

About Our Contributors

Bill Borneman lives in Helena, Montana, with his wife, Patti. He works as a contract painter, dabbles in the “book business” (www.bedrockbooks.com), and plays Lo Prinzi guitars. His degree in philosophy from The University of Montana aids him in each of these endeavors. Borneman is currently a member of the poetry performance quartet, *The States of Matter*, a group devoted to the sonic realization of poetic occurrences. He is perhaps best known as the genial host of the literature reading series, “Naked Words,” held in the Rathskellar of the Montana Club, Helena.

Mark Browning is a third-generation Miles Citian whose family, in 1898, was among the hundreds that sat for their family photo portraits in front of L. A. Huffman’s lens. Since 1979, Browning has owned or directed art galleries and museums in addition to his own work as a studio artist in painting and wood constructions. As director of the Custer County Art and Heritage Center in Miles City, he began and continues to gather, research, and present the largest public collection of vintage Huffman photographs in Montana. He also co-directs the Miles City Speakers Bureau that sponsors a forum for artists, authors, humanists, and scholars.

Grace Stone Coates (see editors’ introduction to the selection from “Food of Gods and Starvelings’: Selected Poems of Grace Stone Coates”).

Patty Dean received her A.B. in history from Carroll College and an M.A. in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown

Graduate Program/State University of New York. In the early 1980s, she was Curator of Collections at the Montana Historical Society and later founding curator of the Arkansas Arts Center Decorative Arts Museum in Little Rock. She worked at the Minnesota Historical Society for sixteen years, first as Museum Collections Manager and later as Supervisory Curator, and was thrilled to return to Helena this past summer.

Patty has long been intrigued by how the built environment embodies a society’s values. Her article on Minneapolis homes and the Arts and Crafts movement received the David Gebhard Award from the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians and the Blegen Award from the Minnesota Historical Society. In 1988, she received a James R. Bradley Fellowship from the Montana Historical Society to research furniture purchased in 1910 at Hennessy’s by Butte miners and workers. This research will be published in an upcoming issue of the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*. Patty’s other research projects and publications have focused on model farm homes, Twin Cities furniture designers and tastemakers, and late twentieth-century Minneapolis rock & roll.

Patty is currently a contract historian at the Montana Historical Society identifying and documenting African-American heritage resources in the institution’s collections. She serves as a board member of the Montana Preservation Alliance and Drumlummon Institute.

Roger Dunsmore came to The University of Montana–Missoula as a freshman composition instructor in 1963, and he continued on in the Humanities Program until 2003. He received his MFA in

Creative Writing (poetry) from UM in 1971, under the guidance of Richard Hugo and Madeline DeFrees, and was a founding member of the Round River Experiment in Environmental Education. From 1976 to 2003, he taught in the Wilderness and Civilization Program in the Forestry School at UM. In 1991 and again in 1997 he was the exchange fellow between UM and Shanghai International Studies University in mainland China.

Roger's many books include *On the Road to Sleeping Child Hotsprings* (1971; revised edition, 1977); *Lazslo Toth* (1977); *Bloodhouse* (1987); *The Sharp-Shinned Hawk* (1987); and *Earth's Mind: Essays in Native Literature* (1997). In 2001 Roger ran the twenty-second annual wilderness lecture series, "The Poetics of Wilderness," the *Proceedings* of which (edited by Dunsmore) were published by UM in 2002. Most recently, Camphorweed Press has published Roger's third volume of poems, *Tiger Hill: China Poems* (2005) and the Montana Arts Council awarded Roger an Individual Artists Fellowship in 2001 for a selection of these poems. After two years of retirement, Roger resumed teaching in the English Department at UM–Western, Dillon. In 2005, he was selected as one of three finalists for the post of the first Montana Poet Laureate. He is married to the painter, poet, and Yoga teacher, Jennifer Fallein. Between them they have five adult children and two grandchildren.

Frieda Fligelman (see editors' introduction to the selection from "Notes for a Novel: Selected Poems of Frieda Fligelman").

Tami Haaland's first collection of poetry, *Breath in Every Room*, won the Nicholas Roerich Prize from Story Line Press. Her work

has appeared in *Calyx*, *5AM*, *The Florida Review*, *Rattapallax*, and other journals, as well as in several anthologies, including *Ring of Fire: Writers of the Yellowstone Region*. She teaches creative writing at Montana State University–Billings.

