By Paul Brooke

The Skald and his Dóttir of Cairn *told through 22 háttatal, Norse forms*

Fornyrðislag

—Old Story Meter

Hag hid a gorcrow,
her son, in hay mow.
Skald swung the scythe,
thoughtlessly, idly.
Never saw wrath,
no dire warning, death.
Skald tightened at sight,
twilight of the Gods.

Ljóðaháttur

—Song Form

The stout always,
always slays the mouse
shrew; it's all he ever knew.
The hag always,
always harangues through curse,
taking the pulse of her.

Málaháttur

—Speech Form

“Skald, you’ve slain my second
son with your worn-out scythe;
I’m frost-mist, thin rime,
a frayed knot, a clay house.
I will turn one you love
into a stone tower,
a cairn, so you must decide,
your child or your bride?”

Iðurmælt

—Repeatedly Said Verse

“Choosing is a losing win,
bruising abuse, doubled.
The killing never willing,
Branding me the villain.
The killing never willing,
deviling loved women.
Release me, cease,
seek peace, call a truce.”

Klifat

—Repeated Verse

“No truce, Skald, no excuse.
Noose tightens. Don’t mischoose.
Can’t recuse. Can’t refuse.
You must choose. You must choose.”
The skald, looked appalled,
stalled, begging on knees, crawling,
wailing and bawling,
wailing and bawling.

Stúfar

—Docked Verse

“Stöðva, don’t use untruth, be
uncouth, overdramatic.
You know I’m your
soothsayer, youthtaker, wish
granter.
Your dóttir shall be saved
slaughter, held in stone.
She shall be released,
spared if you complete three.”

Tilsagt

—Annotated Verse

“Plant a pine for each memory,
pleasant—pleasing memories—only.
Write seven poems each week,
wistful—metaphorical odes—
only. Unmelt glaciers, undo dams,
Unjam—the laxganga—the salmon.
Let them river flourish, find flight—
redd nourished—free.”

Kimblabönd

—Bundle-Bond Verse

Skald deflated, slunk away,
 scolded, punished and afraid.
 How could he complete
 his three, unlock the cairn-key?
 Fickle-minded, he fumbled
 frantically for answers.
 Undo dams, unmelt glaciers,
 Unjam the flight of
 salmon?

Stúfhent

—Stump-Rhymed Verse

Laikskald languished,
 largely vanquished.
 Wife held him well,
 wisely, tears quelled.
 Opt for one pine,
 one tree a time.
 Pen poems daily;
 ply policy.

Náhent

—Close-Rhyme Verse

Spared, dust settled.
 Sótop blocked, stopped.
 Old dreadnought dropped;
 distressed thoughts, boycott.
 Left on his quest,
 hopeful, coping. Sun
 graced glaciers held
 greatness, spoiling hate.

Veggjat

—Wedged Verse

Thoughts turned, described, inscribed;
 Tonnes of red fir seedlings bedded.
 Skald planted, penned, proved, planned, (&)
 sat in dens with councilmen. Honored his
 stone dóttir, nightly, home, he read her
 poems, sweetly. Like cloudlets shrouding
 light,
 like slick rain on windowpanes.

Hagmælt

—Skillfully Spoken Verse

“Our world wilts, diseased;
 we can no longer breathe.
 Ice fields run, retreat,
 roast from summer’s heat.
 Actis spoils our soil,
 stains Europe’s entrails.
 We must act, we must
 mend health or face death.”

Töglag

—Journey-Meter Verse

Skald travelled whole world,
 witness to unfitness.
 Five years passed, ten passed,
 pressed forty countries.
 People planted firs,
 poplars, larch, (&) arched birch.
 Many millions rise;
 micro forests grow lush.

Greppaminni

—Poet’s Reminder Verse

Why doesn’t my dóttir change?
 Don’t I deserve her love?
 Why smite my years of work?
 Why crush my weakened soul?
 Why aren’t glaciers wider?
 Why don’t dams weaken?
 Why does the world unlisten?
 Why don’t you answer, hag?

Hnuggent

—Deprived Verse

Depressed, Skald slunk home
 saddened, stunned, angered, shunned;
 heart was vellum, soul was samfell;
 sálmurs howled, cried
 foul; five hundred poems lay like
 felled gravestones, gave
 no choice but conflict, violence,
 criminal whim.

