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December 2, 2013

Ivan Doig  
17277 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
Shoreline, WA 98177-3846

Dear Ivan,

My name's Allen Jones. You may remember that we worked together some years ago on a *Big Sky Journal* excerpt of *Bucking the Sun*. How have you been?

Since my *Big Sky Journal* days, I've gone off on my own to start up my own small press. And I'm writing now, hat in hand, asking for your participation in an anthology we're putting together in collaboration with Bozeman's Country Bookshelf.

Our title, *The Country Bookshelf's Guide to Bozeman-Area Writers*, will be one of several anthologies (we're also working with Fact and Fiction in Missoula and Elk River Books in Livingston) that, taken as a whole, will provide a snapshot of the literary landscape in Montana. These anthologies will only be available for purchase through the bookstores themselves.

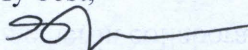
Would you be able to contribute a short piece of fiction or memoir? Something between 500 and 2,500 words would be ideal, and previously published is fine, though I would prefer something contractually unencumbered from a rights perspective. Pieces published in magazines will usually work (unless a contract was signed stating otherwise), but chapters from a published book will need the generous indulgence of the publisher. If a book excerpt is all that's available, please let me know what you would prefer to excerpt. I can pursue the rights myself. (Perhaps with a contact name from your desk?)

Each contributor will be given a half page for photo and author biography and photo. Bangtail will also provide one free copy to each author, with more copies available for purchase at discount.

Please let me know if we can include you in this collection. We're hoping to have the contents finalized by the end of January. You can email me at [allen.jones@bangtailpress.com](mailto:allen.jones@bangtailpress.com).

Regardless of your participation, many thanks for your great work, and your consideration.

My best,

  
Allen Jones

9 Dec. '13

Allen, hello again--

Thanks for thinking of me for the anthology, and I wanted to get back to you pronto. Sorry to say, I just don't have any pieces that aren't encumbered one way or another. Interesting project, but I'll have to root from the sidelines--good luck with it.

Best wishes,

**From:** carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net>  
**Subject:** **Re: hobnobbery yesteerday**  
**Date:** November 25, 2013 3:45:01 PM PST  
**To:** David Laskin <laskin.david@gmail.com>



The painter: Sandi Rathbone of Rathbone Interior Painting painting@comcast.net (206)852-2268

The Aussie book I was trying to tell you & Kate about: The Light Between Oceans, by M.L. Stedman. I'm not very far along in it, but it seems somewhat in the Sebastian Barry mode--really written, and probably not a happy ending ahead, but a tale well and truly told?

Didn't realize everybody in the world was going to see the holy trio of us on FaceyBook. Ah, well.

Hasty best,  
Ivan

On Nov 25, 2013, at 10:58 AM, David Laskin wrote:

Yes that was some fine grub and grade A hobnobbery yesterday -- your editor weighed in when she saw Braseth's event photo on Facebook to call us a "triple threat." I suspect Mimi G is cutting you and Annie big fat checks right now -- though you two seem pretty flush to me already. Hey, Kate asks for the name of the the female painter you use for interior work. Now that we've got our internet up and running, we are forging ahead with other home improvements. Thanks, pals. Best, David

On Mon, Nov 25, 2013 at 8:45 AM, carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net> wrote:

Thanks for providing the wheels yesterday, pal, and for the brief tug into Braseth's cosmic orbit. I apologize for not getting to something I fully intended to do, which was to cite you to Annie as a folk hero of the Dakotas because of The Children's Blizzard. That might have engaged/loosened her up somewhat more, although I think we all did well enough. I am glad that you got in on yesterday's soiree or whatever it was, as a literary historian. And wasn't the grub great!

Best,  
Ivan

p.s. Next time, if you get out from behind the potted palm, maybe you'll have a chance to be introduced to Mahatma Gandhi or Greta Garbo or whoever else John spots in the lobby. I figure Annie and I now are in Mimi's will, we hit it off so astonishingly with Ms. Gates in those twenty nanoseconds. You betcha.

30 August 2013

Dear Ivan,

Thank you for your letter (which was sent on my 45<sup>th</sup> birthday). And thanks for the kind words about the poem in *Poetry* and the book. Yes, I couldn't be more pleased with the production job. "Spiffy" is just the right word. Before *Orchises* took the book, it came close with Jonathan Galassi at FSG.

Congratulations on your *Sweet Thunder* at age 74! It will make a perfect gift for my father, who is also quite a fan. The *Shane* quote is terrific.

