## OCEAN HIEROGLYPHICS

## OCEAN HIEROGLYPHICS

SCOTT EZELL

Ocean Hieroglyphics. Copyright © 2008 by Scott Ezell.

All rights reserved.

Selections from *Ocean Hieroglyphics* were published in Chinese translation in *Modern Chinese Poetics*, Tainan, Taiwan, Republic of China, 2004.

Library of Congress Control Number:

ISBN:

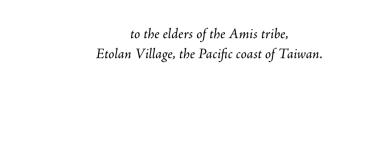
First printing.

Thanks to Mike Morical, Douglas Newton, Karen Swenson, Brian Curran, Shuen-shing Lee, Bill Porter, Mike O'Connor, Dana Standridge, and to my parents, Dean and Danine Ezell.

All poems, paintings, photos and music by Scott Ezell.

Scott Ezell's paintings were photographed by Eran Haimburg.

Graphic design by Nina Noble Design



So, through me, freedom and the sea will call in answer to the darkened heart.

—Pablo Neruda

i.

the ocean is the blue of wine,
a broken bottle spilling into everything,
the blue of a matador's cape,
blue defenestrations, silent highway skies,
the blue of beating hearts,
blue homesick sailors and harbor girls,
blue calderas of falling rain,
blue seaweed strands of dream,
blue net of breath and waves—



ii.

a rolling mass of greenblue waves folds in across the shore as gray rain falls

ocean to ocean, brief breaths of sky between,

with shards of blue far out beyond the silver sea—

small birds sit

the swinging curves

of black line wires, singing perhaps,

I cannot hear above the engine's groan or through the window pane.

silent on the running loping line
backdropped by shining scales,
eyelashes of sun
fallen with the rain, grayblue
across the autumn sea—



fishermen squat

on boulders worn

by waves of salt,

squinting

to the seam

of sea and sky,

and grasp their slender poles with cracked and calloused hands.

