



***Iceland: Landscapes of Fire & Ice***  
ADDITIONAL READING SUGGESTIONS  
Courtesy of Mary Savina '72 and David Lefkowitz '85

**HISTORY & CULTURE**

Diamond, Jared. *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*. Penguin Books; Revised edition, 2011. Paperback, 608 pages. **ISBN-10:** 0143117009 / **ISBN-13:** 978-0143117001. \*Note from Prof. Savina: "...includes a section on Iceland and Viking settlement in the North Atlantic (chapters 6, 7, 8). I teach this book, too, because it's important even if it isn't right. If you have it on your bookshelf, take a look at those chapters."\*

Kurlansky, Mark. *Cod: A Biography of a Fish That Changed the World*. Penguin Books, 2010. Paperback, 294 pages. **ISBN-10:** 0140275010 / **ISBN-13:** 978-0140275018. \*Note from Prof. Savina: "...includes recipes!"\*

Lewis, Michael. *Boomerang: Travels in the New Third World*. W. W. Norton & Company, 2012. Paperback, 240 pages. **ISBN-10:** 0393343448 / **ISBN-13:** 978-0393343441. \*Note from Prof. Savina: "...chapter 1 [is] a story of the European Economic Crisis, 2008 – ??, from the perspective of Iceland, Greece, Ireland, Germany, and the U.S."\*

Sigmundsdottir, Alda. *The Little Book of Icelandic: On the Idiosyncrasies, Delights, and Sheer Tyranny of the Icelandic Language*. Little Books Publishing, 2016. Paperback, 164 pages. **ISBN-10:** 993592985X / **ISBN-13:** 978-9935929853.

Sigmundsdottir, Alda. *The Little Book of the Icelanders in the Old Days*. Enska Textasmidjan, 2014. Paperback, 142 pages. **ISBN-10:** 9935917770 / **ISBN-13:** 978-9935917775.

Sigmundsdottir, Alda. *Living Inside the Meltdown: Ten People Share their Experience of the Icelandic Economic Collapse*. Enska Textasmidjan, 2014. Paperback, 100 pages. **ISBN-10:** 9935917746 / **ISBN-13:** 978-9935917744.

Sigmundsdottir, Alda. *The Little Book of the Icelanders: 50 Miniature Essays on the Quirks and Foibles of the Icelandic People*. Enska Textasmidjan, 2014. **Kindle E-book**, 223 KB/66 print pages. **ASIN:** B00PEXI6YU.

**NATURAL HISTORY**

Pielou, E.C. *A Naturalist's Guide to the Arctic*. University of Chicago Press, 1995. Paperback, 344 pages. **ISBN-10:** 0226668142 / **ISBN-13:** 978-0226668147. \*Note from Prof. Savina: "Pielou's

books are readable and good value; potential buyers should know that it doesn't *specifically* refer to locations in Iceland.”\*

### **ART** (with notes by David Lefkowitz)

There are a few contemporary artists whose work has focused on the landscape of Iceland that I would recommend taking a look at: the Icelandic/Danish installation artist Olafur Eliasson, about whom there is a lot of literature (including the exhibition catalog listed below), and the American conceptual artist Roni Horn, whose work on Iceland is a little harder to find but well worth the investigation.

Grynsztejn, Madeline. *Take Your Time: Olafur Eliasson*. Thames & Hudson, 2007. Hardcover, 272 pages. **ISBN-10:** 0500093407 / **ISBN-13:** 978-0500093405.

Then there is the Iceland-born pop artist Erro, whose omnivorous appetite for pop culture imagery is well represented in the Reykjavik Art Museum. A survey of his work can be found here:

Hollein, Max (ed.). *Erró*. Hatje Cantz, 2011. Paperback, 192 pages. **ISBN-10:** 3775731687 / **ISBN-13:** 978-3775731683.