Skothent

—Half-Rhymed Verse

Evil wins, legal loses,
 logic becomes toxic.
 My advice is incite
 incorrigible fools.
 Uneducate, unread,
 Unstudy (&) uninform.
 Consume, assume all wrong,
 all who don't think like you.

Samhent

—Coincidentally-Rhymed Verse

Boosted Semtex boxes,
 bomb-making tools, fuses.
 Won't survive sacrifice,
 sever Sog River Dam.
 Pyrrhic victory pits
 plus v. false negative,
 martyr v. tender tyrant,
 traitor v. twice spy.

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Tiltekit

—Linked Verse

Three dams blown to debris,
 destroyed, made cratered voids,
 no leads for devilish deeds; deft
 culprit left a cairn,
 a symbol, a riddle,
 a break through, a hot clue;
 detectives did not know,
 did not know what to do.

Rétthent

—Consistently-Rhymed Verse

Tactic disputed. River rerouted,
 recovered. Salmon hovered,
 weeks later, laying roe,
 lifted past the impasse.
 Enthralled, Skald spent three hours,
 slowly observed their sweep, scrub
 of stone, bodies rubbed, soirees of
 glee captured.

Liðhent

—Helping Rhyme Verse

Skald's body of work was shoddy,
 secretly, no key reforms.
 Humankind stayed stoneblind,
 so hellbent, status quo.
 Unconcerned by senseless seas, sky
 high drought, coral burnout, beached
 dolphins, besieged rorquals,
 bungled oil spills, smuggled birds.

Detthent

—Falling Rhyme Verse

He wept after his dóttir;
 he washed her stones, murmured
 his shamed goodbyes,
 surmised steindur was her transfer
 to great Valhöll, he hurled
 himself to ground and found
 instead of stones, some bones,
 some hair, tail fins, fish skin.

Drögur

—Drawings Verse

Skin leathered, orbs shriveled,
 Skald laid among billions
 of cairns, clattered, scattered,
 crushed to shards. Arms snapped.
 Beard shifted to basaltic lava,
 body grew weighty, fissured.
 His tongue pronounced ash; tears
 tasted like lichen and ruin.



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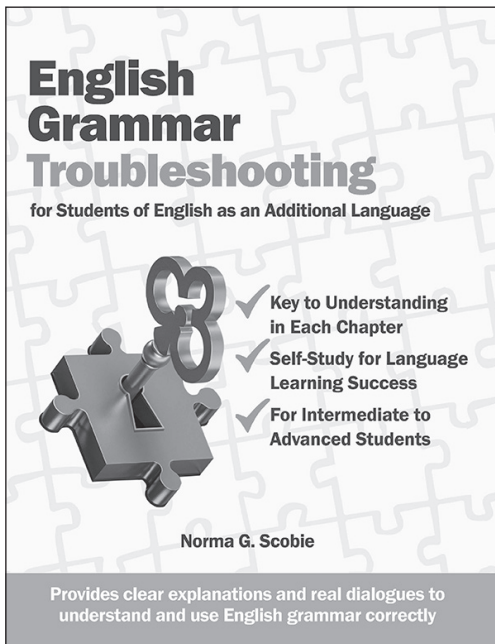
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Book Reviews

English Grammar Troubleshooting for Students of English as an Additional Language

by Norma G. Scobie (self-published through First Choice Books)
2021, 104 pages

Reviewed by Heather McIntosh



During her many years of working with adult English language learners new to Canada, the author, Norma G. Scobie, a retired teacher, became increasingly aware of the need to zero in on certain grammar points that she noticed her learners were finding particularly challenging, even after years of study. From this realization came the idea of putting together a grammar

handbook to be used as a supplement to English language study in the classroom, with a tutor, or as a self-study option.

English Grammar Troubleshooting for Students of English as an Additional Language provides an overview of twenty common, yet often problematic, grammar points, and covers such topics as adjective clause punctuation, conditional sentences, infinitive vs. gerund, borrow vs. lend, and the passive voice. It is primarily aimed at intermediate to advanced level learners who are looking to improve their English language skills for academic, professional, and personal reasons.

Each chapter in the handbook focuses on a different grammar topic and begins with a key to understanding that provides an explanation of the form, meaning and use of the grammar in question, followed by a short dialogue and example sentences that show the grammar in context.