Brynn Holt is a stonemason and poet and the principal voice of *States of Matter*. He won the Helena Festival of the Book Poetry Slam in 2004, and again in 2005.

Martin Holt is a legendary Montana ceramic artist and filmmaker. His many credits as documentarian include *Rudy Autio Makes Night Music* (1994); *Dzintary, the Home Movie* (1991); *Summer of Mudders* (1988); and *Akio* (1986), all from Montana Art Works (576 Third Street, Helena, MT 59601; 406.442.6331).

Martin writes: "My video work pursues the music of what happens. My influences range from Stan Brakhage to Andy Warhol. The topics that interest me are time, space, light, and music. Movies are not necessarily stories for me. They evoke activity and interaction. At least half of the movies I make are documents of a particular event. I want them to stand alone as if they were a fossil record."

Chere Jiusto is the Executive Director of the Montana Preservation Alliance, Montana's statewide non-profit group dedicated to preservation of Montana's historic places, heritage, and culture. Based in Helena, MPA conducts outreach on community preservation, threatened sites, heritage education, and places of cultural significance. Chere came to MPA by way of the Montana Historical Society where she was Curator of History with the

museum and later served as the National Register coordinator and community preservation historian with the State Historic Preservation Office. Throughout her career, she has worked with members of Montana's rural and tribal communities to preserve Montana's traditional heritage and cultural landscapes.

There is also a ceramic artist and co-author of the essay, "A Beautiful Spirit': Origins of the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts," which appeared in *A Ceramic Continuum: Fifty Years of the Archie Bray Influence* (Seattle/Helena, MT: University of Washington Press/Holter Museum of Art, 2001).

Frank Kromkowski lives in Helena, Montana, where he is a member of the Helena Peace Seekers, serving as their co-chair from 2002 to 2006. He is a co-founder and co-coordinator of the Montana Peace Seekers Network and of the Montana Chapter of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship. Since 1963 he has been actively involved in the work of peace and justice organizations in Indiana, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Montana. Frank and his wife Carol Kopec have been married for thirty-nine years. They have three daughters and five grandchildren—ages 15, 8, 4, 3 and 15 months.

Prior to working for the State of Montana for the past twenty-seven years, Kromkowski was for ten years a college teacher in philosophy, humanities, and environmental studies. From 1969 through 1972 he taught at the University of Notre Dame in the Collegiate Seminar great books/humanities program, and from 1972 through 1977 at Carroll College as Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Humanities and Director of the Carroll College Integrated Humanities Program. From 1977 through 1979, Kromkowski served as Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Dickinson College in

Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where he taught courses in philosophy and environmental studies. In 1966, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in the Program of Liberal Studies from the University of Notre Dame, and in 1969 received a Masters Degree in Philosophy from Boston University.

Melissa Kwasny is the author of two books of poetry, *Thistle* (Lost Horse Press, 2006, Winner of the Idaho Prize) and *The Archival Birds* (Bear Star Press, 2000), as well as the editor of *Toward the Open Field: Poets on the Art of Poetry 1800–1950* (Wesleyan University Press, 2004). Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Seneca Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Bellingham Review*, *Three Penny Review*, and others. She lives outside Jefferson City, Montana.

Jessica Hunter Larsen has been Curator of Art at Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, Great Falls, MT, since 1996. She also served as Interim Executive Director of The Square from 2000–2003. She earned a BA in Art History from The Colorado College in 1990 and an MA in Art History from the University of Colorado in 1995. Exhibitions curated by Hunter Larsen include: *Wild Beasts! Roy DeForest and Gaylen Hansen* (1999); *Material Culture: Innovation in Native Art* with co-curator Bently Spang (2000); *Patrick Zentz: Landscape Re-Defined* (2002); *West by Northwest* (2003); *A Patchwork of Cultures* (2004); and *Tracing Journeys: Maps as Metaphors* (2005).

An adjunct instructor of Art History at the University of Great Falls, Hunter Larsen teaches introductory courses and gives general public lectures on contemporary art topics. Recent

lectures have addressed issues of postmodern culture, Self-Taught Art, and current interpretations of Surrealism. She has also presented research at several regional conferences including the Western Humanities Conference and the Denver Art Museum College Symposium. Hunter Larsen is a member of the Great Falls Museums Consortium and the Great Falls Arts and Culture Council, and is currently President of the Board of Directors of the Museum and Art Gallery Directors' Association of Montana, a statewide professional development organization.