I will be available for general consultation for any participants who are interested in drawing and/or keeping a field notebook/journal during our trip. If you'd like to learn more about that, I recommend any in a series of books by Carleton alum Clare Walker Leslie, but especially:

Leslie, Clare Walker and Charles E. Roth. *Keeping a Nature Journal: Discover a Whole New Way of Seeing the World Around You*. Storey Publishing, LLC; 2003. Paperback, 224 pages. **ISBN-10:** 1580174930 / **ISBN-13:** 978-1580174930.

### **TRAVEL & MEMOIR**

Holm, Bill. *Eccentric Islands, Travels Real and Imaginary*. Milkweed Editions, 2001. Paperback, 368 pages. **ISBN-10:** 1571312595 / **ISBN-13:** 978-1571312594. \*Note from Prof. Savina: “Two long chapters on Iceland...”\*

\*Also from Prof. Savina: “...Bill Holm [was a] Minnesota writer/educator of Icelandic descent, who taught at Southwestern State University in Marshall, MN. His other books include *Coming Home Crazy* (about spending a year teaching English literature in China), *Box Elder Bug Variations* (about, well, box elder bugs) and several others. For many years, he had a second home in Hofsós, where he ran a writing workshop, a place we visit on this trip. He died in February 2009.\*

Kavenna, Joanna. *The Ice Museum, In Search of the Lost Land of Thule*. Penguin Books, 2007. Paperback, 304 pages. **ISBN-10:** 014303846X / **ISBN-13:** 978-0143038467.

### **LITERATURE**

Versions of the Sagas, Eddas, and the Landnámabók (the book of settlement) are available on the web, or as inexpensive electronic books; <http://www.northvegr.org/index.html> has links to online versions. Here are several print copies:

Bellows, Henry Adams (transl.). *The Poetic Edda: The Heroic Poems*. Dover Publications, 2007. Paperback, 336 pages. **ISBN-10:** 0486460215 / **ISBN-13:** 978-0486460215.

Bellows, Henry Adams (transl.). *The Poetic Edda: The Mythological Poems*. Dover Publications, 2004. Paperback, 288 pages. **ISBN-10:** 0486437108 / **ISBN-13:** 978-0486437101.

Byock, Jesse. *The Saga of the Volsungs (Legends from the Ancient North)*. Penguin Classics, 2013. Paperback, 160 pages. **ISBN-10:** 0141393688 / **ISBN-13:** 978-0141393681.

Cook, Robert (Introduction). *Njal's Saga*. Penguin Classics, 2002. Paperback, 384 pages. **ISBN-10:** 9780140447699 / **ISBN-13:** 978-0140447699.

Sturluson, Snorri. *The Prose Edda*. Forgotten Books, 2016. Paperback, 300 pages. **ISBN-10:** 1330589459 / **ISBN-13:** 978-1330589458.

Sigmundsdottir, Alda. *Icelandic Folk Legends: Tales of Apparitions, Outlaws, and Things Unseen*. 2016. Little Books Publishing, 2016. Paperback, 108 pages. **ISBN-10:** 9935925994 / **ISBN-13:** 978-9935925992.

Sigmundsdottir, Alda. *The Little Book of the Hidden People: Twenty Stories of Elves from Icelandic Folklore*. Enska Textasmidjan, 2015. Paperback, 116 pages. **ISBN-10:** 9935924874 / **ISBN-13:** 978-9935924872.

Sigmundsdottir, Alda. *Unraveled: A Novel about the Meltdown*. Enska Textasmidjan, 2013. Paperback, 216 pages. **ISBN-10:** 9979723114 / **ISBN-13:** 978-9979723110.

Verne, Jules. *Journey to the Center of the Earth*. Dover Publications, 2005. Paperback, 160 pages. **ISBN-10:** 0486440885 / **ISBN-13:** 978-0486440880. \*Note from Prof. Savina: "The 1959 movie (starring Pat Boone) is a hoot, but it's filmed in Carlsbad Caverns – which has no resemblance to either Iceland or Stromboli. The book is much better..."\*

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