Sounds like you have a busy fall ahead. I hope you make it out to Leavenworth again, while I'm in town. I, too, have a few engagements—readings and conferences and such. One such is coming up fast. Here's the scoop on it: Sunday, September 22, 2013, 1 PM Reading with Linda Bierds, Lucia Perillo, Kathleen Flenniken, and Ann Fisher-Wirth from *The Ecopoetry Anthology*. Elliott Bay Books, Seattle, WA. What an honor to read with Linda who was such a generous teacher.

I enjoyed your piece you did for the DARE newsletter. I love the reminder that people who are poor in all else are often rich in language. Amen, brother! I think my mother had some of that going on when I was a child. And "a kid's ears are as old as sin" is just brilliant.

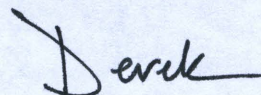
Speaking of how we love language the way we do, I read this recently in Chris Wiman's *My Bright Abyss*: "I do think, though, that regardless of what religion one practices, eventually one has to submit to certain symbols and language that may be inadequate in order to have those inadequacies transcended. There is an analogue with poetry here: you can't spend your whole life questioning whether language can represent reality. At some point you have to believe that the inadequacies of the words you use will be transcended by the faith with which you use them. You have to believe that poetry has some reach into reality itself, or you have to go silent."

I especially love the last part of this passage.

Thanks for the lunch invitation. It may be that this winter might hold a time for that to happen. I'm giving readings and talks between September and May from Gig Harbor to Bellingham and points in between. I'll try to be in touch.

One more thing: I'm the poetry editor of *Terrain.org* now. I managed to get some new poems from Wendell Berry for this current issue. Any chance I can get a piece from you? Story or essay? We don't pay, except in glory points. Take a gander at the current issue. This is the first one in which the poems are all my picks.

All best from the east side,



**From:** David Williams <wingate@seanet.com>  
**Subject:** from david Laskin  
**Date:** September 6, 2013 7:03:20 AM PDT  
**To:** carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net>

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Carol

Hope all is well with you and Ivan.

Cheers,  
David

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [laskin.david@gmail.com](mailto:laskin.david@gmail.com)  
**Date:** September 5, 2013 5:39:31 PM PDT  
**To:** "David Williams" <wingate@seanet.com>  
**Subject:** Re: rain  
**Reply-To:** [laskin.david@gmail.com](mailto:laskin.david@gmail.com)

DW: could forward this to Ivan? Can't find his email

Ivan, Just finished The Archivist at your recommendation. What a tour de force - impersonating male voice, poetry knit Into the soul of the book (and what great poems) (has Linda B read it?). The diary of Judith going mad was almost too much to bear - but also a tour de force. Also brilliant on Jew vs Christian. In short, wow - who but you to latch onto such a gem? Wild western weather here in Jos - changes twice a day from storm to fair. Home Monday. Nice review in Booklist praising yours truly as "gifted" - damn straight. David  
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

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**From:** [laskin.david@gmail.com](mailto:laskin.david@gmail.com)  
**Date:** Thu, 5 Sep 2013 17:15:36 +0000  
**To:** David Williams <wingate@seanet.com>  
**ReplyTo:** [laskin.david@gmail.com](mailto:laskin.david@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Re: rain

David, Fantastically varied weather out here - sunny and breezy yesterday, huge thunder storm with quite the lightning show last night, now cool and damp like Seattle fall. I am loving it - Paddy too - a whole week off leash. Have a great party. David  
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

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**From:** David Williams <wingate@seanet.com>  
**Date:** Thu, 5 Sep 2013 08:34:34 -0700  
**To:** David Laskin <[laskin.david@gmail.com](mailto:laskin.david@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** rain

David

Hope it's raining out there; it's pouring here with thunder. Boom Boom.  
I am reading Lang's book. It's good, not great. A few times he seems to try to hard with description and there are a few geographic errors but otherwise I think he has done a good job. I trust your review will be out this weekend.  
Say hey to Kate. Hope all is well.