For those familiar with learning English or teaching English to newcomers and international students, the subtle nuances of English grammar can be quite mystifying, even to first language speakers! Take prepositions, for example: Why do we say *on Center St.*, but *at 211 Center St.*; or *in January*

but *on Wednesday*? While this and other grammar questions might be a challenge to answer, Scobie provides explanations and examples to clarify correct usage.

Each chapter is designed to be a stand-alone which allows learners to choose the grammar points that are most relevant to their study. The appendix includes reference lists and charts, a summary of verb tenses with

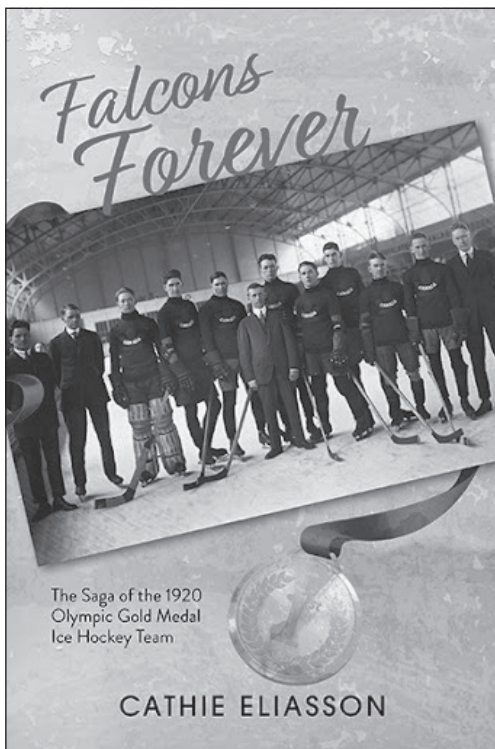
identifying markers, tips for writing an essay and error recognition exercises. The text is written in a clear font, with subtitles and key terms in bold for quick and ready reference.

This supplemental grammar handbook may be of interest to English language learners as well as teachers, and provides a starting point for further study, review and troubleshooting.

Falcons Forever

By Cathie Eliasson

Reviewed by Elin Thordarson



Falcons Forever

By Cathie Eliasson

FriesenPress, 106 pages

Reviewed by Elin Thordarson

The crush of World War I had ended in 1918. A global pandemic and revolutionary general strike had changed the world again in 1919. But in the early summer of 1920, Canadians had a reason to celebrate. Winnipeggers had a reason to celebrate. And the people of Icelandic descent living in Winnipeg and Manitoba and the rest of Canada not only relished the celebration, but have never forgotten the team that brought home the Olympic gold medal, the Falcons hockey team.

All of us know the saga, so it does not bear repeating here the story which unfolds in Cathie Eliasson's *Falcons Forever*, the team of Icelandic immigrants' children who became the first ever recipients of the Olympic gold medal in hockey in the year 1920. We have all seen the famous on-ice photograph of the Falcons team in Canadian jerseys in Antwerp, Belgium, the site of the 1920 Olympic Games. Or another team photo of the players on outdoor ice in their striped Falcons jerseys. And perhaps we all know the names of our relatives on the team or we recognize the easy familiarity of the names Frank

Fredrickson, or the players we all call by their nicknames: “Slim” Halderson, “Konnie” Johannesson, “Huck” Woodman, or “Mike” Goodman. These are, at least for me, the names that I can pull out of my hat from the squad. Though I suppose the configuration of Falcons memorized by heart is simply different for each person. This is all to say, that we all know the story as we were told or shown in photographs, and we can all recall the mighty players as actual flesh and blood kin, or more ephemerally as fantastic legends.

But the beauty of Eliasson’s dispatch on the Winnipeg Falcons is the detail that is brought into focus in this well known tale.

She focuses in close on the story of the Falcons; from their inception to their run for the Allen Cup to become hockey champions of Canada. She includes the breakdown of the action of each of the matches at the Olympics. But it’s not only the detailed retelling of the actual rise to become world champions, Eliasson pulls in details that orbit the Falcon story and adds more layers to our understanding of this enormous athletic feat. There is for instance a brief explanation of the unique ways hockey leagues in Winnipeg functioned at the beginning of the twentieth century, including the years before the first world war began. Or of how the Olympic hockey tournament in 1920, using what’s known as the Bergvall system of elimination, sees the gold medal awarded first while the remaining teams continue on to vie for silver and bronze medals.

