Contents

Acknowledgments ix
Introduction 1
A Note on Consistency 9

Part I. Writing

With a Vision beyond Our Immediate Needs: Oral Traditions in an Age of Literacy 13
ELSIE MATHER
On Shaky Ground: Folklore, Collaboration, and Problematic Outcomes 27
PHYLIS MORROW
“Pete’s Song”: Establishing Meanings through Story and Song 53
JULIE CRUIKSHANK

Part II. Hearing

Seeing Wisely, Crying Wolf: A Cautionary Tale on the Euro-Yup’ik Border 79
ROBIN BARKER
“They Talked of the Land with Respect”: Interethnic Communication in the Documentation of Historical Places and Cemetery Sites 99
ROBERT M. DROZDA
A Bright Light Ahead of Us: Belle Deacon’s Stories in English and Deg Hit’an 123
JAMES RUPPERT

Part III. Remembering

The Days of Yore: Alutiiq Mythical Time 139
PATRICIA H. PARTNOW
Lessons from Alaska Natives about Oral Tradition and Recordings
  WILLIAM SCHNEIDER
The Weight of Tradition and the Writer’s Work
  MARY ODDEN
Epilogue
Appendix: Polar Bear Story
  TWO TELLINGS BY BELLE DEACON
About the Authors
Illustrations

Alaska and the Yukon (map) viii
Native Languages of Alaska and the Yukon (map) x
Central Yup’ik region of Southwest Alaska (map) 10
Elsie Mather 12
Theresa Charles at the Cama-i Dance Festival 21
Angela Sidney with Julie Cruikshank 52
Yukon Territory, British Columbia, and Southeast Alaska (map) 54
Native Regional Corporations (map) 76
Maggie Lind 78
Helen, Shirley, and Maggie Wasuli picking salmonberries 88
Yup’ik translator and Tuluksak elders record place names 98
Sketch map of the Elaayiq River drainage by Joshua Phillip 107
Belle Deacon at work making baskets 124
The Alaska Peninsula (map) 136
Perryville with Chiachi Island across the channel 138
Frieda and Ignatius Kosbruk 159
Alaska, Yukon Territory, and the Northwest Territories (map) 184
John Fredson 194