David

~~~~~  
**David B. Williams**  
[wingate@seanet.com](mailto:wingate@seanet.com)

**From:** David Laskin <laskin.david@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** how SWEET it is  
**Date:** August 21, 2013 8:11:02 AM PDT  
**To:** carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net>

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Dear Ivan and Carol,

Kate and I have returned intact from a week with the family of The Family. No brawls, much food, and many enjoyable hikes in the rugged humid Adirondack Mountains. Weather was also pretty darn nice so I can't complain. Just visited your website and I see the Sweet Thunder launch will be this Saturday in Edmonds. I'm planning on being there -- after all, I do consider it MY (well our) book. We need to chat about the PNBA -- they have me booked for Oct. 7 at the Holiday Inn Airport in Portland. Hoping you will be there too. Well, break a leg with the launch -- I know it's going to be great. Let's chat today or later in the week. Best, David

Valerie Easton <valeaston@comcast.net>

**Re: Book City interview**

June 19, 2013 2:21:51 PM PDT

carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net>

Thanks for considering it Ivan. I just talked with David Laskin this morning for a Book City interview - you might ask him about how much he enjoyed the questions and conversation...but I understand if it just isn't in the cards...

Val

On Jun 19, 2013, at 2:17 PM, carol doig wrote:

Val, hello again. Thanks for giving me a nudge. As I said earlier, I'd see what I could do, and I find out now that I can do much less. My 74th birthday is about to come up on my odometer and I have to conserve time and effort for my novels and for already scheduled publicity arranged by the publisher. Sadly, I've had to cut some of my bookstore appearances, too. Too bad we couldn't get together on this.

Best,  
Ivan

On Jun 18, 2013, at 5:11 AM, Valerie Easton wrote:

Hi Ivan,

Okay, here's the promised nudge for a Book City interview. Might you be ready for questions by email if I sent them to you next week, in hopes of an early July turn-around?

It works like this: I'll send you a dozen questions or so about your reading life and your new book. When you return them to me, in a week or two, we schedule a follow up phone conversation. I'll need a high res photo of you and a brief bio to go with the column.

Is this better timing for you? Hope so -

Thanks,  
Val

On Mar 8, 2013, at 9:48 AM, carol doig wrote:

Val, hi again. Sorry, but I am holding off on interviews etc. until my publisher's publicity people put together plans for the new book, and I can devote real time to the effort. Currently I'm hard at work on another novel, about to be tied up in proofs for the forthcoming one and so on. So if you'll give me a nudge in July, we'll see what we can work out.

Best wishes,  
Ivan

On Mar 8, 2013, at 7:10 AM, Valerie Easton wrote:

Hi Ivan,

So glad you liked the column with Tony - turns out he was my high school English teacher, and we lived a few blocks apart in Lake Forest Park. We just figured that out during the course of the interview.

"Book City" is more about your reading than your writing life...although I'll ask about your new novel, and we can include it in the story. I'd like to run a column with you fairly soon - could I send you questions in the next week or so? And we'll go from there?

Thanks,  
Val

**From:** carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net>  
**Subject:** Re: The Famiy ARC  
**Date:** May 15, 2013 9:28:56 AM PDT  
**To:** "Court, Kathryn ( PGI )" <Kathryn.Court@us.penguingroup.com>



Ivan again, addressable:

Ivan Doig  
17277 15th Ave NW  
Shoreline WA 98177

On May 15, 2013, at 8:50 AM, Court, Kathryn ( PGI ) wrote:

Dear Ivan, Thanks for your email and terrific support for David's fabulous book! We will send two ARCs. What is your address? Best, Kathryn

-----Original Message-----

From: carol doig [mailto:cddoig@comcast.net]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2013 11:31 AM  
To: Court, Kathryn ( PGI )  
Subject: The Famiy ARC

Kathryn, Ivan Doig here, ineffectively camouflaged as usual on Carol's email. How you doing, as we say out here in Longmireland? (That Craig, wow, huh?) Can you send me a couple of our man Laskin's ARCs, please? I'd like to lay one on a historian friend, who has written about WWII aftermath and is married to a refugee from Nazi Germany--her family came out to Chile. He's not a household name in history and is more or less retired, but he's a word-of-mouth possibility.

Thanks.

Ivan



**From:** carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net>  
**Subject:** The Famiy ARC  
**Date:** May 15, 2013 8:29:11 AM PDT  
**To:** kathryn.court@us.penguingroup.com



Kathryn, Ivan Doig here, ineffectively camouflaged as usual on Carol's email. How you doing, as we say out here in Longmireland? (That Craig, wow, huh?) Can you send me a couple of our man Laskin's ARCs, please? I'd like to lay one on a historian friend, who has written about WWII aftermath and is married to a refugee from Nazi Germany--her family came out to Chile. He's not a household name in history and is more or less retired, but he's a word-of-mouth possibility.