There is an amusing anecdote of Mike Goodman entering the gold medal game surrounded by men acting as an entourage in order to see him play, for instance.

The Palais de Glace arena in Antwerp, a city rebuilding after the war, offers its spectators “linen-covered tables, dining and drinking, and [...] an orchestra,”

for instance.

Foster Hewitt, a broadcaster known for his play-by-play for Hockey Night in Canada, was the son of William Hewitt, a Toronto Star reporter, who along with his wife essentially acted as chaperones to the Falcons for their transatlantic journey, for instance.

All of these fascinating details, and many more, are woven into the retelling of the Falcon saga. Eliasson takes a culturally familiar tale and tells it with precise attention to the finer qualities of the story. There will no doubt be something new that every reader can take from Eliasson’s non-fiction writing, which can then be incorporated into one’s future oral retelling of one of the greatest stories in sports’ history.



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Icelandic Connection

Marcel Proust Questionnaire

Baðstofu traust

or

Confessions: An Album to Record Thoughts, Feelings, &c.

The way of imagining *Baðstofu traust*, a new and an intended recurring feature to *Icelandic Connection*, is to consider what is known as the “Proust Questionnaire.” This is a set of questions that is often erroneously believed to have been designed by the French writer Marcel Proust. When in fact, what we know for sure is that the famous author of *In Search of Lost Time* answered the questions in what’s known as a ‘confession album,’ a fashionable parlor game among the literate Victorian classes. A confession album would have been passed around by one’s hostess; whereby her guests might answer, in writing, a formulaic set of questions on each page with the idea that one’s tastes, expectations, insights and aspirations can be revealed.

It’s an activity not entirely out of place in the *baðstofa*, the communal living space typical of an Icelandic farmhouse where the long workdays ended with mending articles,

reading the bible and other texts, recitations of poetry, performing parlor plays and making ready for bed. Imagine a confession album, perhaps a gift sent from a relative in Copenhagen, being handed to a guest on the farm to fill out, a presentation so much like the *gestabækur* (guestbooks) we still might have in our homes or cottages, perhaps.

This is the direction we would like to take with our *Baðstofu traust* (a direct translation of *Les Confidences de Salon*, the name of a second confession album discovered to have also been filled in by Proust. Other albums have been found with answers filled in by Paul Cézanne, Arthur Conan Doyle, Stéphane Mallarmé, Karl Marx, and Oscar Wilde). We hope to have our set of questions filled in by people of Icelandic descent in North America who are working to preserve or document or create cultural content connected to Iceland, or perhaps otherwise.