Deirdre McNamer grew up in Conrad and Cut Bank in north-central Montana. A third-generation Montanan, she lives now in Missoula, where she teaches creative writing at The University of Montana. She has published three novels—*Rima in the Weeds*, *One Sweet Quarrel*, and *My Russian*. Her shorter work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Ploughshares*, *Outside*, and many other publications. This excerpt is taken from her fourth novel, “Hidden Birds.”

Max Milton is curious how local economic and cultural choices impact local landscapes. He is interested in the emerging thinking about local food systems and the integration of community and environmental values. He lives in Helena.

Darcy Minter is communications director at the Western Folklife Center in Elko, Nevada. She has an M.A. in public administration and nonprofit management from Seattle University and is completing an M.S. in folklore from Utah State University in Logan, Utah. Prior to returning to school to study folklore, she lived in Bozeman, Montana, where she worked as a researcher and

consultant for arts organizations nationwide. Darcy is fascinated by “ghost towns” in the West and feels grateful to have had the opportunity to get to know the residents of Marysville during a summer working for the Folklife Program at the Montana Arts Council in Helena.

A curator and writer, **Ben Mitchell** is currently the director of exhibitions and programs at the Nicolaysen Art Museum in Casper, Wyoming. He will assume the curator of art position at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture in Spokane, Washington, in late summer 2006. Mitchell's essays on art and culture have appeared in *Artweek*, *New Art Examiner*, *Metalsmith*, *Reflex*, *High Ground*, and other journals. Mitchell recently curated Andy Warhol's *Dream America: Screenprints* and contributed to the exhibition catalog. He is also the author of the catalogs *Play Disguised: The Jewelry of Ken Cory*; *Brad Rude: Original Nature*; and *Into the Horizon: Theodore Waddell, 1960–2000*.

Rick Newby is executive director of Drumlummon Institute and editor of *Drumlummon Views*. Trained as a poet at The University of Montana, Rick is the author of four collections of poems, most recently *The Suburb of Long Suffering* (2002) and *Sketches Begun in My Studio on a Sunday Afternoon and Completed the Following Day Near the Noon Hour on the Lower Slopes of the Rocky Mountains* (forthcoming 2007). A member of the Montana Center for the Book's statewide advisory committee, Rick has edited—among many other books—*The New Montana Story: An Anthology*; *Writing Montana: Literature under the Big Sky*; and *The Rocky Mountain Region* volume in the Greenwood Encyclopedia of American

Regional Cultures.

Rick's essays on painters, ceramic sculptors, printmakers, and photographers have appeared in national and international journals and in museum catalogs, including *Rudy Autio: The Infinite Line* (2006); *The New Utilitarian: Examining Our Place on the Motherboard of Ceramics* (2006); *Humor, Irony and Wit: Ceramic Funk from the Sixties and Beyond* (2004); *Intimate Terrain: The Paintings of Michael Haykin* (2003); *The Most Difficult Journey: The Poindexter Collections of American Modernist Painting* (2002); *Open Country: The Landscapes of Dale Livezey* (2001); and *A Ceramic Continuum: Fifty Years of the Archie Bray Influence* (2001).

For a complete listing of Rick's publications, visit www.zadig-llc.com/publications.html

Karl Olson was born while his family inhabited a teacherage in a tiny mining camp off the grid in central Idaho. He lives in Missoula with his partner David and spends his days on both sides of the Continental Divide advocating for LGBT civil rights. He welcomes feedback at karlpride@aol.com.

Caroline Patterson is an editor at Farcountry Press, Helena. She has published fiction in journals including *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Seventeen*, *Southwest Review*, and *Epoch* and nonfiction in magazines including *Seventeen*, *Sunset*, and *Via*. She lives over the mountains in Missoula with her husband, Fred Haefele, and children, Phoebe and Tobin.

Matt Pavelich was born and reared for the most part on the Flathead Indian Reservation where he now works with the

Tribal Defenders office. He lives in Hot Springs, Montana, in a household of steaming teens (Nick, Riley Jane, and L.T.). In 2004 Shoemaker and Hoard published his novel, *Our Savage*, of which Evan S. Connell has said, "*Our Savage* is an extraordinary book. I don't know of anything like it in our literature. . . . Matt Pavelich is uncommonly vital and original." Owl Creek Press published Matt's collection of short stories, *Beasts of the Forest, Beasts of the Field*, winner of the Montana Arts Council's First Book Award. Matt has been a Michener Fellow and received an Individual Artist's Fellowship from the Montana Arts Council in 1998.