Thanks.

Ivan

**From:** carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net>  
**Subject:** blurb for David Laskin  
**Date:** April 7, 2013 2:08:23 PM PDT  
**To:** kathryn.court@us.penguingroup.com



Kathryn, hi. Here are some words for David's fine book:

"David Laskin is a practically magical searcher into the past, unearthing long-buried evidence that leads to an amazing family story, and he writes with equal fluency. The Family begins in the shtetls of Europe and reaches the Holocaust, yet with different twists of fate, his generations of Cohens could be your Johansens, Smiths, Lopezes, Schmidts, O'Houlihans, even my Scottish peasant forebears, the ancestral seedbearers of so many of us who derive from the roots of the Old Country. This clear-visioned retrieval of lives both ordinary and extraordinary, a true triumph of historical storytelling, will touch you, heart and soul."

Ivan Doig, author of This House of Sky

Best wishes for the success of the book.

Ivan Doig

**From:** carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net>  
**Subject:** blurb  
**Date:** April 6, 2013 8:34:33 AM PDT  
**To:** david laskin <laskin.david@gmail.com>



Howdy from home, where it Rains all the Time. The veg garden seems to be smacking its lips about it.

To business: the blurb. See if this suits, before I send anything to Kathryn on Monday.

"David Laskin is a practically magical searcher into the past, unearthing long-buried evidence that leads to an amazing family story, and he writes with equal fluency. The Family begins in the shtetls of Europe haunted by pogroms and the Holocaust, yet with different twists of fate, his generations of Cohens could be your Johansens, Smiths, Lopezes, Schmidts, O'Houlihans, even my Scottish peasant forebears, the ancestral seedbearers of so many of us who derive from the mists of the Old Country. This clear-visioned retrieval of lives both ordinary and extraordinary, a true triumph of historical storytelling, will touch you heart and soul."

Ivan Doig, author of This House of Sky

Ciao,  
Ivan

**David Laskin**

18757 Ridgefield Road NW  
Shoreline, WA 98177  
Tel. 206-546-8856  
Cell. 206-390-3162  
Email. [laskin.david@gmail.com](mailto:laskin.david@gmail.com)

March 29, 2013

Mr. Ivan Doig  
17277 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW  
Shoreline, WA 98177

Dear Ivan:

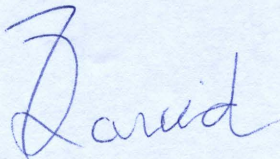
I was intending to send you a nice tidy bound galley, but some glitch at the printer held up production – so, sheepishly, I'm sending a big sprawling photocopy instead. I hope you'll agree to wrestle with these loose pages and, when you're done, that you'll feel inclined to comment.

If you are moved to compose a blurb, please email it to Kathryn Court, [kathryn.court@us.penguin.com](mailto:kathryn.court@us.penguin.com). In order to use them in time for galleys at the BEA conference, where they're featuring the book, the Penguin people would like to get blurbs back by April 22. A pretty short turn around, I know – but it is a quick read. If you can't make that date, they could certainly still use a quote after that point for the ARCs and the books themselves.

We'll toast books (and belated anniversaries) when Kate and I return in June.

Thanks, Ivan.

Best,



**From:** carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net>  
**Subject:** **Re: Blurb for David Laskin**  
**Date:** April 9, 2013 8:28:10 AM PDT  
**To:** "George, Benjamin" <Ben.George@us.penguinroup.com>



Ben: OK to condense the quote. But please make sure to fully cite me as author of This House of Sky, my book most relevant to David's and one of my best-known to booksellers. Also, send me an ARC when they're ready so I can dispense with the bound ms.

All best,  
Ivan

On Apr 9, 2013, at 4:16 AM, George, Benjamin wrote:

Dear Mr. Doig,

I'm David's behind-the-scenes editor for his magnificent THE FAMILY. Thanks so much for reading the book -- and so quickly! -- and for offering these incredibly thoughtful words on its behalf. We hope it reaches tons of readers.

We'd love to use your quote for the back cover of the ARC and since, given the space necessary for the book description (with no flaps yet on which to put it), we don't have much room, I've been instructed by the marketing folks to ask whether we might edit your quote to the following:

"David Laskin is a magical searcher into the past . . . His generations of Cohens could be your Johansens, Smiths, Lopezes, Schmidts, O'Houlihans, even my Scottish peasant forebears . . . A true triumph of historical storytelling, it will touch you, heart and soul."

In all of our press materials, of course, we can make use of the whole quote.

Very best,

Ben

11 Feb. '13

David and Kate--

Another soul-saving evening at Chez Laskin O'Neill. That pot roast was a terrific remedy for February, as were the servings of good talk, as always. Thanks one more time for brightening our lives.