Marcel Proust Questionnaire with John Einarson

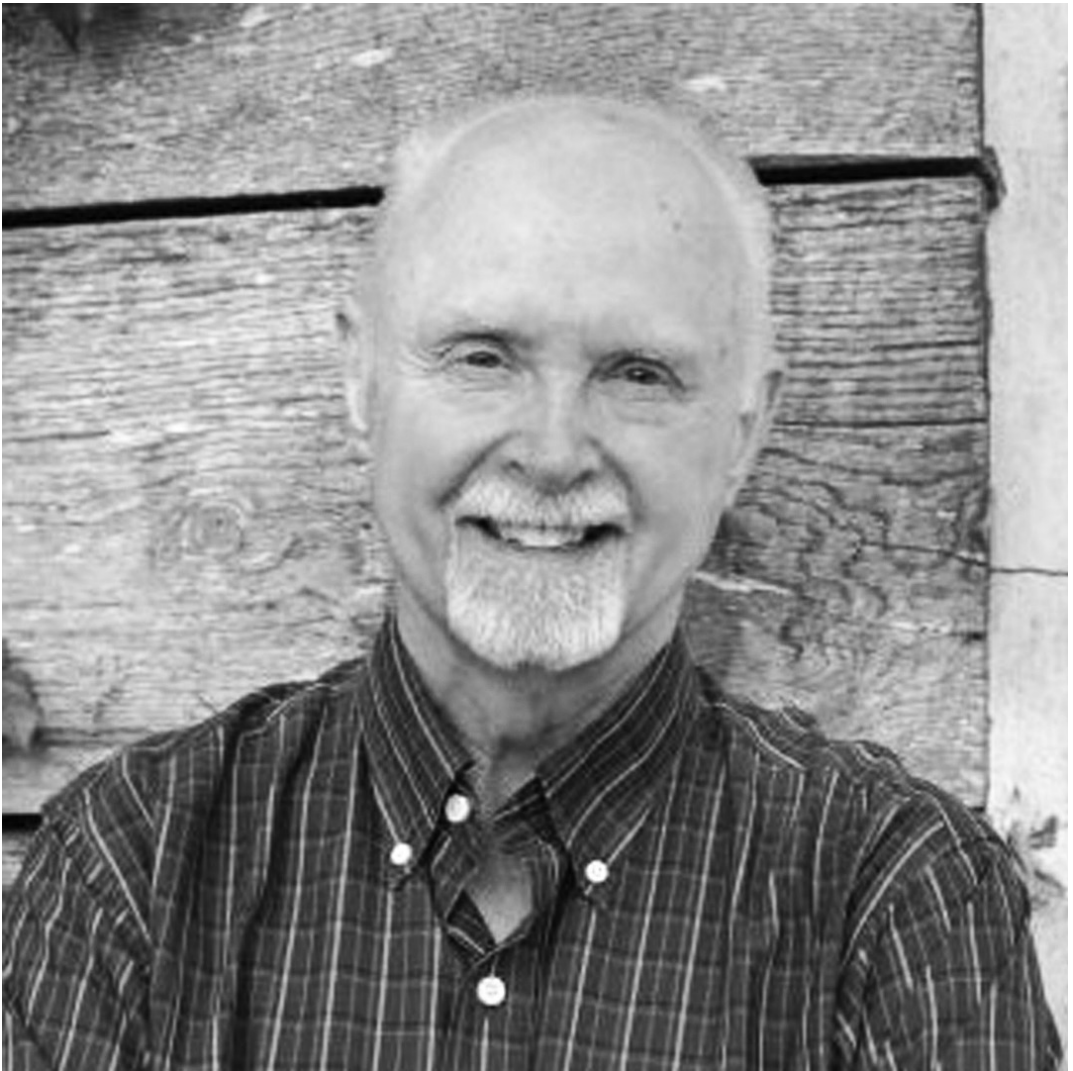
Born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, John Einarson is an acclaimed musicologist, broadcaster, educator, and award-winning author of 15 music biographies published worldwide including Neil Young, Randy Bachman, John Kay of

Steppenwolf, Ian & Sylvia, The Guess Who, The Byrds, Flying Burrito Brothers, Arthur Lee & Love and Buffalo Springfield. Four of his books have been on the Globe & Mail bestsellers list while several have been ranked among the top ten best music

biographies in the UK and received award nominations. His book *Hot Burritos: The True Story Of The Flying Burrito Brothers* received the 2006 ARSC (Association for Recorded Sound Collections) Award for Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research. John is the author of the critically-acclaimed *Desperados: The Roots of Country Rock*. He also collaborated with Randy Bachman on his two bestselling *Vinyl Tap* books. He is regarded as one of

Canada's finest music historians.

John has written for *Mojo*, *Uncut*, *Goldmine*, *Discoveries*, *Record Collector*, and *Classic Rock* and is a regular contributor to the *Winnipeg Free Press*. He wrote the Juno-nominated Bravo TV documentary *Buffy Sainte-Marie: A Multi-Media Life*, served as writer/consultant for A&E/Biography Channel's *Neil Young Biography* episode, and wrote CBC TV's *The Life & Times of Randy Bachman*. John



John-Einarson, 2022

also served as researcher on the recent Canadian-produced documentary *Almost Almost Famous* for Merit Motion Pictures. He curated the 2010 Manitoba Museum exhibit *Shakin' All Over: The Manitoba Music Experience* and organizes the popular *Magical Musical History Tour of Winnipeg* each summer. John teaches music history classes on a variety of themes Friday evenings at McNally Robinson Booksellers as well as teaching music history topics at the University of Winnipeg, the Manitoba Conservatory of Music and Arts, and the Creative Retirement Centre. John is an award-winning high school teacher receiving two Teaching Excellence awards from the University of Manitoba (before retiring in 2008) and former consultant for the Manitoba Department of Education. He co-wrote the official Grade 8 History textbook *People Through The Ages* as well as several edukits and teaching guides. For 25 years he ran a popular extra-curricular rock music program at St. John's-Ravenscourt school that involved some 100 students per year.