George Prudden plays the flute. He currently is a member of Marathon Dance Band, The Edgewalkers, and *States of Matter*. He can also be heard collaborating with many musicians in Helena.

Brandon Reintjes, Curator of Exhibitions and Collections at the Holter Museum of Art in Helena, MT, received his BFA in Studio Art from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he was introduced to museum studies. Brandon has actively organized, lectured and written about exhibits at the Holter Museum, directed arts education projects in Montana and Michigan, and organized numerous exhibitions in Michigan and Chicago. He has demonstrated his commitment to artists and community by organizing numerous exhibits at non-profit arts institutions, volunteering at arts organizations, teaching children's art classes, presenting workshops, and participating in community-based arts initiatives. He has participated in conservation internships, as well as worked as a conservation assistant on the Poindexter Collection of Modern American Art. Currently, he sits on the Helena Public

Arts Committee and the board of the Museum and Art Gallery Directors' Association.

Lee Rostad is one of our most important Montana scholars and champions of Montana literature. Lee and her husband Phil are ranchers—third generation on the Rostad Ranch near Martinsdale. A graduate of The University of Montana, Lee did graduate work at the University of London as a Fulbright Scholar. And as a scholar, she has contributed greatly to our understanding of Montana's culture, writing a biography of Charlie Bair and a history of Meagher County.

But it is as a champion of, and informal literary executor for, the works of Grace Stone Coates that Lee warrants our most humble gratitude. Previously she compiled a collection of Grace's wonderful poems in *Honey Wine & Hunger Root* and brought to the attention of Mary Clearman Blew, and thereby the University of Nebraska Press, the astonishing manuscript of *When Montana and I Were Young*, by that shadowy Grace Stone Coates protégée, Margaret Bell. Most recently, Lee has crafted out of the vast correspondence of Grace Stone Coates an award-winning biography of this fine Montana writer. *Grace Stone Coates: Her Life in Letters* (Riverbend, 2004) illuminates Coates' roles as writer, as editor, with H. G. Merriam, of the seminal western literary journal *Frontier and Midland*, and as confidant of other writers, most notably Taylor Gordon, Gwendolen Haste, and William Saroyan. *Grace Stone Coates: Her Life in Letters* was one of two honored finalists in memoir and biography in the 2005 Willa Literary Awards.

For her efforts on behalf of Montana history and literature,

Lee received an honorary doctorate from Rocky Mountain College and in 2001 she was honored by the Governor's Award in the Humanities. And in 2006 Governor Brian Schweitzer designated her the resident historian on the board of the Montana Historical Society.

Annemarie Schwarzenbach (see editor's note to Chris Schwarzenbach's translation from *Death in Persia*).

Born in 1918, in Long Island, New York, **Chris Schwarzenbach** lost his father in 1929 to a strep heart infection. His mother decided to move the family to Switzerland, partly motivated by the effects of the Great Depression. Chris attended boarding school in the Engadine in Switzerland and received his Swiss and German baccalaureate in 1937. He skied for the U.S. Ski Team in the world championships in 1938—and received his pilot's license the same year. After studying civil engineering in Zurich, Chris returned alone to the United States in 1940. He was elected a member of the U.S. Ski Team for the 1940 Olympics, but with the start of World War II, the Olympics were cancelled.

Chris earned his M.S. in Aeronautical Engineering from California Institute of Technology in 1942, and after putting his engineering skills to use at a propeller manufacturing company (which he purchased), he entered the Navy as an aviation cadet. After the war, Chris owned and ran several aerospace companies, ultimately joining Paschall International in 1965, becoming sole owner in 1980. In 1997, he sold the company and retired.

Chris writes, "Having owned a small aircraft since the summer of 1940 I had done most of my traveling in the Americas as pilot and

continued to do so until 2002 when a rather delicate hip replacement operation and a realization that my passengers seemed increasingly apprehensive to travel with an 84-year-old pilot seemed to suggest it was time to stop. Unhappily,” he adds, that was when he and his wife Katherine “started to commute between Pasadena & Helena, an ideal small plane application. But you can’t have everything.”

Ada Melville Shaw (see editor’s note to the selection from “Cabin O’Wildwinds”).