*The Quickening Maze*, the novel is mentioned to you, is by Adam Foulds, and I checked and damned if John Clare isn't somehow in temporal coexistence with Tennyson. I'm quite a ways from finishing the book, so hold off on it until I can report whether it all ultimately works, and if so, I'll loan it to you if you're interested.

So, the David Shields Thumping Club got its licks in on both coast yesterday, eh? Really good job with your review, David, fair as you could be but we still got the picture. And the NYTBR reviewer seemed to have something in saying Shields just isn't very good at what he thinks he's doing, if the direct quotes are any real indicator. Made me wonder: if language fails Shields, who after all has written a lot, is language up to the consciousness-transfer or whatever the hell he's lusting for, or is it an inexpressible visceral-mental buzz like (I guess) from video games and other on-line pastiche immersion? Hell if I know, but Shields doesn't seem to be able to articulate it either.

More anon. Happy travels to Oregon. If you're going to call before then, David, around 4 PM or so maybe finds me at my least medicated brainwavery.

Best,

10 January 2013

Dear Ivan,

Your mailing arrived in very good postal time. I continue to be appreciative.

I am, presumptively, sending you something now that you may or may not have interest in having. Whichever, I hope that you can dispose of it appropriately without any inconvenience. The item came into my hands from my recently apartment-straightening-up sister, who somehow (?) became possessed of it as a result of her spending part of a summer with a family in Kirkwall, in the Orkney Islands, in 1967.

Coincidentally, my sister, who is retired from Emory University, also then gave me a University publication article she recommended that I read—a feature piece on DARE editor Joan Houston Hall, an Emory graduate.

One other coincidental (not very significant) connection, to your own publication-editorial experience: I was a 1965 Rotary Foundation Fellow at the University of Melbourne, Australia.

Again, my sincere thanks. I, too, look forward to seeing where this project takes me, but to continued enjoyment and gratification, I believe.

Best,

*Albert*

P.S. Just occurring to me - do you know Albert Murray's South to a Very Old Place (1971)?

13 Jan.'13

Jill, hi--

In the aftermath of The Bartender's Tale booktour and other work, I'm just now catching up on some correspondence. I don't have particularly good answers to your couple of questions about writing, but here are a few thoughts etc.

--I'm sending along the set of notes I used when I'd talk to Carol's class about the writing process. Maybe it'll have a few hints or encouragements.

--I actually don't envision my audience before I start a book, beyond the general sense that if the work is done as well as possible, it'll likely find readers. In other words, I simply concentrate on the craft, the story, the language on the page.

--Lastly, a thought about your interest in the Metis and Joe Howard's work. You might look up a piece on him in the Montana Magazine of History (the one put out by the Montana Historical Society) within the past couple of years, which disclosed how much trouble he had with his Metis book, I think in essence getting hung up between history and story. That's a cautionary tale, maybe taking on too much of "the big wide world." Your material about Joe Ramaker buzzing rodeos and so forth is really good; maybe as you say, writing about that in letter form--as you did to me--is a way to explore the topic. Diary, journal, reminiscence, anything that gets the material down on the page in a steady fashion.

I hope this helps. Good luck with your work.

Regards,



Jill Ramaker Hendricks  
3301 Laredo Drive  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
(406) 600-7898

Ivan Doig  
17277 15th Ave NW  
Shoreline, WA 98177-3846

November 6, 2012

Dear Mr. Doig,

It was my great pleasure to meet you at your recent book signing at The Country Bookshelf in Bozeman and to hear firsthand of your life in Dupuyer with my Aunt Gertie. I am reading the book and laughing out loud at the familiar expressions ("sonsofbitches") and places (The Toggery, The Odeon). I loved the image of a two-story bar that is tall like the boy's father in his imagination. Thank you for the way in which you have so beautifully woven our place, our way and home, in your stories. You capture the dialogue between people and landscape that is pure art. There are places on this earth where that dialogue is amplified, writ large, kinetic. Our own home on the Front is such a source. You cannot drive along the Front, or better walk, without your heart soaring, your imagination stirring. Many would say that the West is such a source. I have a dear friend who is writing her PhD dissertation on the parallels between the writings of Western authors and the Zen poets and Eastern mystics. Is that liminal space between us and place a vibration, a resonance, that becomes conduit for such art? I am not sure, but I am in awe of the relationship between place and art. With all respect for your time and work, I would love to know your own reflections on it.