In January 2016, John was the recipient of the prestigious Order of the Buffalo Hunt by Premier Greg Selinger in recognition of his extensive work in preserving Manitoba's music history.

In 2021, he published an exhaustive history of Winnipeg's rich and diverse music heritage spanning multiple genres under the title *Heart of Gold: A History of Winnipeg Music*. It was on McNally Robinson Booksellers' Top Selling Books list for eight weeks. It was recently turned into an 8-week radio series by CBC Radio-Canada.

John hosts three radio shows on Lifestyles 55 Digital Radio, Winnipeg's only 24-hour online radio station: "Off The Record", a weekly 1-hour afternoon show that focused on a particular music topic such as an artist, album, genre, or

event; "Desperados" a weekly journey through the roots of country rock; and "My Generation," his popular weekly 2-hour show where John played a varied and eclectic song list from his extensive collection of '50s to '70s music and shared the stories and info about the artists and recordings. He is also a frequent commentator on music history for CBC radio and television.

Soon after witnessing the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show in February 1964, John acquired a guitar and later played in several well-known local bands through the 1960s and '70s. He has performed onstage with Neil Young, Randy Bachman, Burton Cummings, jammed with Frank Zappa's Mothers of Invention, and at age 17 opened for Led Zeppelin before 14,000 people.

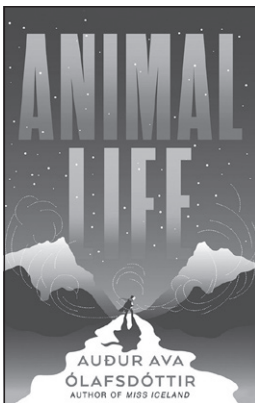
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1. *If you could change something about yourself, what would it be?* My hair. I wish it didn't fall out.
 2. *What phrase do you most overuse?* Casting a wide net.
 3. *What do you value most in your friends?* A good sense of humour.
 4. *On what occasions do you lie?* Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny to my kids and now my grandkids.
 5. *What is your favorite occupation?* Musician
 6. *What is your favorite journey?* Completing a book from initial research to final edited draft. That's a wonderful journey.

7. *What do you regard as the lowest form of human misery?* Hunger
8. *Where would you like to live?* Rural England
9. *What is your idea of perfect happiness?* Good food, safe environment and with my family.
10. *What is your greatest fear?* Losing my memory and ability to recognize people
11. *What is your greatest extravagance?* Two expensive Gretsch guitars.
12. *What is your greatest achievement?* Receiving the coveted Order of The Buffalo Hunt for my services in preserving and promoting Manitoba cultural history from the Premier.
13. *Who is your favorite hero of fiction?* Doc Savage
14. *What talent would you most like to have?* To play the piano.
15. *What is your most treasured possession?* 52 year old sunburst Gibson Les Paul Custom guitar
16. *Do you have a tic or perhaps a personal ritual?* Checking that the doors are locked.
17. *What is your motto?* There is no free lunch.

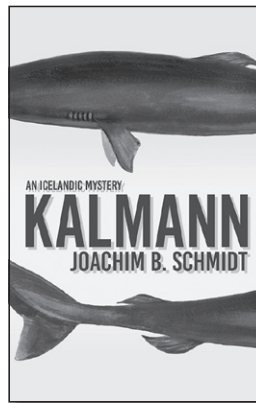
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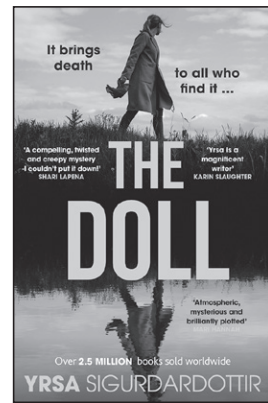
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PHONE ORDERS WELCOME

18. *What is the best advice you've ever received?* Be yourself with your students.
19. *What do you read on holiday?* Music biographies.
20. *What profession would you most like to try?* Lawyer
21. *What profession would you not like to do?* Anything in sales.
22. *Who are your favorite painters, composers?* Van Gogh. Lennon and McCartney
23. *Who are your favorite writers, poets?* Peter Guralnick. Bob Dylan.
24. *Your favorite flower and bird?* Rose. Blue Jay
25. *Your favorite color?* Blue



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Contributors

PAUL BROOKE is the author of six books including *The Skáld and the Drukkin Tröllaukin: Photographs and Poems of Iceland*. His work combines culture, photography and poetry. For his winning poem, he studied Icelandic myth and Norse form while in residency at Laugarvatn.