When he was still a young artist, **Irvin “Shorty” Shope** showed his work to Charles M. Russell. Like Russell, Shope lived in Montana and worked as a cowboy before beginning his artistic career. Unlike Russell, who moved to Montana as a teenager, Shope had grown up there, worked on his family’s ranch, and decided at an early age to combine his love of the West with a career in fine art. He attended Reed College in Oregon and graduated with a degree in fine art from The University of Montana.

In 1925, Shope, who was then twenty-five years old, visited Russell and cautiously showed him a portfolio of his drawings. Russell was impressed, and wrote on the back of one of the drawings, “These drawings of Shope’s are all good.” He signed the inscription with his trademark buffalo skull. That simple sentence became one of Shope’s most treasured possessions. Russell also offered some words of advice. He asked Shope if he were intending to head east to further his artistic education. When Shope said that he was, Russell said, “Don’t do it. The men, horses, and country you love and want to study are out here, not back there.”

Shope did study in the East for a while; but remained a resident of Montana until his death in 1977. Throughout his career, Shope received encouragement and instruction from some of the West’s greatest artists, such as E. S. Paxson, Will James, and Harvey Dunn, who was both his teacher and mentor.

Like these artists, Shope took whatever artistic work was available to him; illustrating books and calendars (and magazine articles), drawing maps of western exploration for school classrooms, while continuing to paint the men and women of the historic West. A longtime resident of Helena, Montana, Shope died in 1977 at age seventy-seven.

Brian Shovers has been a Reference Historian at the Montana Historical Society Research Center since 1993. Shovers lived in Butte for ten years during the 1980s, which sparked his interest in the town’s mining history and alerted him to the good work of Willie Walker. During his tenure in Butte, Shovers penned a Master’s thesis describing the influence of technology on working conditions in the Butte underground and edited a journal of Butte history entitled *The Speculator*.

Since arriving at the Historical Society, Shovers has written articles for *Montana The Magazine of Western History* on Butte’s mining history, Montana water rights, and the history of the Montana Historical Society. Shovers is co-author with several other MHS staff members of a forthcoming guide to Montana place names. He is president of the Montana chapter of the Society for Industrial Archaeology and spends his free time watching birds and touring abandoned mines and smelters.

Photographer and educator **David J. Spear** currently works in western Montana on the Flathead Indian Reservation developing outreach projects for rural youth. He is a Montana Arts Council teaching photographer and a part-time instructor at Salish Kootenai College where he has worked with students, faculty, and staff on the construction of *Camp Crier*, an online newspaper. David also developed *Our Community Record* at Two Eagle River School, now in its fourth year; the project encourages students to explore and document their community, culture, and history through storytelling and photographic studies.

In 1985, David developed the International Center of Photography's Community Outreach Program for underserved communities of New York City and was its primary instructor through 1997. Author of the monograph, *Gas Smells But Not Like Skunks* (1991), David has exhibited his work in Europe and throughout the United States. His publication credits include, among others, *New York Times Magazine*, *German Geo*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, *Granta Magazine*, and *Ode Magazine*. In 2002 he received a Puffin Foundation Grant, in 2000 the Howard Chapnik Grant for the Advancement of Photojournalism, and in 1995 the Ernst Haas Photography Educator of the Year Award.

Alexandra Swaney was born and reared in Helena. After attending Mills College, and completing her Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of Colorado, she returned to Montana, and ever since has engaged in a variety of pursuits having mostly to do with culture, music and the wellbeing of Montana's peoples and landscapes. For several years, Alexandra was keyboardist-singer-songwriter in popular Montana-based bands Cheap Cologne

and the Jane Finiigan Quintet and continues perform as a jazz pianist and composer. As a youngster, she was much influenced by Helena resident, sociologist, and poet Frieda Fligelman. Her article "The Queen of Social Logic: the Life and Writing of Frieda Fliegleman," in *Writing Montana: Literature under the Big Sky*, describes this extraordinarily intelligent, often thwarted but delightful scholar, student of cultures, and author of 1,000 poems.