Just for love of story, I want to share a little something that you may enjoy from our home and an era that holds great affection. My grandfather, Joe, Gertie's eldest brother, was a barnstormer in that country in the 20's and 30's. He came with his dad, Christians Ramaker, from Holland in 1911. In anticipation of the Great War, they left Holland to come try their hand at farming in Montana. Lured by the promises of James Hill, who was filling in the blanks across the Hi-Line, they came to farm this "semi-arid" country. One wonders how, coming from coastal Holland, they imagined "semi-arid"? Well, it was dry and difficult farming and my grandfather was not about to be a farmer when it came his turn. He took to riding the rails and rustling up work here and there, but mostly he would buy old bi-planes, nurse them back to Montana and barnstorm. I have a photo of their house near Valier with his bi-plane tied up to the front porch. There he stands robust, proud, his confidence much magnified from that I knew in my grandfather.

Before he died, I recorded him telling some of his stories with the intention of writing from them. He passed away twenty years ago. It is only now that I am engaging the vocation of creative writing. His stories are rich with phrases like "a bunch of dirty

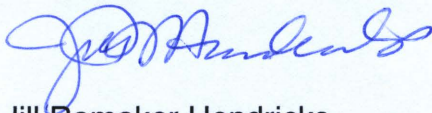
SOBs". His laughter reaches out and grabs you as he tells the story of taking a drunk Brownin' Indyun for a ride and leaving him in the middle of nowhere or flying low over the Augusta Rodeo and just grazing the tops of the cottonwoods. As I listen and re-listen to his stories, I am challenged to put the character that he is on paper and I find myself contemplating the larger story of his life in which successes and dashed dreams shaped the confidence of the man.

My youngest, John, is six and has just entered school affording me the time to create in another way, writing. Though writing seems like an illogical venture on many levels, sometimes all things seem to point in a given direction and turning from that direction seems like turning from integrity. So here I am. Will you kindly help me find my bearings? As a Metis descendant, I am fascinated with the work of Joseph Kinsey Howard. As part of my graduate work, I studied Nation Building in Native America at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Your wife, Carol, told me a bit about your process of engaging place, time, and stories in writing historically-based fiction. I am more drawn to historical non-fiction myself, but I imagine there is plenty of carry over. I am eager to know what criteria guide your choice as you commit your time and energy to a piece and how you proceed to engage your new work.

Finally, I would like to ask how you envision your audience as you write. I find that when I sit down to write to "the big wide world", I get lost. For this reason, I have thought of writing all that I know and am passionate about in the form of letters in which I have a clear focus, a specified audience.

I dearly appreciate your time and your work. Blessings on you, Carol, and your family.

In gratitude,



Jill Ramaker Hendricks  
Bozeman, MT

Charles L. Hulin  
501 Eliot Drive  
Urbana, IL 61801

January 7, 2013

Dear Ivan,

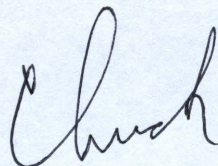
Thank you for your Christmas letter and for the piece for DARE. I am a confirmed word geek and spend far too much time wondering and reading about words and their origins. I especially appreciated your comments about bobbasheelie and why you worked it into *The Bartender's Tale*. I tried several times to get "treated like a red-headed step-child" into an article and failed (editors have no sense of humor whatsoever). I finally managed to get the phrase into a couple of invited chapters I wrote. I used it to describe how computational modeling was treated in psychological research. Some of my ex-students gave me some grief but it was worth it.

My grandmother was also the source of many of the idiomatic turn<sup>s</sup> of speech I grew up hearing. It has been a long time but I have not forgotten them although opportunities to work them into a conversation are hard to come by. She as also a pioneer but she and my grandfather homesteaded on their quarter-section of land in Michigan. I will refrain from nostalgia about what we are losing every year from our language heritage.

The enclosed is a compilation of some of Joe Hill's songs. Joe, as you know, was very important in the mining laborlore in the West. There is a book about him, *The Man Who Never Died*, that is very interesting...but you have probably read it. Anyway, I hope you find the songs on the CD interesting and perhaps useful in your recreation of the Butte mining scene.

We are doing our best to give you bestsellerdom for Christmas. You sent us an autographed copy of *The Bartender's Tale*, which we appreciate very much. We have since bought two more copies of it for presents. We are also looking forward to the next book about Butte, miners, mining, unions, and other interesting things from Montana.

Best wishes for a great New Year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chuck". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom center of the page.