JOE MARTIN is the son of Jakobina Sigurlaug Margaret [nee Einarsson] Martin and the grandson of Johannes Einarsson who founded the Logberg settlement in what is now Saskatchewan in 1890. Upon graduation from United College in Winnipeg in 1959 he joined the Monarch Life in Winnipeg as an Investment Analyst. Two years later he became Duff Roblin's first EA, a position he held for five years. In 1966 he joined the Winnipeg office of P.S. Ross & Partners, Management Consultants. In 1995 he joined the Rotman School of the University of Toronto as Adjunct Professor and Executive in Residence where he established the only course offered by a Canadian Business School in Canadian Business History. He currently serves as the Founding President of the Canadian Business History Association. Joe is the author of two books: *Relentless Change: A Casebook for the Study of Canadian Business History* and *From Wall Street to Bay Street: The Origins and Evolution of American and Canadian Finance* which has been translated into Mandarin and was made into a documentary.

HEATHER MCINTOSH is a retired teacher educator, living in Gimli, Manitoba.

KEVIN JON JOHNSON is an essayist and currently a teacher of English in Japan.

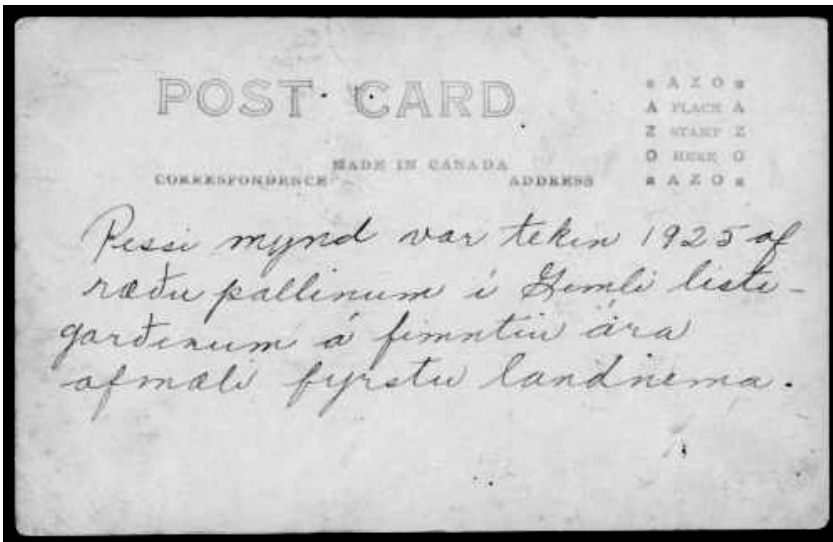
CHAY LEMOINE is a Halldor Laxness scholar from Edwardsville, IL where he teaches English at Southern Illinois University. Earlier this year Chay's research on Laxness was mentioned in *The New Yorker Magazine*. Chay has also published short stories and articles, most recently the short story "Saint Boogie" in *Deep South Magazine*.

SUSAN MARKS is a 15-year-old writer from Arnes, Manitoba. She is currently in the process of editing a young adult novel she has written. She is an avid reader and likes fluffy socks.

GLEN SUGGETT is a senior wildlife biologist with the Manitoba Fish and Wildlife Branch responsible for Wildlife Management Areas in the province. He is the lead author of *Delta – A Prairie Marsh and its People* and resides in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

ELIN THORDARSON, the editor-in-chief of the *Icelandic Connection*, is a writer, translator and mother from Winnipeg, Manitoba.





Icelandic Jubilee. Gimli. 22-8-25

From The Rob McInnes Postcard Collection

The reverse reads: This photo was taken 1925 of the podium
in Gimli park on the fiftieth birthday of the first settler.

The Back Page

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