In the position of folklife director for the Montana Arts Council, for the last ten years Alexandra has concentrated on outreach, documentation, and support for the many ethnic, regional, and occupational cultures and artists across the state. She curated and toured *Bridles, Bits and Beads*, the first statewide exhibit of folk and traditional arts. Comprising some seventy pieces, the exhibit featured pieces of cowboy gear, Hmong and Norwegian embroidery, and fine handwork from Montana's Indian people. More recently, she has presented Montana performing artists at the Library of Congress and the Seattle Folklife Festival, produced a CD of the original songs of Chippewa Cree elder Pat Kennedy, and together with Leni Holliman, a radio series, *Montana Living Treasures*. The six-part half-hour series documents individuals such as rancher-environmentalist Bill Ohrmann and Cheyenne flute-maker Jay Dale Old Mouse.

Joan Uda is a retired United Methodist minister, and she regards both Polly and Bob Holmes as mentors in her ministry. Prior to seminary, she was an attorney in private practice, and once was an English and literature teacher. She and her husband Lowell, also a United Methodist minister, have four wonderful children and five entirely remarkable grandchildren. She spends her days writing and gardening.

Novelist **Guy Vanderhaeghe** is the author of *Man Descending*, *The Englishman's Boy*, and *The Last Crossing*. A #1 bestseller in Canada and winner of the Canadian Booksellers Association's Fiction Book of the Year Award, *The Last Crossing* is a sweeping tale of breathtaking quests, adventurous detours, and hard-won redemption. Set in the 1870s in Whoop-Up Country, from Fort Benton north to Edmonton, *The Last Crossing* is, in the words of novelist Marina Endicott, "an absolutely wonderful book, the kind of literature that reminds other writers of why they want to create, and convinces readers that the world is a vast and mythic enterprise, larger than our individual crises or triumphs."

Richard Ford has called Guy Vanderhaeghe "simply a wonderful writer," and in its review of *The Last Crossing*, *The New Yorker* reported: "In a panorama of late-nineteenth-century Montana and western Canada, Vanderhaeghe details the lawlessness of the early frontier towns and the desperate ferocity of the dying indigenous tribes. He dwells with particular pathos on the children of white traders and Native American women, who are caught between two cultures. . . . [A]s the various searches for revenge or redemption get underway the writing achieves unforced grace and power."

Guy makes his home in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Patricia Vettel-Becker is Associate Professor of Art History at Montana State University–Billings, where she has taught since completing her Ph.D. in Art History and Archaeology at Washington University in St. Louis in 1998. MSU–Billings awarded her the Faculty Achievement Award in 2005, and the Winston and Helen Cox Fellowship for Faculty Excellence in Arts and Sciences

in 2002. A scholar in the field of American art and visual culture, her articles have appeared in such journals as *Art Journal*, *Men and Masculinities*, *American Art*, and *Genders*. Her book, *Shooting from the Hip: Photography, Masculinity, and Postwar America*, was published by the University of Minnesota Press in 2005.

Nicholas Vrooman is one of the few scholars in the United States working in Métis studies over this last generation. He brought back to print and wrote the new introduction to the seminal book of Métis history, *Strange Empire: A Narrative of the Northwest*, by Joseph Kinsey Howard. He produced the award-winning Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, *Plains Chipewewa/Métis Music from Turtle Mountain*. Additionally, he was a principal essayist and editor for *Métis Legacy: An Historiography and Annotated Bibliography*, for Pemmican Publications, Louis Riel Institute, and Gabriel Dumont Institute. Vrooman will publish the essay, "Echoes of Discovery: The Métis Role in Northwest Expansion," in *Lewis & Clark: The Unheard Voices*, forthcoming from the University of Nebraska Press, 2006. He currently teaches in the History Department at The University of Montana while completing his doctorate and serves as Indian Education Specialist to the Montana Office of Public Instruction on issues of the "Indian Education for All" constitutional mandate.

René Westbrook graduated from Montana State University in 1990 with honors and a degree in ceramic sculpture. From 1991 to 1993 she was long-term artist-in-residence through the Montana Arts Council for Great Falls Public Schools and Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art. For several years following, she worked as

traveling artist-in-residence for the state art agencies of Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, and Alaska and has taught workshops in Nevada, California, and Arizona. She is the continuing artistic director, arts administrator, and a participating artist in The Caravan Project, a collaboration between fourteen Montana artists, (including the late beloved Jack Fisher, Jr.), whose goals include their continuing efforts to create alternative art experiences for the public.

René currently lives at the south rim of Grand Canyon National Park with her husband Dan and their daughter Annabelle. She works in her studio, teaches free-lance art workshops, and is a seasonal program assistant for Grand Canyon Music Festival.